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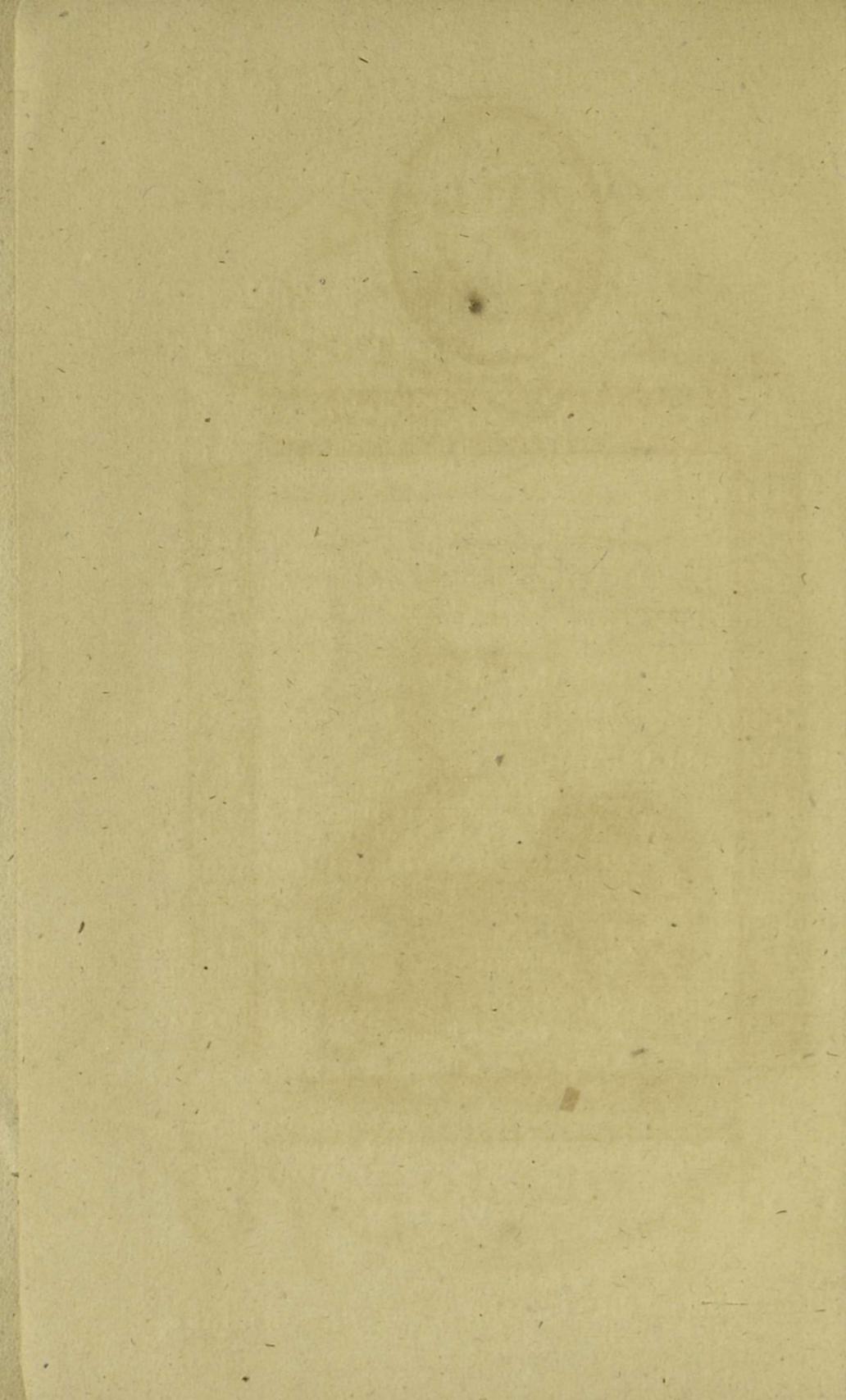
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from the
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to
The Birth of Christ.



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A

CATECHISM

OF

ANCIENT HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

Question. WHAT is history?

Answer. A narration of facts and events, related with dignity and accuracy.

Q. What is the subject-matter of history?

A. The origin, progress, and decline of nations; their mutual connexions with each other; the internal policy by which states manage their own concerns, and the external policy by which their connexions with foreign nations is regulated.

Q. For what reason should history be studied?

A. To supply the deficiencies of our own experience, by giving us the collected experience of others.

Q. How does it effect this?

A. By placing before us, as in a picture, the actions of those who have gone before us, in order that, by imitating the virtues of the good, we may obtain the same happiness as they acquired; and, by avoiding

the vices of the bad, we may escape the evils to which they were exposed.

Q. How is history divided ?

A. Into ancient and modern, sacred and profane.

Q. What is ancient history ?

A. An account of all things, from the creation of mankind to the dissolution of the Roman empire.

Q. What is modern history ?

A. The history of those states and kingdoms which, after the overthrow of the Roman empire, were formed from its fragments.

Q. What is sacred history ?

A. Sacred history is that which is contained in the Old and New Testament, making us acquainted with God and divine things.

Q. What is profane history ?

A. Profane* history is a general name given to all other records, whether ancient or modern.

Q. What is meant by natural history ?

A. A description of natural things ; as animals, vegetables, minerals, fire, water, &c.

Q. How does history differ from biography ?

A. History relates to nations ; biography to individuals.

Q. What studies ought to be pursued in connexion with history ?

A. The study of geography, to ascertain the place

* It is to be observed, that the word *profane* in this sense has no allusion to wickedness ; it is here used figuratively, signifying *common* ; profane history, therefore, means a description of the *common* occurrences of life, as opposed to *sacred* history.

where great actions were performed ; and the study of chronology, to determine the time *when* the events occurred.

Q. How is history divided into parts ?

A. By *epochs*, into periods of different duration ; these periods are more usually called ages.

Q. What do you mean by an epoch ?

A. A time at which some great revolution took place, either with regard to the whole world or a considerable part of it, and from which the dates of subsequent events are numbered.

CHAPTER II.

Divisions of Ancient History.

Q. What are the most important epochs in ancient history ?

A. 1. The creation of the world ; 2. the flood ; 3. the death of Mo'ses ; 4. the return of the Heraclei'dæ to the Peloponne'sus, called also the Do'rian migration ; 5. the capture of Jeru'salem by Nebuchadnezzar ; 6. the destruction of Bab'ylon by Cy'rus ; 7. the destruction of Car'thage ; and 8. the capture of Rome by the Goths.

Q. From these epochs, what periods or ages may be formed ?

A. The antediluvian, patriarchal, and heroic ages ; the duration of the Jewish, Assyrian, and Persian monarchies ; the length of time that Greece retained her independence, and the period during which Rome remained mistress of the world.

Q. What are the limits of the antediluvian age?

A. From the creation of the world, 4004 B.C., to the deluge, 2348 B.C., comprehending a period of 1656 years.

Q. What length of time is included in the patriarchal age?

A. Nearly 900 years, from the deluge to the death of Mo'ses, 1451 B.C. The history of this period is contained in the first five books of the Old Testament, usually called the Pen'tateuch, which were written by Mo'ses.

Q. How are the limits of the heroic age ascertained?

A. The heroic age, so named from the heroes whom the poets represent as having flourished during that period, lasted about 800 years, from the first colonization of Greece to the return of the Heraclei'dæ?

Q. What do you mean by heroes?

A. Men so distinguished by their great exploits, that the poets pretended they were more than mortals, and attributed to them actions which no human beings could perform; hence the heroic is called also the *fabulous* age.

Q. Who were the Heraclei'dæ?

A. The descendants of Her'cules, one of the most celebrated heroes of antiquity.

Q. What is meant by their return to the Peloponne'sus?

A. Their father had been persecuted by Eurys'theus, the chief of the Pelop'idæ or descendants of Pe'lops, and the persecution was continued against his descendants; at length, after many vicissitudes of fortune, they successfully invaded the Peloponne'sus, and not

only regained their own property, but acquired possession of almost the entire peninsula.

Q. Why is this era remarkable ?

A. Because, from this period, the commencement of authentic Grecian history is dated.

Q. How is the duration of the Jewish monarchy calculated ?

A. After the Jews were conducted into Canaan, they were governed by judges for nearly four centuries ; Saul was then made king, 1095 B.C. ; the kingdom passed from him to David, in the reign of whose grandson, Rehobo'am, the kingdoms of Israel and Judah were divided ; the former was destroyed by Salmanas'sar, 721 B. C., and the latter by Nebuchadnezzar, 597 B. C.

Q. What are the limits to the history of the Assyrian empire ?

A. It was founded more than 200 years before the Christian era, and fell by the death of Sardanapalus, 820 B. C. ; a second Assyrian empire then arose, which lasted to the capture of Bab'ylon by Cy'rus, 538 B.C.

Q. What was the duration of the Per'sian empire ?

A. Two hundred years, from its establishment by Cy'rus, to its overthrow by Alexan'der, at the battle of Arbe'la.

Q. What may be considered the limits of "the age of Gre'cian glory ?"

A. About three centuries and a half, reckoning from the expulsion of the Peisistrat'idæ, 510 B.C., to the capture of Corinth by Mum'mius, 147 B.C.

Q. Who were the Peisistrat'idæ ?

A. The sons of Peisis'tratus, who had usurped the sovereignty of Ath'ens ; his sons continued the usurpa-

tion of their father, and were besides such cruel tyrants, that the Athenians expelled them from their thrones and country.

Q. Did any other remarkable events occur at the two epochs last mentioned?

A. The Tarquins were expelled Rome the same year that the Peisistrat'idæ were banished from Athens, and the Carthagin'ian power was destroyed, by the capture of Car'thage, in the same year that Gre'cian independence was subverted by the capture of Co'rinth.

Q. What are the limits in the time of the Roman power?

A. More than a thousand years elapsed from its foundation by Rom'ulus, 753 B.C., to its capture by Al'aric, king of the Goths, A.D. 410.

CHAPTER III.

Antediluvian and Patriarchal Ages.

Q. What were the people called who inhabited the earth before the flood?

A. Antedilu'vians, from the Latin words *ante*, before, and *diluvium*, the deluge.

Q. Whence do we acquire a knowledge of the first period?

A. From the first chapters of the book of Gen'esis.

Q. What are the events recorded in the book of Gen'esis?

A. The creation of the world; the fall of Ad'am and Eve; the murder of A'bel by his brother Cain; E'noch translated to heaven on account of his piety; the cor-

ruption of mankind; and the deluge, announced to No'ah twenty-five years before it happened.

Q. In what state were the people of the first period relative to the arts?

A. They had made some progress in the mechanic arts; had invented music, and found out the method of working metals.

Q. Did not the people of the first period grow extremely wicked?

A. Yes; in consequence of which God thought proper to send down upon the earth the punishment of the deluge, whereby mankind were destroyed, except No'ah and his family; whom, for the wisest and best of purposes, it was the Divine will to be merciful to, and to preserve.

Q. How many sons had No'ah?

A. Three; Shem, Ham, and Japh'et, among whom all the earth was divided.

Q. What part of the world was given to each?

A. A'sia was given to Shem, Af'rica to Ham, and Eu'rope to Japh'et.

Q. How many human beings were saved from the flood.

A. Eight; No'ah and his wife, his three sons, and his sons' wives.

Q. What is said of Shem, of Ham, and of Japh'et?

A. Shem has been much esteemed among the Hebrews; Ham was worshipped as a god by the Egyptians, under the title of Ju'piter Ammon; and Japh'et, for a long time, was famous under the title of Jap'etus.

Q. What was the character of No'ah's sons?

A. Two of them, Shem and Japh'et, were very good,

and brought up their families to be good also ; but Ham was a wicked man, he behaved very ill to his father ; and No'ah, many years after the flood, was *inspired*¹ to foretell that the race which should proceed from Ham's youngest son, Ca'naan, would be "*servants of servants*" to the posterities of his brothers.

Q. In what manner did the inhabitants of the world live at this time ?

A. Near together, in and about the country near Mount Ar'arat, where the ark rested ; the other parts of the world had no human inhabitants.

Q. Where was Mount Ar'arat situated ?

A. In Arme'nia, near the spring of the Ti'gris, in the eastern part of Asiat'ic Turkey.

Q. How long did No'ah and his posterity remain in and about the country near the Mount Ar'arat ?

A. We know not ; the Scriptures, our only guide, are here silent, and we have therefore no means of ascertaining ; but at length we find them assembling in Babylo'nia.

CHAPTER IV.

The same Subject continued.

Q. What is the first important event recorded after the flood ?

¹ The meaning of being *inspired* is, that God communicated his intentions to Noah, on account of his piety, and instructed him to make known the Divine will. A similar interpretation of the words *inspiration*, or *inspired writers*, is applicable whenever it occurs in the Sacred Writings.

A. The erection of the Tower of Babel, in the plains of Shi'nar, by the posterity of No'ah.

Q. What happened in consequence of the presumptuous attempt to build the Tower of Ba'bel ?

A. The confusion of tongues, as a punishment for the *arrogance* of men who thought of equalling themselves with the *Supreme*.

Q. What difference was observable in the state of society after the confusion of tongues ?

A. In proportion as population increased, languages and customs differed, states and kingdoms were formed, and corruption increased also.

Q. To what did this corrupt state of society tend ?

A. To the disbelief in the true God, which gave way to the base worship of a multitude of idols, or false gods.

Q. How did the Supreme Being provide for the preservation of his worship ?

A. Divine wisdom made choice of A'braham, who was appointed to preserve the belief in one living God, in order that the worship of the one true God might be preserved among men.

Q. What is this appointment termed ?

A. The *calling of A'braham*.

Q. When did the calling of A'braham take place ?

A. One thousand nine hundred and twenty-one years before Christ.

Q. Who was Ja'cob ?

A. The grandson of A'braham, and the father of the twelve He'brew patriarchs, or heads of tribes, in the Jewish history.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Patriarch ?

A. Patriarch signifies the father of a family or tribe.

Q. What were the virtues for which A'braham and his descendants were so highly celebrated?

A. A'braham for his faith, his son I'saac for his amiable goodness; Ja'cob and his son Jo'seph for their tried piety; which are well known to every reader of the Bible.

CHAPTER V.

The History of the Egyptians.

Q. Why are the Egyp'tians considered one of the most ancient nations?

A. Because it appears from Scripture that E'gypt, or, as it is called in the Old Testament, Misra'im, had a settled form of government even in the time of A'braham.

Q. Who was the legislator of the Egyp'tians?

A. Me'nes, by whose laws they continued to be governed while E'gypt existed as an independent nation; but of whose history nothing has been handed down to posterity.

Q. Who was the next most remarkable Egyp'tian monarch?

A. Sesos'tris. This monarch is said to have subdued the greater part of middle and southern Asia, and to have exhibited in the highest perfection the valour of a hero and the wisdom of a statesman; but it is not known at what time he lived, and many historians deem the whole account a romance.

Q. What other remarkable fact of indeterminate date is recorded in Egyp'tian history?

A. The invasion of the shepherd kings, an event

very expressly related by ancient historians ; but the time and circumstances of the transaction are involved in obscurity.

Q. How is the event usually described ?

A. The historians relate that a large body of warlike people, from an unknown country, suddenly appeared on the eastern borders of E'gypt, and having easily overcome every resistance, kept possession of the richest provinces for many years.

Q. Is there any remarkable circumstance connected with the ancient history of E'gypt recorded in Scripture ?

A. Yes ; the conclusion of the book of Genesis relates the arrival of the children of Is'rael in E'gypt, and the commencement of Ex'odus details the circumstances of their departure.

Q. How were the Is'raelites introduced into E'gypt ?

A. Jo'seph, the favourite son of Ja'cob, was envied by the rest of his brethren ; watching their opportunity they seized on him, and sold him to a company of Ish'maelites, who were travelling into E'gypt. Here, after many misfortunes, he became prime minister to Pha'raoh, and sent for his family to participate in his prosperity, and assigned them the province of Go'shen as their residence.

Q. Did not the families of Ja'cob, who settled in E'gypt, multiply exceedingly ?

A. Yes ; so greatly, that the Egyp'tians became jealous of them, oppressed them with hard labour, and treated them as slaves.

Q. By whom were the children of Is'rael delivered from their bondage ?

A. By Moses, whom God raised up to be their deli-

verer. After the infliction of ten awful plagues, Pharaoh, the Egyp'tian king, consented to the departure of the Is'raelites ; but afterwards, having pursued them with all his forces, was drowned in the Red Sea.

Q. What is remarkable respecting the state of society in ancient E'gypt ?

A. The system of *castes* prevailed there ; that is, the population was divided into classes, each possessing peculiar privileges, and following definite occupations ; and these were transmitted by hereditary descent.

Q. In what other country do we find a similar system established ?

A. The system of castes has been established in India from the earliest times, and is still maintained there very strictly, though not in all its ancient severity.

Q. Which was the most influential and important of these castes or classes ?

A. The priestly castes ; in E'gypt the ministers of religion were the exclusive possessors of knowledge ; they directed all the employments of life ; and passed on the dead a sentence either of honour or infamy.

Q. How was the power of the priests secured in E'gypt ?

A. By the freedom of the ecclesiastical lands from all taxes.

Q. By what circumstances was their power diminished ?

A. E'gypt was frequently conquered by foreigners, who set the example of disregarding the pontiffs ; and the monarch could always raise an army of mercenaries to maintain his power against priestly usurpations.

Q. With whose reign does the regular history of E'gypt commence ?

A. With the reign of Psamme'tichus, who reduced the twelve principalities of E'gypt into one united kingdom.

Q. By whom was he aided in this undertaking?

A. By some Io'nians and Ca'rians, who were shipwrecked on his coasts. By their superior skill and bravery Psamme'tichus not only subdued the Egyp'tian princes, but added several frontier towns of Syr'ia to his dominions.

Q. Who succeeded Psamme'tichus?

A. Ne'chus, called in Scripture Pha'raoh Ne'cho. He commenced, but did not complete, a canal between the Nile and the Red Sea, and he sent out a naval expedition, which is said to have succeeded in circumnavigating Africa.

Q. Who was the successor of Ne'chus?

A. Sam'nis; who, after a short reign, left the kingdom to his son A'pries. The tyranny of A'pries produced a rebellion, which terminated in the elevation of Ama'sis to the Egyp'tian throne.

Q. What occurred during the reign of Ama'sis?

A. E'gypt was subdued by Camby'ses, king of Persia.

Q. What were its subsequent fortunes?

A. The Egyp'tians, aided by the Spartans, made a vigorous effort to regain their independence, but were finally subdued. E'gypt continued subject to Persia thenceforward, and shared the fate of that monarchy when conquered by Alexan'der.

Q. Who ruled E'gypt after the death of Alexan'der?

A. Ptol'emy, one of his generals, erected it into a kingdom, and by his successors it continued to be governed for three hundred years. It was finally subjugated by the Romans in the reign of Cleopa'tra.

CHAPTER VI.

The Assyrians and Babylonians.

Q. By whom was the kingdom of Assyria founded ?

A. It is generally thought that the kingdom was founded by Nimrod, whom profane writers call Be'lus¹.

Q. What monarch made it conspicuous ?

A. Ni'nus, the son and successor of Nimrod. He subdued several neighbouring provinces, and made Nin'evah, a city founded by himself, the capital of his dominions.

Q. By whom was he succeeded ?

A. By his wife Semi'ramis, one of the wisest princesses that ever graced a throne. She consolidated and extended the Assyrian empire, and laid the foundation of the future greatness of Bab'ylon by enclosing it with stupendous walls, built of brick, and cemented with bitumen.

Q. What was the extent of the Assyrian empire under Ni'nus and Semi'ramis ?

A. At the time of Ni'nus and Semi'ramis the Assyrian empire comprehended,

Asia Mi'nor, now called *Anato'lia*, the greater part of Turkey in Asia.

Col'chis, the country between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

Assyr'ia, the western part of the present Persia, and that part of Turkey east of the Ti'gris.

Me'dia, part of the present Persia, about Ispahan'.

Chalde'a.

¹ From the Hebrew *Baal*, which signifies *Lord*.

Q. Who succeeded to the sovereignty of Assyria, the death of Semiramis?

A. Her son Ninias.

Q. What kind of life did Ninias lead?

A. He lived in peace : devoted to pleasure, he shut himself up in his palace at Niniveh, and seldom appeared to his subjects, leaving the charge of every thing to his *ministers*.

Q. What is said of his successors?

A. They are said to have acted in a similar manner for thirty generations. At length the effeminacy of Sardanapalus, the last Assyrian monarch, so disgusted his subjects, that they resolved on his dethronement, and broke out into open rebellion.

Q. Who was the first mover of this conspiracy?

A. Arbaces, or Abactus, the governor of Media, an Assyrian province.

Q. Did the conspiracy of Arbaces and his party prove successful?

A. Yes; they defeated Sardanapalus in battle, and reduced him to great distress, and he was obliged to shut himself up in his palace, at Niniveh, for safety.

Q. What followed this defeat?

A. Sardanapalus, finding that he had no means of escaping, ordered a great funeral pile to be erected in his palace, in which he burnt himself, his family, and all his effects, to an incredible amount. Thus, with him, fell the first Assyrian monarchy, which was now divided into three parts, forming each a separate kingdom.

Q. By what names were these three kingdoms known?

A. *Media*, which was governed by Arbaces; *Babylonia*,

lon, which was seized by Bel'esis, who joined in the conspiracy; and *Nin'evch*, called the second empire of the Assyr'ians, whose first king was named Phul.

Q. What are the principal events in the history of the second Assyr'ian empire?

A. After some time *Nin'evch* and *Bab'ylon* were again united under one sovereign, and the Assyr'ian monarchs began to extend their dominions in the direction of *Pal'estine*. The wickedness of the Jews deprived them of the Divine protection they had before enjoyed, and being conquered, they were carried captive to *Bab'ylon*.

Q. Who was the last sovereign of the Babylo'nian or second Assyr'ian empire?

A. *Belshaz'zar*; in whose reign *Bab'ylon* was taken by the *Per'sians*, under the command of *Cy'rus*.

Q. How was the city taken?

A. *Cy'rus* diverted the course of the river *Euphra'tes*, which flowed through the middle of the city, into another channel, and marching his soldiers through the vacant bed, surprised the Babylo'nians, who, with their monarch *Belshaz'zar*, were then celebrating a solemn feast.

Q. Did any thing remarkable occur at this feast?

A. Yes; the sacred vessels, which had been plundered from the temple of *Jerusalem*, were profanely brought to the scene of riot; but their festivity was interrupted by a hand tracing on the wall a solemn denunciation of Divine vengeance.

Q. What was the denunciation?

A. The words were *MENE', MENE', TEKEL, UPHAR-SIN*; which were interpreted by *Dan'iel* as a prophecy of the approaching destruction of the Assyr'ian empire.

The fulfilment almost immediately followed the interpretation; for, on the very same night, Bab'ylon was captured by the Per'sians.

CHAPTER VII.

The Empire of the Medes and Persians.

Q. How were the Medes governed after their revolt from the Assyr'ians?

A. They at first formed a species of republic; but at length De'joces, by his sagacity and high character, procured his election to regal power, which he maintained for half a century.

Q. Who succeeded De'joces?

A. Phraor'tes, who unsuccessfully invaded Assyr'ia: his defeat was amply avenged by his son Cyax'ares, who annexed Nin'veh to the Me'dian dominions.

Q. Who was the last king of Me'dia?

A. Asty'ages. His daughter Manda'ne was married to Camby'ses, a Per'sian prince. From this union sprang Cy'rus the Great, who dethroned his grandfather, and transferred the empire from the Medes to the Persians.

Q. Was any Per'sian monarch remarkable before Cy'rus?

A. His grandfather Achæ'menes, the supposed founder of the monarchy, was celebrated for his wealth and power. His descendants formed a tribe called Achæmen'ides, to which the kings belonged.

Q. Against whom did Cy'rus turn his arms after his defeat of Asty'ages?

A. He attacked Crœ'sus, king of Lyd'ia, who at first made a vigorous resistance; but having afterwards

foolishly disbanded his forces, Cy'rus suddenly re-entered Lyd'ia, and obtained an easy victory.

Q. Whom did Cy'rus next subdue ?

A. The Greek cities in the colonies of Io'nia, Æo'lia, and Ca'ria, who had embraced the cause of Crœ'sus : he then marched against Bab'ylon, and captured it in the manner described in the last chapter.

Q. How did the career of Cy'rus terminate ?

A. Thirsting for new conquests, he led his army into Scyth'ia, where he was defeated, and put to death by Tom'yris, the queen of the Massag'etæ.

Q. Were any conquests made by his successor ?

A. His son Camby'ses subdued the Egypt'ians and Lib'yans, and afterwards led an expedition against the Ethio'pians.

Q. What success had the Ethiop'ic expedition ?

A. His army perished by famine in the desert, and a considerable detachment, that had been sent to plunder the temple of Ju'piter Am'mon, were overwhelmed by pillars of sand.

Q. How is this calamity described by Darwin ?

A.

Onward resistless rolls the infuriate surge,
 Clouds follow clouds, and mountains mountains urge ;
 Wave over wave the driving desert swims,
 Bursts o'er their heads, inhumes their struggling limbs ;
 Man mounts on man, on camels camels rush,
 Hosts march o'er hosts, and nations nations crush.
 Wheeling in air, the winged islands fall,
 And one great earthy ocean covers all.—
 Then ceased the storm—Night bow'd his Ethiop brow
 To earth, and listen'd to the groans below—
 Grim Horror shook—awhile the living hill
 Heav'd with convulsive throes, and all was still.

Q. How did Camby'ses act after this misfortune?

A. Like a madman. He slew A'pis, the sacred bull worshipped by the Egyp'tians, executed his brother Smer'dis on account of a dream, and murdered his sister Mero'ë¹, who was also his wife, for lamenting the fate of their mutual brother.

Q. What conspiracy was formed against Camby'ses in Per'sia?

A. Patizei'thes, one of the magi or Per'sian priests, having a brother greatly resembling Smer'dis, persuaded him to personate the deceased prince, and claim the kingdom of Per'sia.

Q. What was the event of this?

A. Camby'ses, while preparing to march against the usurper, mortally wounded himself, and thus the pretender Smer'dis obtained peaceable possession of the crown.

Q. How was the imposture discovered?

A. The retirement in which the pretended Smer'dis lived first gave rise to suspicion; and this suspicion became certainty when one of the royal concubines revealed his want of ears, of which the brother of Patizei'thes had been deprived by Camby'ses.

Q. What was the consequence?

A. The Per'sian nobility conspired together, and dethroned the impostor.

¹ When Cambyses was about to contract this shameful marriage, he consulted the Persian lawyers, who replied, "That there was a law forbidding such marriages, but that there was also a law permitting the king of Persia to do as he pleased."

CHAPTER VIII.

The Persian Empire continued.

Q. How did the Per'sian nobility elect a sovereign after having dethroned the impostor ?

A. They resolved to meet, the following morning, at a place near the city, and to choose as sovereign him whose horse would first neigh after sunrise¹. By an artifice of his groom, Dari'us became the successful candidate, and he accordingly was chosen king of Per'sia.

Q. What expedition did Dari'us undertake ?

A. He invaded Scyth'ia, and was defeated. Milti'ades advised the auxiliaries from the Græco-Asiat'ic states, to break down the bridge that had been built across the Dan'ube ; and thus, by exposing Dari'us and his army to certain destruction, obtain an opportunity of recovering their liberty. Histiaë'us, however, had influence enough to prevent the adoption of this advice.

Q. How was Histiaë'us rewarded ?

A. Very badly ; and, in revenge, he engaged the Greek cities of A'sia Mi'nor to rebel against the Persians.

Q. What was the success of this war ?

A. Histiaë'us, by the aid of the Athe'nians, and Eret'rians, at first was very successful, but finally was defeated and slain.

¹ The cause of this extraordinary mode of election was, that the sun was the principal deity of the Persians, and the horse was particularly dedicated to that god.

Q. What were the consequences of this war ?

A. Dari'us commenced that memorable war against the Greeks which continued through the reign of his son Xer'xes, and ended in the total annihilation of the Per'sian expeditions ¹.

Q. What became of Xer'xes after his return from Greece ?

A. He was murdered by his brother Artaba'nus, who placed Artaxer'xes, the third son of the late monarch, on the throne.

Q. For what is Artaxer'xes remarkable ?

A. He was a virtuous and successful sovereign. By the Greeks he was called Mac'ro-cheir, from the length of his hands ; in Scripture he is called Ahasue'rus ².

Q. Who succeeded him ?

A. After a long and bloody contest, his illegitimate son, Dari'us No'thus, obtained the crown, and after a long and unfortunate reign, transmitted it to his son, Artaxer'xes Mne'mon.

Q. Why was he called Mne'mon ?

A. From the strength of his memory.

Q. What wars disturbed his reign ?

A. The rebellion of his brother, Cy'rus, whom he defeated and slew ; but the ten thousand Greek auxiliaries, who assisted Cy'rus, returned home safe, in spite of all the power of Per'sia.

Q. Had he any other contest with the Greeks ?

A. Yes ; after this the Lacedæmo'nians, under Age-sila'us, invaded A'sia ; Artaxer'xes, dreading to meet them in the field, sent large sums of money to Greece,

¹ See *Catechism of Grecian History*.

² In the Book of Esther.

and bribed several of the states to declare war against Sparta, by which means Agesila'us was compelled to return home.

Q. Was his entire reign equally prosperous?

A. The close of it was embittered by domestic calamities; his children conspired against him, and against each other. At length O'chus, by a series of the most atrocious crimes, destroyed his brothers and sisters, and Artaxer'xes died of a broken heart.

Q. Describe the conduct of his successor?

A. The reign of O'chus was stained by every species of cruelty and crime; but, nevertheless, it was singularly fortunate: several rebellions were easily quelled; and though the Egyp'tians, by the aid of the Spartans, resisted for a longer time, yet, after the death of Agesila'us, they were compelled to return to their allegiance.

Q. By whom was he slain?

A. He was murdered by Bago'as, his favourite eunuch, who placed Ar'ses, younger son of O'chus, on the throne, and destroyed the rest of the family

Q. What became of Ar'ses?

A. Having expressed dissatisfaction at the conduct of Bago'as, the eunuch, dreading revenge, poisoned him.

Q. Who succeeded him?

A. Dari'us Codoman'nus, a distant relation of the deceased monarch, obtained the crown. Bago'as attempted to poison him also; but the king, having been apprised of his intentions, compelled the assassin himself to drink the fatal goblet. In the second year of this monarch's reign, Alexan'der the Great invaded Per'sia, and overthrew the empire.

CHAPTER IX.

The Phœnicians.

Q. Where did the Phœni'cians reside?

A. In Phœni'cia, part of Pal'estine or the Holy Land, being the western coast of the present Turkey in A'sia.

Q. From whom are they supposed to have originally descended?

A. From Si'don, the son of Ca'naan¹. They are supposed to have been among the most early of civilized nations.

Q. For what are we indebted to the Phœni'cians?

A. For the invention of writing, and for the first attempts at a commercial navigation.

Q. For what were the Phœni'cians so highly celebrated?

A. For their many curious manufactures, such as making glass, carving timber, stone, &c.; in short, their skill in the mechanical arts was so great, that they were employed by king Sol'omon in building the famous temple at Jeru'salem.

Q. What were the most celebrated cities of Phœni'cia?

A. Tyre and Si'don.

Q. From what country is it said that this people first migrated?

A. From the northern shores of the Ara'bian Gulf, where they had lived in caverns formed by nature in the range of hills that run along the sea-coast; after-

¹ See Chapter III.

wards they spread by degrees into the deserts : here they roamed without a fixed habitation, and found a temporary shelter under the branches of the thorn, or in the hollow of a rock.

Q. What was their principal employment, and on what did they chiefly subsist ?

A. Their principal employment was catching fish and marine animals, and procuring the fruits that grew wild in the woods, on which they chiefly subsisted. Such was the origin of a people whose fame has extended to the most distant climes, and has been transmitted to succeeding ages.

Q. When did the Phœni'cians begin to apply themselves to navigation ?

A. Soon after the settlement of the Is'raelites in Ca'naan : the conquests of Josh'ua and his successors confined the Phœni'cians to the sea-coast, and prevented them from practising agriculture.

Q. How far did the Phœni'cian mariners proceed ?

A. They not only visited all the coasts of the Æge'an and Mediterra'nean seas, but passed through the Straits of Gibralt'ar, and traded for tin with the southern coasts of Brit'ain.

Q. For what, besides their skill in navigation, were the Phœni'cians remarkable ?

A. For the numerous colonies they sent out to places favourable for trade. Car'thage, the most celebrated of these, eclipsed, in riches and celebrity, Tyre, its parent city.

Q. How is the wealth of Tyre described by the prophet Isai'ah ?

A. He says, "her merchants were princes, and her traffickers the honourable of the earth."

Q. When did the trade of Phœni'cia begin to decline ?

A. After the subjugation of their country by the Persians.

Q. At what time was it wholly ruined ?

A. When Tyre was taken and plundered by Alexander the Great.

CHAPTER X.

The Carthaginians.

Q. Where was Car'thage situated ?

A. On the African shores of the Mediterra'nean, near where the modern city of Tu'nis now stands.

Q. You said in the last chapter that it was founded by a Phœni'cian colony ; what account is given of its origin ?

A. It is said that Sichæ'us, the king of Tyre, was secretly assassinated by his brother Pygma'liion ; and that Di'do, the widow of the murdered sovereign, fled, with her friends and partisans, from the power of the treacherous usurper. She steered her course towards Africa, and having fraudulently obtained a large tract of land from a Numid'ian prince, founded the city of Car'thage.

Q. What form of government was established in Car'thage ?

A. A republican government, of an aristocratic character : the chief magistrates were named Suffe'tes ; under them was a directory of five persons, and a senate, containing one hundred members. The people possessed no share in the government, except when

the directory and senate disagreed ; but in that case their vote was conclusive.

Q. In what wars were the Carthagin'ians engaged ?

A. They contended for supremacy in the western Mediterra'nean with the Greek colonies in southern It'aly and Si'cily ; they subsequently fought with the Romans for the sovereignty of Si'cily, a war that was soon changed into a contest for their national existence.

Q. How many wars are recorded between the Carthagin'ians and the Greek colonies in Si'cily ?

A. Six : of these the last was the most remarkable for the variety of its fortunes, and for having eventually involved the Carthagin'ians in a war with the Romans.

Q. How many wars were there between the Carthagin'ians and Romans ?

A. Three : usually called Pu'nic wars.

Q. Why were they so named ?

A. Pu'nic is a corruption of Phœni'cian ; for the Carthagin'ians, to the last hour of their existence as a people, called themselves after the parent state.

Q. What were the results of the Pu'nic wars ?

A. In the first the Carthagin'ians lost their sovereignty by sea ; in the second, after their general (Han'nibal) had almost taken Rome, they were forced to yield their supremacy in Afr'ica ; in the third, Car'thage itself was destroyed.

Q. You said that the Carthagin'ians preserved the name of Phœni'cians ; are there any other proofs of kindly feeling between Car'thage and the parent state ?

A. Yes ; while Tyre continued to exist, the Carthagin'ians annually sent a deputation to join in the wor-

ship of the national deity, the Tyr'ian Her'cules. When Camby'ses had conquered E'gypt (Chap. VII.) he wished to pursue his career of victory in Western Africa, but the Phœni'cian mariners refused to aid in the subjugation of their Carthagin'ian brethren. Finally, when Tyre was besieged by Alexan'der the Great, the citizens sent their wives and children to Car'thage, where they were hospitably entertained; and the same kind reception was given to the fugitives that escaped the slaughter when Tyre was stormed.

Q. Why did the Romans destroy Car'thage?

A. They were instigated by Cato, the censor, a man of great influence at the time. On whatever subject he delivered a speech, he used to conclude with the sentence, "*Delenda est Cartha'go*;" "*Car'thage must be destroyed*;" which has since passed into a proverb.

Q. Did the Carthagin'ians make a vigorous defence?

A. Yes; they displayed more obstinate valour in their last hour than at any previous period: indeed, but for treachery, they would probably have baffled their enemies.

Q. What instance of patriotic despair was exhibited on the capture of the city?

A. When the city was surrendered by As'drubal, his wife, after bitterly upbraiding her husband with cowardice and treachery, threw herself and her children into the flames of a neighbouring temple.

Q. Was Car'thage ever restored?

A. It was rebuilt by Augus'tus Cæ'sar, and rose to some eminence; but it was again destroyed by the Sar'acens in the seventh century, and has since remained a heap of ruins.

CHAPTER XI.

The Minor Asiatic States.

Q. Who were the first inhabitants of Pal'estine ?

A. The Can'aanites : they were a very wicked and licentious people, and on account of their crimes God ordered them to be destroyed by the Is'raelites.

Q. Who conducted the Is'raelites into Can'aan ?

A. Mo'ses led them through the wilderness from E'gypt, and Josh'ua, after his death, conducted them into the Holy Land.

Q. What form of government did they adopt ?

A. They were at first governed by judges, afterwards by kings ¹.

Q. What is the history of the Syr'ian kingdom ?

A. It was founded by Seleu'cus, one of the generals of Alexan'der, and continued to be ruled by his descendants for about two hundred and fifty years ; when Anti'ochus Asiat'icus, the last king, was dethroned by Pompey, and Syr'ia annexed to the dominions of Rome.

Q. Relate the principal events in the history of Lyd'ia.

A. The kingdom of Lyd'ia became a powerful state under Crœ'sus, who annexed the Greek colonies of Æo'lia, Io'nia, &c. to his dominions, but having rashly provoked a war with Per'sia, the kingdom was overrun by Cy'rus, and together with the Greek colonies, annexed to the Per'sian empire.

Q. What were those Greek colonies ?

¹ See *Catechisms of Scripture and Jewish History.*

A. States formed by several bands of Greeks, whom the dissensions of their native country had compelled to seek new habitations. They settled on the western coasts of A'sia Mi'nor, and for a long time enjoyed unexampled prosperity.

Q. Did they submit patiently to the Per'sians?

A. The Greeks looked back with regret to the days of their former freedom, and eagerly seized the first opportunity of endeavouring to throw off the Per'sian yoke; after a vigorous effort, they were completely subdued.

Q. For what are the Cappado'cians remarkable?

A. The Cappado'cians are remarkable for having rejected a republican form of government when offered to them by the Romans; for this they have frequently been vituperated by both ancient and modern writers, but as their government partook of the nature of the feudal system, it is probable that monarchy was necessary to restrain the power of the nobles.

Q. What character had the Cappado'cians?

A. The Greeks described the Cappado'cians as the worst of the three bad *kappas*, or nations whose names began with that letter,—the other two were the Cre'tans and Cili'cians.

Q. What opinion was entertained of the Ca'rians?

A. The inhabitants of Ca'ria were universally despised by the Greeks, and their name was always applied to the meanest slaves.

Q. What remarkable city was in Ca'ria?

A. Halicarnas'sus, the capital, celebrated for having given birth to the historians, Dionys'ius and Herod'otus, and for the Mausole'um, a splendid monument, one of the seven wonders of the world, erected by

Artemi'sia, queen of Ca'ria, to the memory of her husband Mausolus.

Q. Relate the history of Arme'nia.

A. The Arme'nians were subjected to the Per'sians, until the overthrow of that empire by Alexan'der; they remained subject to his successors, until the subjection of A'sia by the Romans. Their new masters allowed them to choose their own monarchs; a privilege which they retained to a late period of the empire.

Q. Who were the Par'thians?

A. A wandering Scyth'ian tribe, who made an invasion on the more southern provinces of A'sia. They long remained unnoticed, and were successively subject to the Assyr'ians, Per'sians, and Macedo'nians.

Q. What urged them to assert their independence?

A. The cruelty of Agath'ocles, the Macedo'nian deputy, roused them to rebel, and, under the command of Ar'saces, a Par'thian, they succeeded in establishing their freedom.

Q. How long did they retain their independence?

A. Until the beginning of the third century of the Christian era, when they became tributary to the newly-established empire of Per'sia.

Q. What was the character of the Par'thians?

A. They were naturally strong and warlike, and esteemed the most expert horsemen and archers in the world.

Q. What peculiar custom had they?

A. They used to discharge their arrows while retiring at full speed; whence it has been observed, that their flight was more formidable than their attacks.

Q. What remarkable city was the capital of a kingdom in the Syr'ian desert?

A. Palmy'ra, or Tad'mor, said to have been founded by Sol'omon, the residence of Queen Zeno'bia, who so bravely defied the Roman emperor Aure'lian; and of Longi'nus. The ruins of this city are calculated to inspire us with very lofty ideas of the excellence of the ancients in architecture.

Q. Was there not a remarkable state in central A'sia, of which the Greek historians knew but little?

A. Yes; the state of Bac'tria, or Eastern Per'sia, which appears to have been one of the most ancient in the world. As in In'dia and E'gypt, the priests formed a distinct *caste*, possessing great power and influence.

Q. Who was the law-giver of the Eastern Per'sians?

A. Zer'dusht, or Zoroas'ter, was the author both of their civil and religious codes. So attached were the Eastern Per'sians to the religion he taught, that they preserved it amid all the changes and revolutions both of ancient and modern times. The present followers of Zoroas'ter are called Par'sees, or Gheb'zes, and are pretty numerous in the East.

CHAPTER XII.

Ancient Greece before the historic Period.

Q. Who were the first inhabitants of ancient Greece?

A. Long before the art of recording events was known in Eu'rope, Greece appears to have been possessed by a people that had obtained a very high degree of civilization; their memory was preserved by

buildings of stupendous dimensions, whose gigantic ruins still remain in various parts of the country. They were called, by tradition, Cyclo'pes, which was probably their real name. A portion of the same people seem to have been among the first inhabitants of It'aly.

Q. Is not the face of Greece said to have been changed by some great natural convulsion, before the period when authentic history commences?

A. Yes; a great part of the present Æge'an Sea is declared, by tradition, to have been an extensive country, named Lecto'nia, and to have been submerged by a sea, whose waters having long accumulated in southern Scyth'ia, at last forced a passage through the Bos'porus, and inundated, not only Lecto'nia, but a great part of Greece.

Q. Who were the next possessors of Greece after the Cyclo'pes?

A. The Pelas'gians: some believe this people to have had an Asiat'ic origin, but they came to Greece from the Thra'cian forests and Thessa'lian mountains. The Pelas'gians paid some attention to navigation, and a few of their tribes settled in It'aly. The Pelas'gians were also distinguished for their skill in agriculture, and were probably the authors of the Gre'cian religion.

Q. What people came next after the Pelas'gians?

A. The Achæ'ans: they were a warlike race, and during the period of their sway, the heroes, or demi-gods, are said to have flourished. At this time also those events that belong to mythology rather than history, the Argonau'tic expedition, the siege of Troy, and the two The'ban wars, are said to have occurred.

Q. Did not some of the eastern nations send colonies to Greece ?

A. It is said that Thebes was colonized by Cad'mus, a Phœni'cian ; Ath'ens founded by Ce'crop, a native of Sa'is, in lower E'gypt ; Ar'gos subdued by Dan'aus, an Egyp'tian exile ; and the Peloponne'sus, named after Pe'lops, a Phry'gian prince. But modern historians doubt the truth of these statements.

Q. By whom was the Achæ'an dynasty overthrown ?

A. By the Do'rians, who are said to have been led by the sons of Her'cules. They conquered the greater part of the Peloponne'sus and the adjacent islands Ath'ens became the head of that portion of the Achæ'ans that were named Io'nians, and resisted all the efforts of the Do'rian marauders.

Q. Did the Achæ'ans retain any portion of the Peloponne'sus ?

A. Yes ; they preserved the mountainous parts of Arca'dia, and the north-western portion of the Peloponne'sus, which retained the name of Achæ'a.

Q. To what remarkable colonization did the Dor'ic migration give rise ?

A. The settlement of the Greek colonies of Io'nia, Æo'lia, and Ca'ria, on the coasts of A'sia Mi'nor.

Q. Who was the first Greek legislator ?

A. Mi'nos, who founded the kingdom of Crete three generations before the Troj'an war. He was at once a warrior, a prophet, and a legislator ; and from his institutions those of Sparta are said to have been derived.

CHAPTER XIII.

Ancient Italy before the Foundation of Rome.

Q. Who were the first inhabitants of ancient It'aly?

A. Several wandering tribes, of which the most remarkable were the Ligu'rians, the Um'brians, the Etru'rians, the Os'cans, and the Aborig''ines.

Q. Did any foreign people send colonies to the Ital'ian peninsula?

A. Yes; the Pelas'gi, the earliest colonizers of Greece, extended themselves over It'aly also; the Tyrrhe'nian Pelas'gi united themselves to the Etru'rians; the Sic'uli, another branch of the Pelas'gic race, fixed their habitations on the banks of the Ti'ber.

Q. Which of these was the most important nation?

A. The Tyrrhe'nians, or Etru'rians; for after the tribes were united they were called indifferently by either name. They attained a high degree of civilization at a very early period, and became the principal naval power in the western Mediterra'nean.

Q. Did any other nation dispute this superiority?

A. Yes; the Carthagin'ians, and the Phocæ'an colony from A'sia Mi'nor that founded Marseilles. The naval engagement between the exiled Phocæ'ans and the united fleets of the Carthagin'ians and Etrur'ians is the oldest sea-fight recorded in history.

Q. What nations settled in Southern It'aly?

A. After the Troj'an war many of the Gre'cian princes on their return home found their bed and throne usurped by strangers; they led colonies of the subjects that remained faithful to them into different countries,

and the greater number settled on the southern and eastern shores of Italy.

Q. Did any other Greek colonies follow in a later age?

A. Yes; when the Greeks became a commercial people they sent numerous colonies to southern Italy and Sicily. The most remarkable of the later colonies was that by which Tarentum was founded.

Q. Why was the Tarentine colony remarkable?

A. It was founded by the Partheniæ, a colony of natural children sent from Sparta under the guidance of Phalaris.

Q. What native Italian tribe appears to have been the most eminent?

A. The tribe of the Sabines, which appears to have been originally settled in the valleys of the Apennines. The Sabines were a warlike people, remarkable for their strict discipline and austere manners, and seem to have been very formidable enemies to the Pelasgic colonists.

CHAPTER XIV.

The History of Greece.

Q. With what event may the certain history of Greece be said to commence?

A. With the first Persian war.

Q. What led to this war?

A. The insurrection of the Greek colonies in Asia Minor against their Persian masters.

Q. How came the Greeks to colonize Asia Minor?

A. The Dorians, a tribe inhabiting a mountainous

district of central Greece, under the command of leaders called the Heraclei'dæ or sons of Her'cules, conquered the Peloponne'sus, or peninsula of southern Greece; this migration led to numberless changes, and immense multitudes, being deprived of their homes, passed the Æge'an Sea, and founded cities in the Asiat'ic provinces of Io'nia, Æo'lia, and Ca'ria.

Q. What was the state of these colonies?

A. They soon attained a high degree of commercial prosperity, and made very rapid advances in civilization and the arts of social life.

Q. By whom was the first blow given to their prosperity?

A. The kings of Lyd'ia always regarded the Greek colonists as intrusive strangers, and made many efforts for their subjugation. At length Crœ'sus, the most powerful, and the last of the Lyd'ian monarchs, subdued all their cities.

Q. How did the Greek colonies come under the power of the Per'sians?

A. When Cy'rus subdued Crœ'sus, he became also master of all the Lyd'ian territories.

Q. When did the Greek colonies rebel against their Per'sian masters?

A. In the reign of Dari'us Hystas'pes. They relied for aid on their brethren in Greece, but receiving very inefficient support, they were soon subdued. Dar'ius, however, resolved to punish the Greeks, and especially the Athe'nians, for having aided his rebellious subjects; and on their refusal to make atonement, by paying him tribute, sent a large army to invade their country.

Q. What was the success of this invasion?

A. The Per'sian army was irretrievably ruined by the Athe'nians, under Milti'ades, on the plains of Mar'athon.

Q. Was there not a second Per'sian war?

A. Yes; Xer'xes, the son of Dari'us, led the greatest army that ever was assembled, into Greece. He crossed the strait of the Hellespont on a bridge of boats; and after encountering a fierce resistance at the straits of Thermop'ylæ, made himself master of northern Greece, and burned Ath'ens.

Q. How did this invasion terminate?

A. The Per'sian fleet was defeated at Sal'amis; and Xer'xes, fearing that his retreat would be cut off, fled in a little skiff. Mardo'nus, who succeeded to the command, for some time maintained the war, but was finally defeated and slain at Plataë'a.

Q. Did the Greeks obtain any other victories?

A. Yes; under the command of Ci'mon, the son of Milti'ades, they obtained several decisive triumphs, and reduced the Per'sian despot to such a low condition, that he was forced to accept a peace on very humiliating terms.

Q. What Gre'cian wars were next remarkable?

A. The three Peloponne'sian wars.

Q. How did the first Peloponne'sian war originate?

A. It was caused by the mutual jealousy of the Athe'nians and Lacedæmo'nians, both of which states were anxious to have the supremacy of Greece.

Q. What were the most remarkable events of this war?

A. The dreadful plague that devastated Ath'ens; the destruction of Plataë'a; the terrible slaughters occasioned by civil dissensions in the island of Cor-

cy'ra ; the successes of the Ath'enians by sea ; and of the Lacedæmo'nians by land.

Q. In what manner was the war brought to an end ?

A. Both became wearied of a protracted contest, in which neither gained a decisive advantage, and the instigators of the war having been slain about the same time in the armies of both, an opportunity for negotiating was afforded, and a peace for fifty years concluded.

Q. What led to the second Peloponne'sian war ?

A. The ambition of Alcibi'ades, who sought an opportunity of distinguishing himself.

Q. What fatal expedition did the Ath'enians undertake during this war ?

A. An expedition against Sy'racuse, which failed completely, and caused such great loss to Ath'ens, that the state never recovered its former strength.

Q. How was the second Peloponne'sian war terminated ?

A. Athens was taken by the Lacedæmonian general Lysan'der, its walls destroyed, and the city subjected to the rule of thirty cruel tyrants. After some time the Ath'enians recovered their liberties, but their power and eminence were irretrievably ruined.

Q. What led to the third Peloponne'sian war ?

A. The Lacedæmo'nians, by a perfidious trick, became the masters of the The'ban citadel, and deprived the city of its liberties. But after some time the The'bans, headed by Pelop'idas, threw off the yoke, and boldly asserted their independence.

Q. What was the event of this war ?

A. The Theban generals, Pelop'idas and Epami-

non'das, completely crushed the power of the Lacedæmo'nians; but being both unfortunately slain during the war, the The'bans were unable to use their victories to the utmost advantage; and the Lacedæmo'nians obtained more favourable terms of peace than they could reasonably have expected.

Q. Were not these wars very injurious?

A. Yes; they so weakened the Gre'cian states, that they fell an easy prey to the usurpations of Phil'ip, king of Ma'cedon.

Q. What war proved the immediate cause of the loss of Gre'cian independence?

A. The Pho'cian war, which gave Phil'ip a pretext for interfering in the internal policy of the Gre'cian states.

CHAPTER XV.

Thrace, Thessaly and Epirus.

Q. What was the ancient condition of Thrace?

A. It was possessed by several independent tribes, each governed by a king. The inhabitants of Thrace made little or no advance in civilisation, and were regarded as barbarians by the Greeks.

Q. Did any Greek state plant colonies in Thrace?

A. Yes; the whole of the Thra'cian coast, and especially the Chersone'se, or peninsula, was studded with Athe'nian colonies.

Q. Was Thrace ever erected into a kingdom?

A. Yes; after the Macedo'nian empire was divided among the generals of Alexan'der, Lysim'achus seized Thrace, and proclaimed himself its king.

Q. Did Thes'saly at any time possess historical importance?

A. In the heroic ages it ranked above southern Greece, and from it came the Helle'nes, who subdued the Pelas'gi, and made themselves masters of all Greece.

Q. When did Thes'saly decline?

A. In the period between the Troj'an war and the Do'rian migration; but no memorial of the time or manner of its revolutions has been preserved.

Q. What were the most eminent Thessa'lian states in later times?

A. The states of Phe'ræ and Laris'sa; they did not become republics like the states of southern Greece, but continued subject to kings until they were absorbed in the Macedo'nian empire.

Q. How was Epi'rus anciently inhabited?

A. By several tribes, which were not all of the Gre'cian race.

Q. Which was the most powerful of the Epi'rote tribes?

A. The Molos'si, whose kings were descended from the hero Achilles, and were called Phœa'cidæ.

Q. For what were the Epi'rotes remarkable in later times?

A. For their desperate resistance to the Romans after the other Gre'cian states had submitted, and the severe vengeance exacted by their conqueror, Pau'lus Æmil'ius. He destroyed seventy Epi'rote cities, and sold one hundred and fifty thousand of the inhabitants as slaves.

CHAPTER XVI.

The History of Macedon.

Q. By whom was the kingdom of Ma'cedon founded?

A. By Ca'ranus, said to have been descended from Her'cules.

Q. Was Ma'cedon conspicuous in the early part of Gre'cian history?

A. By no means; its monarchs submitted to the Per'sians without a struggle, and even aided them in their attempt to subjugate Greece. After the defeat of the Per'sians, they made peace with the victorious Greeks, and sunk into comparative insignificance. The coasts of Ma'cedon, like those of Th'race, were covered with Athe'nian colonies.

Q. By whom was Ma'cedon raised into importance?

A. By king Phil'ip, who took advantage of the dissensions that distracted the Gre'cian states, to make himself their master.

Q. From whom did Phil'ip learn the art of war?

A. From Epaminon'das, the celebrated The'ban general. But though Phil'ip was an excellent general, he very frequently owed his success more to the vena'ility of his opponents than his own merits.

Q. What great war first afforded Phil'ip a pretext for interfering in the affairs of Greece?

A. The sacred war, which was waged against the Pho'cians under the pretence that they had violated some ground sacred to Apollo.

Q. Did any Greek state resist the usurpations of Phil'ip?

A. Yes; the Athe'nians, roused by the eloquence of the celebrated Demos'thenes, made a great, but a vain effort, to stop the career of the victorious Macedo'nian; they were totally defeated at Chærone'a, and owed their existence only to the conqueror's clemency.

Q. What great object did Phil'ip contemplate?

A. The invasion of the Per'sian empire at the head of the united forces of Greece; but in the midst of his preparations he was slain by an assassin, whom his queen is supposed to have instigated to the atrocious deed.

Q. By whom was Phil'ip succeeded?

A. By his son Alexan'der, deservedly named the Great; he resolved to execute his father's daring project, but was delayed for a short time by the insurrection of the Greeks, who took advantage of Phil'ip's death to strike for freedom.

Q. How was this insurrection quelled?

A. The promptitude of Alexan'der disconcerted the insurgents; he was in the field before their preparations were complete, and the severe chastisement he inflicted on Thebes so terrified the other states, that they immediately submitted.

Q. What did Alexan'der do next?

A. He led an army over the Hel'lespont, and by the victory of the Grani'cus, opened himself a passage into the very heart of A'sia.

Q. What celebrated city sustained a long siege before submitting to the Macedo'nians?

A. Tyre; it was finally taken by storm, and completely destroyed.

Q. In what battle was the fate of the Per'sian empire decided?

A. In the battle of Arbe'la, where Dari'us the Per'sian king was totally defeated, and his empire forced to submit to the conqueror.

Q. What great exploit did Alexan'der next meditate?

A. The subjugation of In'dia; he invaded the country, and made some progress in reducing it; but his soldiers, eager to enjoy the fruits of their victories, began to murmur, and he was forced to return. He laid, however, the foundation of the subsequent commercial intercourse between In'dia and Eu'rope.

Q. Did Alexan'der pay much attention to commerce?

A. Yes; he built cities in all the places that he deemed most eligible for trade; and no stronger proof can be given of the judgment with which he selected these sites, than that all these cities subsequently rose into importance. The most celebrated of them was Alexandri'a, in E'gypt, which still retains its ancient importance.

Q. Where did Alexan'der die?

A. At Bab'ylon, of a fever produced by a fit of intemperance. His children were too young to be placed upon the throne, and he nominated no successor to his extensive dominions. The only sign he gave of concern on the important subject was giving his ring to Perdic'cas, one of his favourite generals.

CHAPTER XVII.

The Successors of Alexander.

Q. Did the Macedo'nian generals submit quietly to the authority of Perdic'cas?

A. No; a league was soon formed against the regent, the leaders of which were Antig'onus, the governor of western A'sia; Ptol'emy, to whom E'gypt had been entrusted; and Antip'ater and Crat'erus, the rulers of Ma'cedon.

Q. Did any of the generals remain faithful?

A. Yes; Eu'menes, who commanded the royal guards, zealously supported the cause of the regent, not so much from love of Perdic'cas, as from a loyal anxiety to maintain the rights of the posthumous child of his late master.

Q. Did Eu'menes distinguish himself in the war?

A. He obtained a complete victory over the army of Crat'erus in Phry'gia, where that great general was slain, to the sincere regret of the conqueror.

Q. What use did Perdic'cas make of this victory?

A. None; for before the news could reach his camp, he was assassinated by some of his officers, whom he had provoked by his pride and severity.

Q. What effect did the news of Alexan'der's death produce in Greece?

A. The Athe'nians and Arca'dians took up arms to re-establish the ancient independence of the Gre'cian states; but though twice victorious, they were finally overpowered by the skill and prudence of Antip'ater, the governor of Ma'cedon.

Q. Did Antip'ater punish the authors of the revolt?

A. His vengeance fell chiefly on the celebrated orator Demos'thenes, whose eloquent harangues had greatly tended to excite the Athe'nians to the war. Demos'thenes committed suicide rather than fall alive into the hands of his enemies.

Q. What were the consequences of the death of Perdic'cas?

A. By the advice of the victorious Ptol'emy, the regency was conferred on Arrhidæ'us, the brother of Alexan'der, a weak man wholly under the control of his wife Euryd'ice. She soon gave so much offence that her husband was deposed, and the command given to Antip'ater, who had acquired great fame by the tranquillization of Greece?

Q. How did Antip'ater act as regent?

A. He sent Antig'onus against Eu'menes, in spite of the warnings of his son Cassan'der, who had penetrated that general's design of founding an independent kingdom.

Q. What followed?

A. Antip'ater died, bequeathing the regency to Polysper'chon, in preference to his son Cassan'der, who had provoked his wrath by a criminal intrigue with Euryd'ice. A new war was commenced between Eu'menes and Polysper'chon on one side, and Cassan'der and Antig'onus on the other.

Q. What was the event of the war?

A. Cassan'der triumphed in Eu'rope, and having put to death Olym'pias, the mother of Alexan'der, and placed the queen Roxa'na, and her infant son, in confinement, married the princess Thessaloni'ca. In

A'sia Eu'menes was betrayed by his soldiers, and murdered by command of the barbarous Antig'onus.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Successors of Alexander continued.

Q. What was finally the fate of Alexan'der's descendants ?

A. They were murdered in prison by the merciless Cassan'der.

Q. Which of Alexan'der's generals first assumed the title of king ?

A. Antig'onus ; the title is said to have been first given him in jest.

Q. When did the division of Alexan'der's dominions between his generals take place ?

A. After the battle of Ip'sus, in which Antig'onus was defeated and slain by a coalition of the other leaders.

Q. What were the most remarkable kingdoms formed from the fragments of the Macedo'nian empire ?

A. The kingdom of Upper A'sia, at a later period called the kingdom of Syr'ia, founded by Seleu'cus ; E'gypt, established as a kingdom by Ptol'emy ; Ma'cedon and Greece, secured as his share by Cassan'der ; and Thrace, which gave a royal title to Lysim'achus. The two latter, however, were soon subjected to fresh revolutions.

Q. What became of Cassan'der ?

A. He died peaceably a natural death, The civil

war between his sons enabled Deme'trius, the son of Antig'onus, to seize Ma'cedon; but he was driven out in his turn by the kings of Thrace and Epi'rus.

Q. To what revolutions was Ma'cedon subjected?

A. The Thra'cians were defeated, and their king Lysim'achus slain by Seleu'cus; before he could improve his victory he was treacherously assassinated by Ptol'emy Cerau'nus, who then seized the Macedo'nian throne.

Q. Did Ptol'emy long enjoy the fruit of his crimes?

A. No; a formidable body of the Gauls under one of their *brenns*, or chieftains, having invaded Greece, Cerau'nus led an army against them, but was completely defeated, and, being overtaken in flight, savagely murdered. Antig'onus, the son of Deme'trius, succeeded to the vacant throne, which he transmitted to his posterity.

Q. What became of the Gauls?

A. Being defeated in an attempt to storm the temple of Del'phi, they passed over into lesser A'sia, where after many contests, they succeeded in establishing themselves in a province, from them called Gala'tia.

Q. Did any other kingdoms arise from the ruins of the Macedo'nian empire besides those already mentioned?

A. Yes; several of the provinces erected themselves into kingdoms, under the sovereignty of native princes. The most remarkable of these were Cappa'docia, Arme'nia, Pon'tus and Par'thia.

CHAPTER XIX.

The Seleucidæ and the Ptolemies.

Q. Which were the most prosperous of the kingdoms founded by the successors of Alexan'der?

A. The kingdoms of Syr'ia and E'gypt.

Q. To what family did the kingdom of Syr'ia appertain?

A. To the descendants of Seleu'cus, called from their founder the Seleu'cidæ.

Q. What family possessed E'gypt?

A. The descendants of Ptol'emy, most of whom took the name of their founder.

Q. How were these kingdoms weakened?

A. By the mutual wars in which they were almost incessantly engaged.

Q. What was the cause of these wars?

A. The possession of Cœ'le-Syr'ia and Palestine, provinces equally desirable to secure the frontiers of both kingdoms.

Q. By whom was the Syr'ian kingdom overthrown?

A. By the Romans, whose hostility Anti'ochus the Great provoked by his ambitious schemes.

Q. Who reduced E'gypt under the subjection of the Romans?

A. Augus'tus Cæ'sar, after having defeated An'tony and Cleopa'tra.

Q. Was there not a Greek kingdom founded in central A'sia?

A. Yes; the kingdom of Bac'tria; but its history

is almost wholly unknown, and we cannot even discover the time of its subversion.

Q. But can we not tell the means of its destruction?

A. Yes; it was destroyed by the Tartar'ic or Scythian hordes of central A'sia, the authors of some of the greatest revolutions recorded in history. Provoked by the desperate resistance they encountered, these ferocious barbarians appear to have exterminated the entire Grecian colony.

CHAPTER XX.

The Roman History.

Q. By whom is Rome said to have been founded?

A. By Rom'ulus, 752 years before the Christian era.

Q. How was Rome governed after its foundation?

A. Rome was first governed by kings.

Q. How many kings of Rome were there?

A. Seven; four of whom were elected by the people, and three were usurpers; that is they seized the throne either by force or fraud,

Q. Which were the four kings regularly elected?

A. Rom'ulus, Nu'ma, Tul'lus Hostil'ius, and An'cus Mar'tius.

Q. Can you tell the names of the remaining three?

A. Tar'quin the Elder, Ser'vius Tul'lus, and Tar'quin the Proud.

Q. For what were the four first kings remarkable?

A. Rom'ulus was the author of the military form

of the Roman government ; Nu'ma regulated the religious ceremonies ; Tul'lus Hostil'ius annexed Alba to the Roman dominions ; and An'cus Mar'tius first directed the attention of the Romans to naval affairs.

Q. What characteristics distinguished the three later kings ?

A. Tar'quin the Elder introduced the ensigns of royal and magisterial dignity ; Ser'vius Tul'lus regulated the rights of the patricians and plebeians, the two great classes into which the Roman people were divided ; and Tar'quin the younger, or the Proud, was driven from the throne on account both of his own tyranny, and the crimes of his son Sex'tus.

Q. What form of government succeeded the royal ?

A. The consular : two consuls were annually elected, between whom the regal power was shared.

Q. Was the consular form preserved without interruption ?

A. No ; instead of consuls, dictators, decemvirs, and military tribunes were sometimes invested with the supreme power.

Q. What power did a dictator enjoy ?

A. He possessed absolute authority even over the laws themselves. On this account dictators were only elected for a limited time, and in cases of very pressing emergency.

Q. When were military tribunes elected ?

A. At the time when the plebeians insisted that one of the consuls should be elected from their body. Six military tribunes were elected by way of compromise, one half of whom were allowed to be chosen from among the plebeians.

Q. Why were decemvirs created ?

A. Ten men, as the name imports, were selected to compile a code of laws for the regulation of the Roman republic. After completing their task, they usurped the government; but, acting with great cruelty, tyranny, and rapacity, they were overthrown by a general insurrection of the people.

Q. In the later part of the Roman history we find a triumvirate twice mentioned, what was it?

A. A coalition between three powerful men to usurp the supreme power.

Q. Who constituted the first triumvirate?

A. Pom'pey, Cæ'sar, and Cras'sus.

Q. What three persons formed the second triumvirate?

A. Octa'vius Cæ'sar, more commonly called Augu'stus, Marc Antony, and Lep'idus.

Q. After the overthrow of the republic, what form did the government assume?

A. It became an absolute despotism; the chief magistrate was named the Emperor, and his will was law.

Q. Who was the first Roman emperor?

A. Ju'lius Cæ'sar; but the establishment of absolute despotism dates rather from the reign of his successor Cæ'sar Augu'stus.

CHAPTER XXI.

The History of Rome continued.

Q. What were the most remarkable Roman wars?

A. The Etru'rian, the Lat'in, the Gal'lic, the Sam'-

nite, the Pu'nic, the Macedo'nian, the Social, the Mithrida'tic, and the Civil wars.

Q. Who was the first Etru'rian sovereign that attacked the Roman republic?

A. Porsen'na, who supported the cause of the exiled Tarquin. The Roman historians assert, that from respect to the heroism displayed in the defence of the city, he granted peace on very favourable conditions to their countrymen. But there is reason to believe that he became master of Rome, and held it, at least for some time, tributary.

Q. With what Etru'rian city were the Romans most frequently at war?

A. With the city of Vei'i, which resisted all the efforts of the Romans, and sometimes threatened their national existence, until the time of Camil'lus, when it was taken after a siege of ten years.

Q. Had the Romans many wars with the Lat'ins?

A. Yes, several; the most remarkable was that in which the Roman general Man'lius put his son to death for fighting without orders. Finally, the Lat'ins were compelled to acknowledge the Roman supremacy.

Q. To what great dangers were the Romans exposed in the Gal'lic wars?

A. They were threatened with complete extermination, the Gauls having captured the city, and burned it to the ground, except the capitol, which was defended by a small heroic garrison. But even this little band was almost forced to surrender from the pressure of extreme famine.

Q. How was Rome saved from this threatened destruction?

A. The Gauls agreed to depart on receiving a stipulated sum of money ; but whilst the money was being paid, it is said that the Roman general Camillus arrived, and attacking the Gauls, routed them with great slaughter.

Q. Why was the Sam'nite war dangerous to the Roman power ?

A. Because the Sam'nites were the bravest people in It'aly, and were supported by some of the Gre'cian colonies that had settled in the south of the peninsula.

Q. Did not the Sam'nite war bring a foreign invader into It'aly ?

A. Yes ; Pyrr'hus king of Epi'rus came to aid the Greek colonies, and obtained two great, but not decisive victories, over the Romans. He was vanquished in his turn by Sic'cius Denta'tus ; and after his retreat, the Romans became the undisputed masters of It'aly.

Q. How many Pu'nic wars were there ?

A. There were three Pu'nic or Carthaginian wars, in all of which the Romans were victorious.

Q. In which of the Pu'nic wars did the Romans encounter the greatest danger ?

A. In the second, when Han'nibal, the Carthaginian general, invaded It'aly, and obtained several splendid victories. It is even supposed, that if he had displayed sufficient promptitude after the battle of Can'næ, Rome itself would have fallen.

Q. How did the Pu'nic wars terminate ?

A. In the third Pu'nic war, Car'thage was taken and destroyed ; and the Romans were thus left without a rival in western Eu'rope.

Q. What led to the Macedo'nian war ?

A. The entreaties of the Athe'nians for aid against the Macedo'nian monarch. Many of the Gre'cian states gladly availed themselves of the Roman aid to establish their independence ; but found too late that their allies aimed at becoming their masters.

Q. Did any of the Gre'cian states determine to resist Roman interference ?

A. Yes, those comprised in the Achæ'an league made a bold struggle for freedom ; but their efforts were vain, and the Romans became finally the absolute masters of Greece.

Q. What was the cause of the Social war ?

A. The desire of the Lat'ins to participate in the privileges of Roman citizens ; after a long and doubtful war these privileges were conceded to the Lat'ins, but under so many limitations as to be of very little advantage.

Q. When did the Romans acquire an influence in western A'sia ?

A. After the termination of their war against Anti'ochus the great, king of Syr'ia.

Q. What formidable enemy did the Romans encounter in western A'sia ?

A. Mithrida'tes king of Pon'tus, who brought their power to the very verge of ruin.

Q. How did the war terminate ?

A. After a variety of brilliant exploits, Mithrida'tes was deserted by all his former followers, and committed suicide rather than fall into the hands of his enemies.

Q. How many great civil wars were there ?

A. Three.

Q. Who were the leaders in the first civil war?

A. Ma'rius, who headed the democratic or popular party; and Syl'la, who was the chief of the aristocratic or patrician faction.

Q. Between what leaders did the second civil war arise?

A. Between Pom'pey and Cæ'sar. The latter was victorious, and became the first of the Roman emperors.

Q. Between what parties did the third civil war arise?

A. The third civil war arose between the murderers of Cæ'sar and the avengers of his death. It terminated by the triumph of the latter; and, in consequence, Octa'vius Cæ'sar became the second emperor of Rome, and established an absolute despotism.

CHAPTER XXII.

The Roman Emperors.

Q. How many of the Cæsa'rian family reigned as emperors in Rome?

A. Six; but six of the subsequent emperors having taken the name of Cæ'sar, we find them collectively called the Twelve Cæ'sars.

Q. What remarkable event took place in the reign of Tibe'rius, the third Cæ'sar?

A. The crucifixion at Jeru'salem of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST.

Q. Who was the last of the Cæsa'rian family that reigned in Rome?

A. Ne'ro, a monster of cruelty. His tyranny provoked an insurrection of his subjects, and to escape their just vengeance he committed suicide.

Q. What followed the death of Ne'ro?

A. The successive reigns of Gal'ba, O'tho, and Vitel'lius, which were all cut short by insurrections. Finally, Vespa'sian obtained the empire, and transmitted it to his son.

Q. Did any very remarkable event occur in the reign of Vespasian?

A. Yes, the destruction of Jeru'salem, by Ti'tus, the son of the emperor. Ti'tus succeeded his father, and was such an excellent ruler, that the people preferred *his* despotism to liberty.

Q. Who was the last of the Vespa'sian family that held the empire?

A. Domi'tian, an execrable tyrant, whose cruelty led to his assassination.

Q. To whom did the empire next devolve?

A. Successively to the five good emperors, Ner'va, Tra'jan, A'drian, Antoni'nus Pi'us, and Mar'cus Aure'lius. But Com'modus, the son and successor of Aure'lius, proved a greater tyrant than any that preceded him. He perished by assassination.

Q. What followed the murder of Com'modus?

A. The tumultuous election of several successive emperors, whose reigns were rendered brief by the turbulence of the Præto'rian guards. In fact, Rome had now fallen under a military despotism, its strength began to decay, and the barbarians severely pressed on all the frontiers of the empire.

Q. What change took place under the reign of Diocle'tian?

A. Under the reign of this emperor the old republican forms began to fall into disuse, and Rome was no longer invariably the seat of the court. He therefore may be said to have prepared the way for the great alteration, which, after his death, was made by Con'stantine.

Q. What is remarkable of Diocle'tian?

A. He resigned the empire, and passed the close of his life in obscurity. After his death the empire was divided between Constan'tius and Gale'rius. It was subsequently re-united under Constantine, who was the first Christian emperor.

Q. Did not Constantine effect very great changes?

A. Yes; he established the Christian religion, and transferred the seat of government from Rome to Byzantium, which he called Constantino'ple, after his own name.

Q. Was not the Roman empire subsequently divided?

A. Yes; into the empires of the East and West; Constantinople being the capital of the former, and Rome of the latter.

Q. How was the western empire destroyed?

A. By hordes of barbarians from the north of Europe, whom the degenerate Romans were unable to resist. These savage conquerors founded kingdoms on the ruins of the empire in the fairest countries of western Europe.

Q. What became of the eastern empire?

A. After a protracted, but miserable existence, it was finally destroyed by the Turks, in the middle of the fifteenth century.

Q. Who were the first inhabitants of Si'cily?

A. The first inhabitants of Si'cily were the Cyclo'pes and Læs'trigons, a barbarous race of people, almost extirpated by the different Greek colonies, whom the commercial advantages of Si'cily's situation induced to settle in this island.

Q. How were those states governed ?

A. The different states were at first, for the most part, governed by kings, but the number of tyrants, who at several times oppressed the Sicil'ian states, provoking insurrection, made republics not uncommon in the island. In general, the states followed the fortunes of the capital, Sy'racuse.

Q. What remarkable invasion of the Carthagin'ians took place at an early period ?

A. The Carthagin'ians invaded Si'cily the same year that Xerxes invaded Greece ; they had previously been connected with that monarch by their trade with the Per'sian provinces in A'sia Mi'nor, and on this occasion they entered into a closer bond of amity, with the Per'sian monarch ; but the success of both invasions was similar, the Carthaginians having received as decisive a defeat from Ge'lon king of Sy'racuse, as the Per'sians did from Pausa'nias.

Q. Who were the tyrants of Sy'racuse ?

A. The elder Dionys'ius ; the younger Dionys'ius, who, being driven from his throne, set up a school in Cor'inth ; and Agatho'cles, the son of a potter, who usurped the supreme authority.

Q. What extraordinary expedition was undertaken by Agath'ocles ?

A. While the Carthagin'ians were besieging Sy'racuse, he invaded Af'rica, and made them tremble for their own capital ; but on the first change of fortune he

deserted his soldiers, and returned to Syracuse, where he perished by poison.

Q. Who was the best Sicilian monarch?

A. Hi'ero, who procured his election to the supreme power, and who governed the state with justice and moderation for more than fifty years.

Q. What was the subsequent history of the island?

A. The civil wars that ensued on his death accelerated the final subjection of the country by the Romans. Sicily was the first country that became a Roman province. Since the overthrow of the Roman empire, it has in general participated in the fortunes of the kingdom of Na'ples.

CHAPTER XXIII.

France, Spain, and Britain.

Q. What was the ancient name of France?

A. The Romans called this extensive country Gallia Transalpi'na, to distinguish it from the province of Gallia Cisalpina, in the north of Italy. The Greeks gave it the name of Gala'tia, and subsequently Western Gala'tia, to distinguish it from Gala'tia in Asia Mi'nor, where the Gauls had planted a colony.

Q. What is known of its early history?

A. The history of the Gauls before the invasion of the Romans is involved in obscurity; we only know that it must have been very populous, from the numerous hordes who at different times emigrated from Gaul in search of new settlements.

Q. Whither did the first horde of emigrants proceed?

A. They seized on the north of Italy, which was

from them called Cisal'pine Gaul, they colonised part of Germany, they invaded Greece, and one tribe penetrated even to A'sia, where, mingling with the Greeks, they seized on a province, from thence called Gala'tia or Gal'lo-Græ'cia.

Q. Was there not a second great emigration?

A. Another body of Gauls, under the command of Brennus, seized and burned Rome itself; and though they were subsequently routed by Camil'lus, the Romans ever looked on the Gauls as their most formidable opponents, and called a Gal'lic war Tumul'tus, implying that it was as dangerous as a civil war.

Q. By whom was Gaul subdued?

A. The Romans at different times seized portions of the country, and the entire country was subdued by Ju'lius Cæ'sar.

Q. What was their future condition?

A. Though grievously oppressed by the Roman governors, the Gauls under the emperors made rapid advances in civilization; they are particularly noticed for their success in eloquence and law.

Q. What curious custom had they in their studies?

A. An annual contest in eloquence took place at Lugdu'num, and the vanquished were compelled to blot out their own compositions, and write new orations in praise of the victors, or else be whipped and plunged into the A'rar.

Q. On the dissolution of the Roman empire what happened to this people?

A. When the barbarians invaded the Roman empire, the Gauls suffered severely from the Goths and Vis'igoths; the Burgun'dians next attacked them, and seized on some of their finest provinces. Finally, the

Franks, a fierce and warlike people of Germany, composed of various tribes, subdued and took possession of the country.

Q. What custom did they introduce?

A. The Sa'lic law, which precludes females from inheriting the crown of France, was established by the Sa'lii, the most powerful of the Frank tribes.

Q. What is the early history of Spain?

A. It was first made known to the ancients by the conquests of Her'cules. In later times the Carthaginians became masters of the greater part of the country: they were in their turn expelled by the Romans, who kept possession of the peninsula for several centuries.

Q. What events connected with Roman history occurred in Spain?

A. During the civil wars of Rome, Spain was frequently devastated by the contending parties. Here Serto'rius, after the death of Ma'rius, assembled the fugitives of the popular party, and for a long time resisted the arms of Syl'la; here, Afra'nus and Petrei'us, the lieutenants of Pom'pey, made a gallant stand against Ju'lius Cæ'sar; and here, after the death of Pompey, his sons made a fruitless effort to vindicate their own rights, and avenge their father's misfortunes.

Q. What nations invaded Spain after the fall of the Roman empire?

A. The Vandals, who gave the name Vandalu'sia to one of the provinces, now corrupted into Andalu'sia. They were expelled by the Goths and Vis'igoths, whose dynasty lasted three hundred years. Ro'derick, the last of the race, was slain by the Sar'acens, who conquered the country.

Q. By whom were the Sar'acens subdued?

A. By Pela'gio, and all the Sar'acens or Moors were expelled by Ferdinand and Isabella, A.D. 1492.

Q. When and how was Brit'ain made known to the Romans?

A. Brit'ain was considered beyond the bounds of the world; it was scarcely known to exist before the days of Ju'lius Cæ'sar. Being peopled by successive migrations from Gaul, the Brit'ons naturally aided the mother country when invaded, and thus provoked the vengeance of Rome.

Q. Was it visited at an earlier period by any other ancient people?

A. The south-western shores are said to have been visited by the Phœni'cians at a much earlier period; and that enterprising people have been described as carrying on an extensive trade for tin with Cornwall and the Scilly isles, which, from their abounding in that metal, were called the Cassiter'ides In'sulæ, or tin islands.

Q. By whom was it subdued?

A. It was partially subjugated by Ju'lius Cæ'sar, but its final conquest was effected several years after by Agric'ola.

Q. What British prince made the greatest resistance to the Romans?

A. Carac'tacus, king of the Silu'res. He was, however, at length conquered by Osto'rius Scap'ula, made prisoner and sent in chains to Rome.

Q. What British queen took up arms against the Romans?

A. Boadice'a, queen of the Ice'ni. She was at first successful and captured London, but was finally defeated and slain.

Q. What public works were erected by the Romans in Brit'ain ?

A. To repel the incursions of the Picts and Scots, who frequently laid waste the Roman settlements, several walls were built across the island.

Q. By whom was the first erected ?

A. The first was erected by the celebrated Agric'ola, who completed the conquest of Brit'ain : but this being found insufficient to restrain the incursions of the barbarians, the emperor A'drian erected a rampart of great strength and dimensions.

Q. Was there not another ?

A. The last and greatest of these structures, was the wall erected by the emperor Seve'rus, A.D. 200.

Q. Where was it situated ?

A. It was situated a few yards north of the wall of A'drian, and was one of the strongest fortifications of antiquity.

Q. Describe it.

A. The wall was twelve feet wide and eight high, built of stone and cement ; it was strengthened by eighteen stations and garrisons, thirty-one castles, and three hundred and twenty-four towers. The whole body of forces employed to garrison this immense range of fortification were ten thousand men, besides six hundred mariners, appointed to guard the points where the ramparts communicated with the shore.

Q. When did the Romans abandon Britain ?

A. A.D. 426.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Of India.

Q. What is In'dia?

A. In'dia, one of the most celebrated and opulent countries of all A'sia, is of vast extent, being about 2,400 miles in length and 2,000 in breadth. It is bounded on the west by the river In'dus, whence it receives its name. It has always been considered famous for the riches it contains; and so persuaded were the ancients of its wealth, that they supposed its very sands were gold.

Q. Can you give me any particular account of the ancient In'dians?

A. No, but very little; as the geography of In'dia, as well as the history of the people, were very imperfectly known before the modern conquest of the Europe'ans in that part of the world; the principal account we have of the Indians, is that described by Ar'rian, in the time of Alexan'der the Great, which proves that the manners and customs of that people were much the same as those of the moderns in the present day.

Q. By whom was In'dia first conquered?

A. By Bac'chus king of the Egypt'ians: but this account is traditionary, and, therefore, cannot be relied on. In more recent ages, part of In'dia was tributary to Dari'us, king of the Per'sians, who is said to have derived from that country a tribute nearly equal to the third part of the revenue of his other dominions. It appears worthy of remark, that the In'dians paid Dari'us their tribute in gold, and the other satraps in silver.

Q. Who next invaded In'dia after the death of Darius the king of the Per'sians?

A. Alexan'der the Great, king of the Greeks, who, after having subdued Per'sia, set out from Bac'tria, and having passed mount Ima'us, or the Strong Girdle, as (it is called by the oriental geographers,) crossed the In'dus at Tax'ila, the only place where the rapidity of that river permits an army to be conveniently transported.

Q. Was Alexan'der opposed in the invasion of In'dia?

A. Yes, by Po'rus, king of part of In'dia, but who met with a signal defeat near the river Hydaspes; and, on a question being asked him by Alexan'der, how he would wish to be treated, "As a king," said Po'rus; this answer so pleased the conqueror, that he not only restored to him his kingdom, but added thereto several provinces, and also entered into an alliance with him.

Q. What did Alexan'der after this?

A. Alexan'der then returned to Bab'ylon, which city he intended greatly to improve, when he was taken off by a fever in the 33rd year of his age, B.C. 323.

CHAPTER XXV.

Of China.

Q. What is the early history of Chi'na?

A. This large country, which is situated in the most easterly part of A'sia, is so deficient in authentic historical records, that its early history is completely involved in fable. The Chine'se pretend to the most remote antiquity, and there is no doubt their origin

was contemporary with most of the celebrated ancient nations.

Q. What was their form of government?

A. Chi'na was divided into a number of districts or provinces, governed by princes who were absolute within their own territories, but who acknowledged the supremacy of one who was styled Emperor.

Q. What causes have chiefly contributed to render the history of this country, as well as the manners of its ancient inhabitants, unknown to us?

A. Contrary to the practices of all other nations, the Chine'se have ever avoided all intercourse with strangers, and, instead of endeavouring to render their empire more extensive by foreign conquests, they have only studied the welfare and prosperity of their own country. Hence a knowledge of their arts, laws, manners, and customs, has been confined to themselves; but, while they have thus excluded the rest of the world from a participation in their inventions, they have deprived themselves of the possibility of benefiting by the discoveries of others.

CHAPTER XXVI.

The Arabians.

Q. What remarkable circumstances present themselves to our notice respecting the A'rabs?

A. The A'rabs are the most ancient unconquered nation in the world, and the most abstemious.

Q. Where is Ara'bia?

A. The whole country of Ara'bia extends 1300 miles in length, and 1200 in breadth, reaching from

Alep'po to the Ara'bian Sea, and from E'gypt to the Per'sian Gulf. It is divided into three parts, Ara'bia Deser'ta, Ara'bia Petræ'a, and Ara'bia Fe'lix¹.

Q. How long have the A'rabs continued to dwell in their present state?

A. For the space of 4000 years. In them has been fulfilled what is prophesied in Gen. xvi. 12. respecting Ishmael, from whom they are supposed to be descended: "Ishmael will be a wild man, his hand against every man, and every man's hand against him, and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

Q. What is their mode of life?

A. They are divided into independent communities or tribes, amounting altogether to about twenty millions. They are governed by sheiks, and are famous for their independence during the vast conquests of the Assyr'ians, Per'sians, Greeks, and Romans, having always an empire equal in extent to any of them.

Q. Am I then to understand that they have never been subdued?

A. Certainly; they have never been wholly subdued; though the Abyssin'ians, the Per'sians, and the Sul'tans of E'gypt, have partially reduced them to obedience, such obedience was only temporary, and the pretended empire of the Turks over them is but a mere shadow of jurisdiction.

Q. How is it to be accounted for?

A. Chiefly from their wandering mode of life and the nature of their country. All who have disturbed them have found it dangerous to provoke, and fruitless to attack them.

¹ Arabia the Desert, Arabia the Stony, and Arabia the Happy.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Remarkable African Nations.

Q. What African nation appears to have rivalled the Egyp'tians in early civilization?

A. The Ethio'pians, whose piety and social happiness are praised by Ho'mer, and whose ancient greatness is proved by the stupendous ruins which are still found in their country. Unfortunately, nothing certain is known of their history.

Q. Of what other Af'rican nations have we any account, in ancient authors?

A. Only of those which inhabited the northern coasts, or the parts adjacent, the Lib'yans, the Gætu'lians, the Numid'ians, the Maurita'nians, and the Ber'bers, from whom part of the country is still called Bar'bary?

Q. Which of these nations was the most civilized?

A. The Numid'ians; they derived this advantage probably from their vicinity to Car'thage, and their consequent commercial intercourse with that highly cultivated people. The other nations of Af'rica had few towns or settled habitations, but led a wandering life as hunters and shepherds.

Q. When did the Numid'ians become remarkable in history?

A. In the third Pu'nic war, when their king Massinis'sa aided the Romans in the reduction of Car'thage.

Q. From what causes did the Numid'ian war arise?

A. The grandsons of Massinis'sa were murdered by Jugur'tha, who usurped the crown, but was subsequently deposed by the Romans after a tedious war,

and strangled in prison. North Africa, in consequence, became a Roman province.

Q. What remarkable event changed the government of northern Africa?

A. In a later period of the empire it was subdued by Gen'seric, king of the Van'dals, who had been invited thither by the provincial governor as an ally, but soon made himself the sovereign of the country.

Q. What was its subsequent fate?

A. The Van'dals were subdued by the celebrated Belisa'rius, and their kingdom made a province of the eastern empire. It continued so till it was overrun by the Sar'acens in the seventh century after the Christian era.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Seven Ancient Wonders of the World.

Q. Which are generally reckoned by historians as the seven ancient wonders of the world?

A. 1. The brass Colos'sus of Rhodes; 2. The Pyramids of Egypt; 3. The A'queducts of Rome; 4. The Lab'yrinth of Psamme'tichus; 5. The Pha'ros of Alexandria; 6. The walls of Bab'ylon; and, 7. The Temple of Dia'na at Eph'esus.

Q. What was the Colos'sus of Rhodes?

A. A huge figure of a man, being 120 feet in height, and proportionably large, made of brass, and dedicated to the sun. It was set up in Rhodes, an island in the Mediterra'nean Sea, and was so situated that it stood astride the harbour of Rhodes, so that the ships might sail between its legs

Q. By whom was it made, and what became of it?

A. It was built by Ca'res, A.D. 288, who performed the task in twenty years. It stood across the harbour of Rhodes sixty-six years, when it was thrown down by an earthquake, and remained in that state till the Sar'acens took possession of the island of Rhodes.

Q. What did they do with it?

A. The Sar'acens sold it to a Jew, who loaded nine hundred camels with the brass of which it was composed.

Q. What are the Pyr'amids of E'gypt?

A. The E'gyptian Pyr'amids are immense buildings or pillars of stone, of a square form, becoming narrower by degrees as they reach the top.

Q. For what were they erected?

A. They are supposed to have been intended as burial places for the E'gyptian kings. Several are still standing, the largest of which is 800 feet square at the bottom, took 360,000 workmen twenty years in building, and has now stood three thousand years.

Q. What were the A'queducts of Rome?

A. The A'queducts of Rome were tunnels which conducted water through all the streets, &c. of Rome, supplying the baths, fish-pools, and houses, so that 4000 hogsheads of water were conveyed in this manner daily.

Q. By whom were these A'queducts constructed?

A. They were invented by Ap'pius Clau'dius, the censor, and afterwards brought to perfection by the emperor Clau'dius.

Q. Where was the Lab'yri'nth of Psamme'tichus?

A. It was situated on the banks of the Nile, and contained, within the compass of one continued wall,

one thousand houses and twelve royal palaces, all covered with marble, and having but one general entrance.

Q. In what shape was this celebrated Lab'yrinth?

A. It consisted of innumerable turnings, some above and some below ground, so intricate that those who were even accustomed to the place had considerable difficulty in finding their way through. The building contained three thousand chambers, and a magnificent hall built entirely of polished marble, which contained the statues of numerous gods, and which was entered by a flight of ninety marble steps.

Q. What writer gives a description of this vast work?

A. Pliny the elder, who died A.D. 79; he observes that it had then been in existence two thousand years, but it has been long since destroyed.

Q. What was the Pha'ros of Alexandri'a?

A. This ancient wonder was a tower built near the bay of the island of Pha'ros in E'gypt, by order of Ptol'emy Philadel'phus, in the year 282 B.C. It was erected as a light-house or beacon to direct ships into the harbour.

Q. Describe it more minutely?

A. It consisted of several magnificent galleries of marble, with a very large lantern at the top, in which a light being continually burning, ships might see it a hundred miles off. Round the upper galleries, mirrors of an enormous size were fixed, so that every thing on the sea and all around might be seen.

Q. Does this remarkable monument of human skill exist now?

A. No; like most of the celebrated works of the

ancients, this is only known by an acquaintance with their writings, the stupendous Pha'ros having for ages been demolished, and a common tower and light-house erected in its place.

Q. Describe the Walls of Bab'ylon ?

A. The Walls of Bab'ylon were 350 feet high, 17 thick, and 60 miles in circumference. The form of these walls was an exact square, and in them were 100 gates of solid brass and 250 towers built on them, with a moat, or ditch, filled with water, on the outside of the walls.

Q. Who built the walls of Bab'ylon ?

A. By some it is asserted that they were built by order of queen Semi'ramis ; by others, that Nebuchadnezzar ordered their erection, and that they were finished in one year by 200,000 workmen. They were so thick that carts and carriages might pass each other on them.

Q. What was the Temple of Dia'na ?

A. A celebrated temple at Ephe'sus, dedicated to the goddess Dia'na. It stood between the city and the port of Eph'esus, and was completed in the reign of Ser'vius, the sixth king of Rome.

Q. Describe it.

A. The temple was 425 feet in length and 200 in breadth, and supported by 127 marble pillars, which were 70 feet high. The beams and doors were made of cedar, and the rest of the timber that was used in its construction was cypress wood. It was destroyed by fire B.C. 365.

THE END.

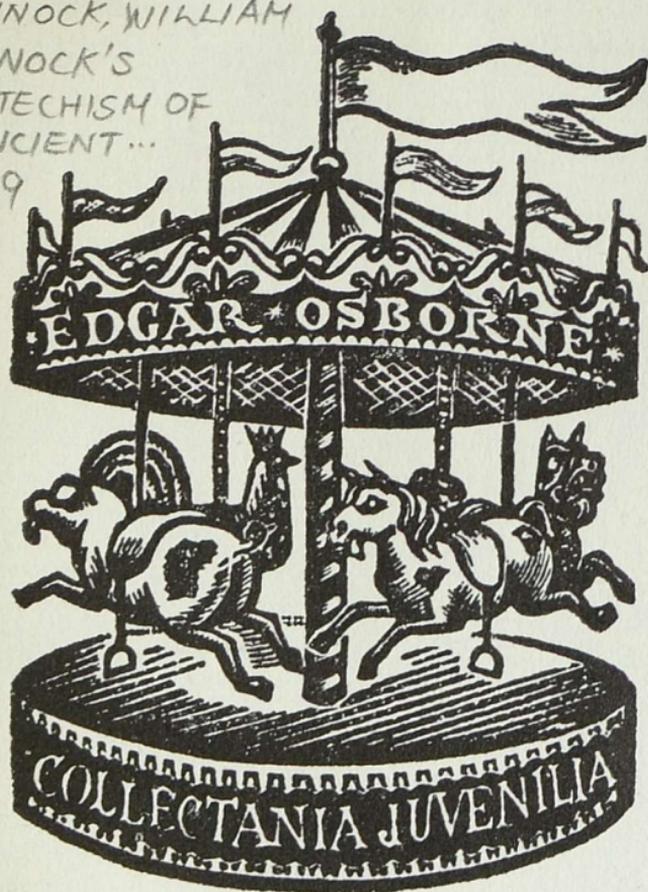
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