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OF
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CONTAINING

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MOST REMARKABLE EVENTS,

FROM

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TO THE

Birth of Christ;

BEING AN

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TO THE

NINTH EDITION.



THE following little Work contains a Description of every material Transaction from the Creation of the World to the Birth of our Saviour, intended for the use of young persons, and written with a view to encourage in them a desire for more extensive information.

In this edition a new, and we trust a very valuable addition has been made to this Catechism. It has been considered a desideratum to furnish the youthful mind with a Geographical knowledge of the places mentioned in the course of the work, and great pains have been taken thus to elucidate the history; the geographical questions and answers at the bottom of the pages being so distinct and clear that the Tyro may readily trace the places in an Atlas of ancient Geography, while he must infallibly become better acquainted with both Science and History. The most difficult words are explained at the foot of the page in which they occur; and when it is recollected that the professed object of these little treatises is to simplify and explain, no objection can be raised to their admission.

Printed by R. Gilbert, St. John's Square, London.

CATECHISM
OF
ANCIENT HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

Definitions.

Question. WHAT is History?

Answer. A description of things, actions, or events.

Q. What knowledge is necessary to prepare one to study history?

A. A knowledge of Geography * and Chronology †; the first pointing out where events happen, and the latter the time when.

Q. Of what use is history?

A. History serves to amuse the imagination, and interest the passions; it also improves the understanding, and strengthens the sentiments of virtue.

* Q. What is Geography?

A. A description of the *earth*.

† Q. What is Chronology?

A. A description of *time*, or the art of discovering the exact time when any particular event happened.

Q. What is universal history?

A. A recital of all that has occurred since the creation of the world to the present time.

Q. How is history divided?

A. Into ancient and modern, sacred and profane.

Q. What is ancient history?

A. Ancient history gives an account of all things from the creation of the world to the birth of Christ.

Q. What is modern history?

A. An account of all things from the birth of Christ to the present time.

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.

* 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*, or scripture history.

CHAPTER II.

Of the different Forms of Government.

Q. How are the inhabitants of the earth divided?

A. Into various nations, consisting of empires, kingdoms, republics, and states.

Q. What is an empire?

A. A wide extent of territory, subject to one sovereign called an Emperor, as the Russian Empire, the Turkish Empire, &c.

Q. What is a kingdom?

A. A smaller extent of territory, subject to one sovereign, called a King, as the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Q. What is a republic?

A. A country where the sovereign power is vested in the hands of many.

Q. What is a state?

A. A state is a territory of less importance than a kingdom, under the control of a prince who is subject to some higher power.

Q. Are all countries under the same form of government?

A. No: some are mon'archies, some republics or commonwealths, some aristoc'racies, some democ'racies, and some of a mixed sort of government.

Q. What is a monarchy * ?

A. A monarchy is that form of government in which the supreme authority is possessed by one person only, who governs by himself, or by his ministers, as Rus'sia, Den'mark, &c.

Q. What is an aristocracy ?

A. An aristocracy is that form of government in which the supreme power is held by the nobility, or a few individuals.

Q. What is a democracy ?

A. A democracy is that form of government where the supreme and *legislative* powers are exercised by the common people either at large or by their *representatives*.

Q. What is a mixed government ?

A. A mixed government is that in which the authority of the sovereign is limited and restrained by law, enacted by the assembly of the states; being the above three forms united. Thus the British government is partly monarchical, partly aristocratical, and partly democratical.

* When the power of the monarchy is limited by law, it is called a limited monarchy.

When the power of the monarchy is not limited by law, the government is said to be absolute or arbitrary.

When the government is very absolute, it is called despotic.

Le'gislative, *a.* giving or making laws.

Represen'tative, *s.* a person chosen to act for the interest of another.

CHAPTER III.

Of Periods.

Q. How is history divided?

A. Into certain periods, at each of which a great *revolution* took place, either with regard to the whole world or a considerable part of it.

Q. How many of these periods are there from the creation to the present time?

A. Three.

Q. What is the first period?

A. From the creation of the world to the deluge, containing 1656 years.

Q. What is the second period?

A. The second period commences at the deluge, and extends to the birth of our Saviour, containing 2348 years.

Q. What is the third period?

A. The third period begins at the birth of our Saviour, and continues to the present time.



CHAPTER IV.

FIRST PERIOD.

*From the Creation of the World to the Deluge,
being 1656 Years.*

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

Revolu'tion, *s.* a change of system of government.

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. In 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 A'dam and Eve; the murder of A'bel, by his brother Cain; E'noch translated to heaven on account of his piety; the corruption of mankind; and the deluge, announced to No'ah 25 years before it happened.

Q. How many days did God employ in creating the world?

A. Six.

Q. What was the seventh appointed to be?

A. A day of rest.

Q. Who were our first parents?

A. Adam and Eve, as mentioned above.

Q. What was their state at that time?

A. A state of perfection and innocence.

Q. Where were our first parents placed at their creation?

A. In Par'adise, called the Garden of Eden*.

Q. What were they forbidden to eat?

A. Of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

* Q. Where was the Garden of Eden?

A. The Garden of Eden was supposed to have been situated in Chalde'a, on the north of the Per'sian Gulf, near the present Basso'ra.

Q. Why were they forbidden to eat of this tree?

A. As a trial of their faith and obedience to the command which God had given them.

Q. Did they obey this divine command?

A. No: and their fall was the consequence of their disobedience.

Q. What do you understand by the fall of our first parents?

A. By the fall of our first parents is meant, that they enjoyed no longer that perfection and innocence which they possessed at the beginning, but became degenerate and wicked.

CHAPTER V.

First Period (continued.)

Q. WHO were the first two sons of Adam and Eve?

A. Cain and Abel, who employed themselves in keeping flocks of sheep, and in cultivating the ground.

Q. What was the first proof of man's becoming degenerate or sinful?

A. The first proof was in the murder of Abel by his brother Cain.

Q. On what pretence did Cain murder his brother Abel?

A. Because the offering of Abel was accepted

and Cain's was not, at which Cain was *incensed*, became *jealous*, and slew him.

Q. Of what was this a proof?

A. That Cain's works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

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. Who is said to have built the first city?

A. Cain, to which he gave the name of Enoch †.

Q. What is said of Ju'bal?

A. That he was the father of those who dwelt in tents, and of such as had cattle, and also of those who played upon the harp and organ.

Q. What is said of Tu'bal-Cain?

A. That he excelled, and instructed others in the manufacture of brass and iron.

Q. What was then the state of society?

A. They lived in one large community, without being divided into different nations, as at present.

* Q. What are *mechanic arts*?

A. Mechanic arts are those which are performed by the hand, but generally relate to the construction of engines or complicated machines.

† Q. Where was E'noch?

A. In the land of Nod.

Incen'sed, *part.* provoked, enraged.

Jea'lous, *a.* suspicious of not being equally beloved.

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*.

* The genealogy from Adam down to Noah.

Adam, the first man.

Seth, Adam's third son, born A.M. 130, he lived 912 years.

E'nosh, son of Seth, born A.M. 235, and died aged 905 years.

Cai'nan, son of Enosh, born A.M. 325, and died aged 910 years.

Maha'leel, son of Cai'nan, born A.M. 395, and died aged 895.

E'noch, son of Maha'leel; when he was 365 years of age he was taken up into heaven for his piety, without dying.

Methu'selah, son of E'noch, who lived 969 years, a term no other person is known to have attained.

La'mech, the son of Methu'selah, who lived 777 years, and died five years before the flood.

No'ah, son of La'mech, and father of Shem, Ham, and Japh'et: Noah lived 950 years.

CHAPTER VI.

SECOND PERIOD.

From the Deluge to the writing of Profane History, 1680 Years.

Q. WHAT does the second period include ?

A. The history of Noah's sons ; the attempt at building the Tower of Ba'bel * ; the confusion of tongues ; the foundation of the kingdoms of Babylo'nia †, E'gypt ‡, and Assyria § ; the *migration* and history of the Is'raelites || ; the history of the Greeks ¶, and their expedition against Troy ** ;

* **Q.** Where was the Tower of Babel situated ?

A. On the western side of the Euphra'tes, in Babylo'nia.

† **Q.** Where was Babylo'nia ?

A. In the eastern part of Asiat'ic Turkey.

‡ **Q.** Where was Egypt ?

A. In Africa.

§ **Q.** Where was Assy'ia ?

A. On the north of Babylo'nia, in Asiat'ic Turkey.

|| **Q.** What was the country of the Is'raelites ?

A. The Land of Ca'naan, or Pal'estine, &c.

¶ **Q.** Where was the country of the Greeks ?

A. In Europe'an Turkey.

** **Q.** Where was Troy situated ?

A. In A'sia Minor.

Migra'tion, *s.* the act of changing one's residence.

the founding of Carthage* and Rome †; also the calling of Abraham ‡, and the Law given by Moses §.

* Q. What was Carthage?

A. A city in Africa, in the province of Tunis. The city of Tunis is said to have been built with the ruins of Carthage.

† Q. What was ancient Rome?

A. The chief city of Italy. It was founded about the year of the world 3193.

‡ Q. Who was A'braham?

A. A'braham was the son of Te'rah, a descendant of Shem, in whom all the nations of the earth were blessed. He was born at *Ur*, a city of Chalde'a, and died in the year of the world 2183, and before Christ 1821.

Q. What is meant by the *Call of Abraham*?

A. A'braham, in the early part of his life, lived with his father in Chalde'a, but the Almighty having chosen him to be the father of *His People*, he was called from hence in the year of the world 2083, or 427 years after the flood, and sent into the *Land of Promise*; hence this is termed *The Call of Abraham*.

§ Q. Who was Moses?

A. Moses, the great Jewish lawgiver, was the son of Am'ram and Joc'hebed, of the tribe of Le'vi. He led the Is'raelites out of Egypt in the 80th year of his age. He was born in Egypt, A.M. 2434, and died A.M. 2554, aged 120.

CHAPTER VII.

Second Period (continued.)

Q. How many sons had Noah?

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

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

A. A'sia was given to Shem, Africa to Ham, and Europe to Ja'phet.

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

A. Eight; Noah and his wife, his three sons, and his sons' wives.

Q. What is said of Shem, of Ham, and of Ja'phet?

A. Shem has been much esteemed among the He'brews: Ham was worshipped as a God by the Egypt'ians, under the title of Ju'piter Hammon; and Ja'phet, for a long time, was famous under the title of Jape'tus.

Q. What was the name of the first king of E'gypt?

A. Me'nes, who was, it is conjectured, the Mis'raim of Scripture, the son of Ham, above mentioned.

Q. What was the character of Noah's sons?

A. Two of them, Shem and Ja'phet, 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 Noah, many years

after the flood, was *inspired**, 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 Asiatic Turkey.

Q. How long did Noah 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 assembled in Babylonia.

* 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.

CHAPTER VIII.

Of Babylonia, and of the Beginning of the first Monarchy, called the Assyrian.

Q. WHERE was Babylonia situated?

A. Babylonia, sometimes called Chaldea, was bounded on the east by the river Tigris, which divided it from Assyria; on the south by the Persian Gulf; on the west by Arabia; but how far it extended northward is uncertain. Its capital was Babel or Babylon. Babylonia was the most ancient kingdom in the world; it afterwards became a part of the Assyrian empire.

Q. Who was the first king and founder of Babylonia?

A. Nimrod, called in Scripture a mighty hunter, because he was famous in killing wild beasts, which had multiplied to such a degree, that mankind were obliged to hunt and kill them for their own safety; his active conduct soon caused him to be placed at the head of a colony.

Q. What followed after Nimrod's being placed at the head of a colony?

A. He was made king, and a number of people joined with him in a scheme for building a city, and a tower whose top should reach to heaven; and they departed from the country in and about Ararat, and travelled to the plain of Shi-

Colony, *s.* a certain number of people settled in some distant country.

nar; and there they began to build their tower, which is the same that is called in Scripture the Tower of Ba'bel.

Q. What followed after the building of the city of Babylon?

A. Other cities or towns soon made their appearance: as, Nin'evah *, Da'mas †, Si'don ‡, Thebes §, Memph'is ||, &c.

* Q. Where was Nin'evah situated?

A. On the Ti'gris, in Assy'ria.

† Q. Where was Da'mas?

A. Da'mas, was the chief city of Syr'ia, which was founded about the year of the world 2045, by the attendants of A'braham. This city is celebrated for the conversion and first preaching of St. Paul.

‡ Q. What was Si'don?

A. Si'don was the metropolis of Phœni'cia; it was founded about the year of the world 2507, by a colony of Egyp'tians, who left their own country on account of the plague. Glass is supposed to have been manufactured in this city.

§ Q. Where was Thebes?

A. There were two cities of Thebes, one in E'gypt, and the other in Bœotia, in Greece; the former was erected in the year of the world 2505, and the latter in the year 2529, by Cad'mus, who first invented the casting of metals, and taught the Greeks the use of letters.

|| Q. What was Memph'is?

A. A city of E'gypt, founded on the western banks of the Nile, in the year of the world 2209. Near this city are the celebrated Pyramids, which are supposed to have been erected as sepulchres (a) for the Egyp'tian kings.

(a) Graves, tombs.

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 man, who thought of equaling 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, whom he 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 Abraham**.

* The genealogy of Noah down to A'braham:

No'ah, by whom the earth was re-peopled after the deluge.

Ar'rogance, s. pride, presumption, the assuming or claiming to one's self more honour or merit than is our due.
Supr'eme, s. the Supreme or Divine Being, God.

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, whose history is hereafter given in this catechism.

Shem, Noah's second son, by whom were peopled the southern parts of Asia.

Arphax'ad, the son of Shem, born about two years after the deluge; he died aged 430 years.

She'lar, the son of Arphax'ad.

He'ber, the son of She'lar, from whom came the He'brews.

Pe'leg, the son of He'ber, who is sometimes called Pha'lec.

Rue, the son of Pe'leg, born A.M. 1787, and died A.M. 2025.

Se'rug, the son of Rue. It is said that Se'rug was the first who set on foot the idolatrous worship of creatures, &c.

Na'hor, the son of Se'rug, and father of Te'rah.

Te'rah, the son of Na'hor; he was born A.M. 1878, and at the age of 130, A'braham was born to him.

A'braham, the son of Te'rah, and the Father of the Faithful, in whom all the nations of the earth were blessed; he was born A.M. 2008, being 1996 years before Christ.

CHAPTER IX.

Of the Empire of Assyria (continued.)

Q. WHAT great city was built soon after the foundation of the Babylo'nian monarchy?

A. The city of Nin'evah by Ash'ur, which became the capital of the Assyrian empire.

Q. What important event soon followed?

A. The union of the two kingdoms, viz. Nin'evah and Babylon, which together formed the basis of the Assyrian empire, whose authority continued supreme in Asia for several *centuries*.

Q. Who was Ash'ur?

A. The son of Shem, and the father of the Assyrians.

Q. Was not the kingdom of E'gypt founded about this time?

A. Yes; it was founded by Miz'raim, the son of Ham.

Q. Who was the first monarch?

A. Nim'rod; as he was the first man after the deluge who governed a number of people, he is called the first monarch, and the kingdom he ruled, the first monarchy; and, as this kingdom was in Assyria, it is called the Assyrian monarchy.

Q. Who succeeded to the sovereign power of Assyria after the death of Nim'rod?

Cen'tury, *s.* one hundred years.

A. His son Nínus, who lived at Nin'éveh, which was then a very fine city.

Q. To whom did Nínus at his death leave the government of Assyria?

A. To his Queen Semir'amis.

Q. What was her character?

A. It is said that she was endued with great courage, and used to put herself at the head of her armies, and commanded like a general.

Q. Who were the last people she fought against?

A. The Indians, who made use of elephants in battle, on whose backs they placed little castles, in which were men armed with bows and arrows.

Q. What did Semir'amis do to *counteract* the Indian mode of warfare?

A. Having no elephants, she caused a number of camels to be dressed up to imitate them, in order to deceive the Indians.

Q. What was the result of this *stratagem*?

A. Semir'amis and her army were overcome, for her mock elephants could not stand against the real ones.

Q. What was the extent of the Assyrian empire under Nínus and Semir'amis?

Counteract', *v.* to destroy the power of any cause, by acting contrary to it; to hinder.

Stratagem, *s.* trick, artifice.

A. At the time of Nínus and Semir'amis the Assyrian empire comprehended,

A'sia 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.

Assyria, the western part of the present Persia, and that part of Turkey, east of the Tigris.

Me'dia, part of the present Persia, about Ispah'an.

Chalde'a.

E'gypt, nearly the same as the modern Egypt.

CHAPTER X.

Of the Assyrian Empire (continued.)

Q. WHO succeeded to the sovereignty of Assyria, at the death of Semir'amis?

A. Her son Nin'yas.

Q. What kind of life did Nin'yas lead?

A. He lived in peace; devoted to pleasure, he shut himself up in his palace at Nin'evéh, 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 imitated his example for thirty *generations*, during the space of 1360 years.

Q. Is there not something worthy of remark relative to one of these successors?

Min'isters, *s.* persons employed by a sovereign to manage the affairs of the state.

Genera'tion, *s.* an age; the period of a person's life.

A. Yes; it is said that one of these kings sent assistance, under Mem'non*, to Priam, king of Troy, against the Greeks.

Q. Who was the last king of the first Assyrian monarchy?

A. Sardanapa'lus, who is said to have surpassed all his predecessors in *luxury* and *effeminacy*.

Q. What is his character?

A. He was a very weak and foolish prince, and, instead of appearing with the dignity of a king, he used to be dressed in female *attire*, and sit and spin amongst the women.

Q. What was the result of this effeminacy to Sardanapa'lus?

A. His officers disdained to obey so despicable a prince; they therefore formed a *conspiracy* with Bele'sis, the governor of Bab'ylon, to *dethrone*

* Q Who was Mem'non?

A. Mem'non was the king of Ethio'pia, in Af'rica. To assist his uncle Priam in the Trojan war, he took with him 10,000 men, where he behaved with much courage, but was slain in single combat, before Troy, by A'chil'les, the most celebrated of all the Grecian generals.

Predeces'sor, *s.* one that enjoys any place or was in any state before another. An Ancestor.

Lux'ury, *s.* excess in eating, dress, or pleasure.

Effem'inacy, *s.* weakness, being in want of those qualities which distinguish and become a man.

Att'ire, *s.* dress, clothes, apparel.

Conspir'acy, *s.* plot, a private agreement between two or more persons to commit some crime.

Dethro'ne, *v.* to remove a king from off his throne, and deprive him of royal power.

him, for which purpose they led a great army towards Nin'evéh.

Q. Who was the first mover of this conspiracy?

A. Arba'ces, or Abac'tus, the governor of Mé'dia, an Assyrian province.

Q. Did the conspiracy of Arba'ces and his party prove successful?

A. Yes; they defeated Sardanapa'lus in battle, and reduced him to great distress, and he was obliged to shut himself up in his palace, at Nin'evéh, for safety.

Q. What followed this defeat?

A. Sardanapa'lus, 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. *Mé'dia*, which was governed by Arba'ces; *Bab'ylon*, which was seized by Bele'sis, who joined in the conspiracy; and that of *Nin'evéh*, called the second empire of the Assyrians, whose first king was named Phul.

Q. Was there no other kingdom existing at this time, that made itself very *conspicuous*?

Conspic'uous, *a.* (figuratively) famous, eminent, (easy to be seen.)

A. Yes; E'gypt, of which the next chapter contains a description.

CHAPTER XI.

Of Egypt.

Q. WHERE are we informed of the origin of this nation?

A. In the writings of Mo'ses, which represent E'gypt, about 430 years after the Flood, as a flourishing and well-regulated kingdom; and that it was the E'gyptians who were the first people that *cultivated* the arts and sciences.

Q. Who is supposed to have been the founder of E'gypt?

A. Miz'raim, one of the sons of Ham, grandson to Noah.

Q. By what name was he generally known?

A. By the name of Me'nes, who was called the first king of E'gypt.

Q. What remarkable event occurred in this period?

A. The *migration* and history of the Is'raelites; the history of the Greeks and their expedition against Troy; the founding of Car'thage and Rome; and the overthrow of the kingdom of Jude'a by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Bab'ylon.

Cult'ivated, *part.* improved, refined.

Migra'tion, *s.* the act of changing one's residence.

Q. What nation was the first that introduced a regular government?

A. The Egyp'tians, in the time of Jacob. It was they who first gave mankind the principles of civil order, and to them we are indebted for the useful and elegant arts.

Q. What does the term *civil order* mean?

A. The art of managing well the affairs of a state, whether relating to public or to private individuals.

Q. To whom did the Egyp'tians communicate their discoveries?

A. To the Greeks; the Greeks to the Romans, from whence the other European nations received their ideas of *civilization* and refinement.

Q. Was not the wisdom of the Egyp'tians *proverbial* among the nations of antiquity?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the character of those people?

A. It is difficult to form any just character of a people whose history has perished. Our materials of information concerning them are to be met with in the writings of the ancient Greeks, and from them we learn that they were noted for gross *superstition* and idolatry.

Civiliza'tion, *s.* the act of making one civil, polite, good, kind, and just.

Prover'bial, *a.* used as a proverb or common sentence.

Supersti'tion, *s.* false religion, or reverence of objects that are not fit for worship.

CHAPTER XII.

Of the He'brews, Is'raelites, and Jews.

Q. WHO were the He'brews, Is'raelites, and Jews.

A. The He'brews, Is'raelites, and Jews, were one and the same people; therefore, when either of these people are spoken of, the others are understood.

Q. When did these people receive their different names?

A. They were first called He'brews from He'ber; then Is'raelites from Is'rael, the name given by God to Jacob; and lastly, Jews, from Ju'dah, because his tribe was much stronger and more numerous than the others.

Q. By whom was the He'brew nation founded?

A. By A'braham, a descendant of Shem and He'ber, in whom alone the true worship of the Almighty was preserved.

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

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

* The genealogy from A'braham down to Joseph:—*A'braham*, called the father of the faithful. *I'saac*, the son of A'braham, the father of E'sau and Ja'cob. *Ja'cob*, the second son of I'saac, and the father of the twelve

Q. What is the meaning of the word Patriarch?

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

CHAPTER XIII.

The History of Joseph; being an Introduction to the History of the Israelites in general, when in Egypt.

Q. Is not the history of Joseph very interesting?

A. Yes; as being filled with a number of wonderful events, all of which are entertaining and instructive.

Q. What is the first event, relative to Joseph, that is worthy of remark?

A. The two *prophetic* dreams, namely, "Of the eleven sheaves of his brethren doing obeisance to his sheaf; and of the sun, moon, and eleven stars doing reverence to him."

Q. What did these dreams *import*?

Hebrew patriarchs; who, by means of their brother Joseph, removed from Ca'naan, into E'gypt, where they multiplied exceedingly, and became a great people. *Jo'seph* the son of Ja'cob and Ra'chel, born in Mesopotamia, A.M. 2259, being 1745 B.C*.

* A.M. in the year of the world. B.C. before Christ.

Prophet'ic, *a.* foreseeing or foretelling future events.
Import', *v.* to mean; to imply; (to bring from abroad.)

A. These dreams were *emblems*, importing that all his father's family should be under his rule.

Q. How are these emblems explained?

A. Joseph had eleven brothers; and the eleven sheaves in his first dream doing obeisance to his sheaf, were intended to represent his eleven brethren doing obeisance unto him.

Q. But how is the second dream explained?

A. Thus; the sun, moon, and eleven stars, doing reverence to him, represent his father, mother, and eleven brothers doing reverence unto him.

Q. Were not Joseph's parents very fond of him?

A. Yes; so much so, that they made him a coat of many colours, for which his brethren heartily hated him; and, out of revenge, afterwards found means to sell him for a slave to some Ara'bian * *merchants*.

Q. Did these merchants do Joseph any injury?

A. No; widely different, for they were the instruments of his future greatness. These peo-

* Q. What is Ara'bia?

A. Arabia is an extensive country in A'sia, noted for its aromatic and medicinal plants. This country has been frequently invaded, but never subdued.

Em'blem, *s.* a kind of sign or token.

Mer'chant, *s.* one who trades with persons in foreign countries.

ple sold him to Pot'iphar, the captain of the royal guards of the E'gyptian king.

Q. What was the first step of Joseph's elevation?

A. His good behaviour, which soon gained him the esteem of his master, and he made him his *steward*.

Q. What was the name of the king of Egypt at this time?

A. Amen'ophis, but generally known by the name of Pha'raoh, who some time after dreamed two very curious dreams, viz.

“Of seven fat *kine* devoured by seven lean *kine*; and of seven good ears of corn consumed by seven ears of empty and withered.”

Q. What was the interpretation of these dreams?

A. These dreams signified that there should quickly be seven years of great plenty, succeeded by as many of terrible famine.

Q. By whom were they *expounded*?

A. By Joseph, for which he was made the master of all the stores, and second governor in all the land of E'gypt.

Q. By what name was Joseph called afterwards, in honour of this proof of wisdom?

A. He was called ever after “Zaph'neath-

Stew'ard, *s.* one who manages the affairs of another, particularly with respect to money.

Kine, *s. pl.* cows.

Expound, *v.* to interpret, or explain.

paane'ah," which in the old Egep'tian tongue signified the "Saviour of the world."

Q. What did Joseph do to provide for this terrible famine which he foretold?

A. During the seven years of plenty, Joseph, with the utmost prudence and activity, bought, with Pha'raoh's money, great quantities of corn, and laid it up in public granaries.

CHAPTER XIV.

The History of Joseph, &c. (continued.)

Q. You informed me in your last, that seven years of famine were to follow seven years of plenty; did this happen in any other country besides that of the Egep'tians?

A. Yes; in all the neighbouring nations, and who, not having been apprised of it, had laid up little or nothing; they therefore soon felt the pressure of famine, and came down to buy corn in E'gypt; among these were Jacob's ten sons, whom Joseph knew to be his brethren, but they knew him not.

Q. What followed this remarkable transaction?

A. Joseph waiting for the *operation* of *divine*

Opera'tion, *s.* a work, effect, action.

Divi'ne, *a.* partaking of the nature of, or proceeding from God. (Figuratively—excellent, extraordinary, seemingly beyond the nature of mankind.)

providence, for some time concealed his case, and to awaken the *conscience* of his brethren, he spake harshly to them, and treated them as *spies*, till at length being overcome with affection, he told his brethren that he was Joseph their brother, whom they had sold; and he kindly encouraged them not to fear, as God had sent him thither for their preservation.

Q. What did Joseph then to his brethren?

A. He commanded them to go home, and bring their father and all they had down to Egypt, as the famine would continue five years longer. He also sent waggons with them, to bring his father's family and goods.

Q. Was not Jacob his father much affected at hearing the news of Joseph's being alive, and governor of E'gypt?

A. Yes; he fainted, but when he saw the waggons he revived, and set out on his journey.

Q. Was not their meeting very affecting?

A. Yes; so much so, that it was some time before they could *appease* the feelings of their mutual affection.

Providence, *s.* God's care; the care or interposition of the Deity, by which all things are preserved.

Con'science, *s.* (*kon-shense*) the knowledge or faculty by which we judge ourselves; justice, honesty.

Spy, *s.* one who watches the conduct or actions of another, especially what passes in an enemy's army, camp, or country.

App'ease, *v.* to calm, to quiet, pacify.

CHAPTER XV.

Of the History of the Israelites, after their Settlement in Egypt.

Q. DID not the families of Jacob, who settled in E'gypt, multiply exceedingly?

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

Q. Whom did God choose to deliver his *elect* people from this slavery?

A. Moses, who led them in a miraculous manner through the Red Sea *, and through the wilderness †, in which place they were fed with manna ‡ from heaven.

Q. What did Moses here receive from God?

A. The written laws, or ten commandments, which are contained in the 20th chapter of Ex'odus.

Q. What memorable event happened to the

* Q. Where is the Red Sea?

A. The Red Sea lies between E'gypt and Ara'bia.

† Q. Where is the wilderness in which the children of Is'rael were fed by *manna* from heaven?

A. In Arabia.

‡ Q. What is manna?

A. It here means a kind of delicious food sent down from heaven for the support of the Is'raelites in their passage through the wilderness. The word manna also means a kind of gum, used in medicine.

Elect', *a.* chosen, preferred.

Egyptians in pursuing the Is'raelites through the Red Sea?

A. By divine providence the sea opened itself, so as to let the children of Is'rael pass through on dry land, when it immediately closed on Pharaoh and his army, who were all drowned.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Pharaoh?

A. The word Pha'raoh signifies a king, hence all the ancient kings of E'gypt were called Pha'raohs.

Q. Who conducted the Is'raelites after the death of Moses?

A. Josh'ua, who led them into the land of Ca'naan, which was then inhabited by various nations of idolaters, whom they partly *subdued*.

Q. Who had the direction of the Is'raelites after the death of Josh'ua?

A. A succession of judges; but this form of government did not long prevail, for the people were dissatisfied with it, and desired to have a king.

Q. Who was their first king?

A. Saul; he was succeeded by David, a great and fortunate prince, who is called in Scripture a holy and pious man—*the man after God's own heart*.

Q. Who succeeded Da'vid?

A. His son Sol'omon; under whom the famous temple at Jerusalem was built, about the year of the world 2993, and B.C. 1014.

Subdu'ed, *p.* conquered, reduced.

Q. Who was the successor of Sol'omon?

A. His son, Rehobo'am, during whose reign ten of the tribes deserted from their *allegiance*, and put themselves under Jerobo'am, who dwelt in Sama'ria*.

Q. By what names were the He'brew people known after this division?

A. They were divided into the kingdoms of Is'rael and Ju'dah, both which successively *degenerated* so far, that the same righteous Providence, which had overthrown the ancient inhabitants of Pal'estine, to make way for them, now led them also into repeated captivities.

Q. What nation was made the instrument of humbling God's chosen people, and of correcting their degenerate state?

A. The Babylo'nians, who in their turn were punished for their cruelty and injustice.

Q. In what manner was the correction of the Is'raelites brought about?

* Q. What was Sama'ria?

A. A city of the province of Sama'ria, and capital of the ten tribes; it was built by Omri, king of Israel, and derived its name from Shemer, of whom Omri purchased the hill on which it was built. It is now called *Sebaste*.

Alle'giance, *s.* is that natural and legal obedience every subject owes to his prince, or the duty of subjects to the government.

Degen'erate, *v.* to depart from virtue, and become base or wicked.

A. By their own pride, *pomp*, and *magnificence*, which became so glaring as to attract the *envy* and *avarice* of the Babylo'nian monarchs, and tempted them to invade their country.

CHAPTER XVI.

Of the Phœnicians.

Q. WHAT is known of the Phœnicians about this time?

A. The Phœni"cia"ns were become a very powerful nation.

Q. Where did the Phœnicians live?

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

Q. In what state was Europe at this time?

A. The Europeans at this time were savage, wild, and barbarous, totally uninstructed and uninformed, having little or no intercourse with the civilized part of mankind.

Q. What people first introduced the art of commerce?

Pomp, *s.* splendour attending persons in high life; grandeur.

Magnificence, *s.* grandeur of appearance, consisting in buildings, clothes, or furniture.

En'vy, *s.* the pain felt at the prosperity of another.

Avarice, *s.* greediness, love of money.

A. The Egyp'tians, who were also the first that were acquainted with the art of agriculture *, from whom the Phœnicians received their knowledge of these sciences.

Q. What king ascended the throne of E'gypt about this period ?

A. Sesos'tris, who greatly improved the civil and military establishments † of the Egyptians, and his kingdom became the most powerful then known.

Q. What was the date when Sesostris ascended the Egyp'tian *throne* ?

A. In the year of the world 2354, and 1650 before the birth of Christ.

Q. From whom were the Phœnicians supposed to have originally descended ?

A. From Si'don the son of Ca'naan, who was the youngest son of Ham. These people are sup-

* Q. What is agriculture ?

A. Agriculture is the art of tilling or cultivating the land, so as to make it fruitful. It is the original source of most of our treasures, and the great fountain of all materials for commerce.

† Q. What is meant by civil and military establishments ?

A. A civil establishment is that which relates to the government of a city or country ; well regulated.—A military establishment is that belonging to the army.

Throne, *s.* a seat or chair of state, richly adorned and covered with a canopy (a kind of tester,) for emperors, kings, and princes, to sit on at all times of public ceremony.

posed to have been among the most early of the civilized nations.

Q. For what are we indebted to the Phœnicians?

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

Q. For what were the Phœnicians 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 Phœnicia?

A. Tyre and Sidon.

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; and they spread by degrees into the deserts: here they roamed without a fixed habitation, and found a *temporary* shelter under the

* Q. What is navigation?

A. The art of sailing on the ocean, or the act of conducting any vessel by water from one place to another in the most easy manner.

Commer'cial, *a.* relating to trade or commerce.

Manufac'ture, *s.* any sort of work made by hand.

Tem'porary, *a.* for a short time.

branches of the thorn, or in the hollow of a rock.

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

A. Their principal employ was in catching fish and *marine* animals, and in 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.

CHAPTER XVII.

Of the Second Assyrian Monarchy.

Q. How was the Assyrian monarchy divided on the death of Sardanapalus?

A. Into three kingdoms; viz. the Assyrian, the Babylo'nian, and the Me'dian.

Q. Which of the above three kingdoms bore the sway for some time?

A. The Median; but in the course of time the Assyrian became most powerful, from which arose a second Assyrian monarchy.

Q. Did the second Assyrian monarchy rise to any degree of reputation?

Marine, *a.* (*ma-reen*) belonging to the sea.

Clime, *s.* country. In geography, or as it regards the weather, it signifies any country differing from another, either in respect of its seasons, the quality of its soil, or the manners of its inhabitants.

A. Yes; to great splendour, and Nin'evah still continued the capital of a great kingdom.

Q. Who was the first king that made himself celebrated after the death of Phul?

A. Tig'lath-Pile'ser, his successor, who invaded the kingdom of Is'rael, and reduced Gal'ilee and the land of Naph'tali (two provinces of Israel,) and carried the inhabitants captive to Assyria; he afterwards marched against Syr'ia *, subdued it, and transplanted the inhabitants into Me'dia †, which put an end to the Syrian monarchy.

Q. Who succeeded Tiglath-Pileser?

A. Salamanas'sar, who invaded Sama'ria, the remaining part of the land of the Israelites, ravaged the country, and carried the inhabitants into captivity. Thus, Syria and Samaria, the countries in which the Israelites dwelt, were annexed to Assyria.

Q. Who succeeded Salamanassar?

* Q. What was ancient Syria?

A. Ancient Syria, often confounded with *Assyria*, was a celebrated country of Asia. It was bounded on the north by Asia Mi'nor, on the east by Mesopota'mia and Babylo'nia, on the south by Ara'bia, and on the west by the Mediterra'nean Sea and the Land of Canaan. It is called in Hebrew *A'ram*, from the patriarch Aram, who first peopled it.

† Q. Where was Media?

A. In the north-west part of Persia, in Asia, and south of the Cas'pian Sea. The inhabitants were called Medes, who are often confounded by the poets with the Per'sians and Par'thians.

A. Senache'rib, who sent to Hezeki'ah, king of Judah, and insisted on his paying him a large sum of tribute money* every year; but this Hezekiah refused to do, and trusted in the power of the Lord to defend him.

Q. What did Senacherib on this refusal?

A. He sent a very great army against Jeru'salem, and wrote a letter, in which he told Hezekiah that it was vain for him to trust in the Lord, for he himself was more powerful than the Lord.

Q. What did Hezekiah on receiving such a wicked letter?

A. Hezekiah laid the letter of Senacherib upon the altar of the Lord, and prayed to him to *vindicate* his own honour, and save his people.

Q. Was the prayer of Hezekiah heard?

A. Yes; and the Lord sent his *prophet* Isaiah, to tell Hezekiah, that Senacherib should not approach the city, nor do him any injury; and that very night the Lord sent an *angel*, who smote the greatest part of the Assyrian army, to the number of eighty-four thousand men; in conse-

* Q. What is tribute money?

A. A tax or impost which one prince or state is obliged to pay to another, as a token of dependence.

Vin'dicate, *v.* to justify, to clear.

Pro'phet, *s.* one who foretels future events.

An'gel, *s.* a heavenly or divine messenger, being a name given to those spiritual beings who are employed by God in the government of the world. [Figuratively, a person of exquisite beauty.]

quence of which, Senacherib returned in haste to his own dominions, and was there slain by his sons Adram'elech and Sharasner.

Q. Who succeeded Senache'rib?

A. Another son of his, named Esarhad'don, who soon after conquered the Babylo'nians, and added their kingdom to that of Assyria.

Q. Who succeeded Esarhad don?

A. Nebuchodono'sor, who defeated the Medes in several pitched battles, reduced many of their cities, and levelled their celebrated capital Ecba'tana *, with the ground.

Q. Who succeeded Nebuchodonosor?

A. His son Sa'rac, with whom fell the kingdom of Assyria.

Q. In what manner was this effected, and by whom?

A. By the Medes, under Cyax'ares, their king, who not only recovered the provinces which the Assyrians had lately conquered, but also defeated them in a pitched battle, and compelled them to shelter themselves in Nineveh.

Q. What followed this defeat of the Assyrians?

A. Sarac incurred the contempt of his subjects, for being an unwarlike and effeminate prince, and Nabopalas'sar, commander of the troops of Bab'ylon, revolted from him, and seized upon that kingdom.

* Q. What was Ecba'tana?

A. Ecbatana was the capital of Media, and the residence of the Median kings.

Q. Did this conclude the war?

A. No; Cyaxares and Nabopalassar formed an alliance, and marched against Nineveh, which they besieged and laid in ruins; and Sarac, in despair, set fire to his palace, and consumed himself and all his treasures in the flames.

Q. What followed the destruction of the city of Nineveh?

A. It put an end to the kingdom of Assyria, and the very name of it was lost. The monarchy was now divided between the Babylonians and the Medes; and, from this time, history makes no more mention of the Assyrians.



CHAPTER XVIII.

Of the Babylonian Empire, and of the Downfal of the Jewish Nation.

Q. WHAT resulted from the downfal of the Assyrian empire?

A. The rise of the Babylonian, under Nabopalassar.

Q. Who succeeded this prince in the sovereign power of Babylon?

A. His son, the celebrated Nebuchadnezzar, who, soon after his ascending the throne, assembled a powerful army, and marched against the Egyptians, whom he conquered.

Q. Did his conquests end in Egypt?

A. No: he then marched against Judea, took

Jeru'salem, plundered the temple of Sol'omon, and made Jehoi'akim, the king of Judea, prisoner: and, upon his submission to his authority, and promise to pay an annual tribute, he reinstated him on his throne; then pursuing his conquests, he reduced all Pal'estine.

Q. Did the king of Jerusalem regularly pay this annual tribute to Nebuchadnezzar?

A. No: he revolted against him, and entered into an alliance with Pha'raoh, king of Egypt, on which Nebuchadnezzar assembled an army, and marched into Judea, besieged the capital, took it by storm, and plundering the temple, the palace, and the treasury, he carried the inhabitants away captive to Babylon, and thus put an end to the Jewish monarchy.

Q. What celebrated characters were amongst the captives besides the king?

A. Dan'iel the prophet, also Shad'rach, Me'shech, and Abed'nego, who were at that time young men, and as they grew up God gave them great wisdom.

Q. At what time were the ten tribes of Israel carried into captivity?

A. About 720 years before the birth of our Saviour, and about 260 years after their separation from the two tribes of Ju'dah.

Q. At what period did the captivity of the Jews take place?

A. About 585 years before the Christian era, and 135 years after the captivity of Israel.

Q. What effect did the good fortune of Nebuchadnezzar create upon his mind?

A. It puffed him up with pride, as though he had raised the empire of Babylon by his victories, and through his own power; and, instead of worshipping the true God, he set up a golden image, and commanded all the people in Babylon to worship it.

Q. Did all people comply with his request?

A. No: Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego refused to comply with his command, for which refusal they were put into the midst of a burning fiery furnace, but they came out unhurt.

Q. What memorable event followed this wonderful instance of divine providence?

A. The king ordered the enemies of Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego, to be cast into the fiery furnace, and they were all burnt in an instant.

Q. In what state now was the Babylonian empire?

A. In its highest degree of splendour. But so passes the glory of this world: for no sooner had Nebuchadnezzar attained the summit of his wishes, than he became puffed up with vanity, for which God humbled his pride, by taking away all his understanding, driving him from his kingdom, and degrading him to the rank of the beast of the field. But at length his understanding was restored, and he again ruled over his empire.

Q. What memorable event followed soon after the death of Nebuchadnezzar?

A. The destruction of the Babylonian monarchy, on which was laid the foundation of the Per'sian, by Cy'rus.

CHAPTER XIX.

Of the Persian or Second Great Monarchy.

Q. WHO was the founder of the Persian monarchy?

A. Cyrus the Great, about 600 years before the birth of Christ.

Q. What was the extent of the Persian empire under Cyrus?

A. It comprehended all In'dia, Assyria, Media, Persia, and several other adjacent countries.

Q. What is the history of Cyrus?

A. The history of Cyrus is involved in great uncertainty, as also is that of the Persians previous to his time.

Q. What is the most probable account of these people before the time of Cyrus?

A. That they were tributary to the Assyrians, but that their throne was filled with princes of their own nation.

Q. Who was the first celebrated Persian character upon record?

A. Achæm'enes *, the grandfather of Cyrus, who it is supposed was the founder of the Persian empire, and the first of its kings.

Q. For what was Cyrus so highly renowned?

A. For his great virtue, wisdom, and penetration, and for his being the most distinguished hero of the east.

Q. What were his most celebrated exploits?

* Pronounced *A-kem-e-nee-z*.

A. He first vanquished Crœsus, king of Lyd'ia *, so famed for his riches; afterwards the Babylonians and Assyrians; and also, about 536 years before Christ, he set the Jews at liberty, who had been captives 70 years.

Q. What king reigned at Rome in the days of Cyrus?

A. Tar'quin the Proud, who obtained the crown by one crime, and lost it by another, 544 B.C.

Q. What was the first crime?

A. The murder of Ser'vius Tul'lius, his father-in-law.

Q. What was the second?

A. The injury done to Lucre'tia, a Roman lady, by his son Sex'tus Tarquin'ius.

Q. What was the end of Cyrus?

A. It is generally supposed that in his expedition against the Scy'thians, he was surprised and slain by an *ambuscade* of the enemy.

Q. Who succeeded Cyrus?

A. His son Camby'ses, the Artaxerx'es of Scripture, who added E'gypt to his empire.

* Q. What was Lydia?

A. Lydia was a celebrated country of A'sia Mi'nor, whose boundaries were different at different times. It was anciently called *Mæo'nia*, and received the name of Lydia from Lydus, one of its kings.

Ambusca'de, s. an ambush or a place wherein men are hid in order to surprize an enemy.

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

A. Cambyses was a most cruel and *sanguinary* prince, being distinguished only as a tyrant and a madman: he reigned seven years and five months, 529 B.C.

Q. By whom was Cambyses succeeded?

A. By Dari'us Hystas'pes, under whom the Babylonians revolted. Darius besieged them, took their city, beat down their walls, and gave the inhabitants and their effects for a spoil to the Persians.

Q. Who next ascended the throne?

A. His son Xerxes, who invaded Greece with an immense army, resolving to reduce it under his subjection; but being defeated in all his attempts, he was killed by his subjects, who despised him for his ill success.

Q. With whom fell the Persian empire?

A. With Darius, who was conquered 331 years before Christ, by Alexander the Great; by whom he was defeated in the three great battles of Gran'icus *, Cili'cia †, and Arbe'la ‡, by which

* Q. What was the Granicus?

A. A river of Asia Minor, falling into the Sea of Marmo'ra, which lies between the Archipel'ago and the Black Sea. In this battle, the Persians had upwards of 100,000 men slain. The Persian army consisted of 700,000 men, and the Greeks of only 30,000.

† In Asia Minor.

‡ A town of Persia.

San'guinary, *a.* bloody, cruel, murderous.

means the empire of the Persians was transferred to the Grecians, after it had stood about 205 years.

CHAPTER XX.

Of the Grecian Monarchy.

Q. WHAT countries constituted Ancient Greece*?

A. Ancient Greece comprehended the southern parts of Europe'an Tur'key; the principal states were Ath'ens, Ar'gos, Myce'næ, Spar'ta, or Lacedæ'mon, Thebes, Sic'yon†, and Ma'cedon.

Q. What is the first account we have of Greece?

A. That of the foundation of the kingdom of Sicyon in the More'a, by Ægilus, 2098 B. C. The kingdom of Ar'gos began under In'achus, 1856 B. C.

Q. From what country did Inachus come?

A. It is thought he came from Phœnicia, the people of that country being the first who practised navigation, and established colonies in distant parts.

Q. At what time and by whom was the kingdom of Athens founded?

* A comprehensive view, though in a concise form, is taken of this celebrated country in Pinnock's Catechism of the *History of Greece*.

† Sic'yon—pronounced *Sish'-e-on*.

A. It was founded about 1500 years before Christ, by Ce'crops, an Egyptian, who carried thither a colony from the banks of the Nile, which he settled in At'tica, where he founded twelve cities, or small towns, of which Athens was the capital.

Q. What other remarkable event happened about this time?

A. Cad'mus brought a colony from Phœnicia into Bœo'tia, and founded the city of Thebes.

Q. In what state was Greece till the time of Alexander the Great?

A. It was divided into a number of independent states, each having a governor of its own.

Q. Who was Amphic'tyon?

A. The third king of Athens, who was endowed with uncommon genius and strength of mind: he lived about 1496 years before Christ.

Q. For what is he so highly celebrated?

A. For contriving and uniting the politics of the different states of Greece into one common system.

Q. How did he effect this?

A. By engaging twelve of the Grecian cities to join for their mutual advantage, sending each two *deputies* to Thermop'ylæ* twice a year, who

* Q. What was Thermopylæ?

A. A small but noted *Pass* situated between Greece Proper and Thes'saly, in European Turkey.—It is called

Dep'uty, s. one who acts for another.

debated there, and were called the Amphictyonic council.

Thermopylæ from the hot springs or baths which are near it. It is celebrated for a battle fought here, B.C. 480, between the Persians commanded by Xerxes, and the Greeks commanded by Leonidas, king of Sparta (a). In this battle 300 Spartans resisted for three successive days repeatedly, the attacks of the most brave and courageous of the Persian army, which, according to some historians, amounted to five millions. Previous to the engagement, Xerxes sent a horseman to discover the number of the Greeks, and what they were doing, but on finding the number so very small, he had no idea of their making head against his myriad of troops; he therefore waited four days to give them time to escape. On the fifth day, he sent the Medes against them, with orders to take them alive and bring them before him, but most unfortunately they met with a signal defeat. Xerxes now sent against the Greeks a choice band of Persians, called the Immortals, but they also were soon forced to retreat. Xerxes, who was witness of the fight, became in great apprehension for his army. The next day the attack was renewed, but with no better success; and, had it not been for one Ephialtes, who conducted the Persians through a secret path over the mountains, it is supposed that Xerxes must have retreated with the utmost disgrace, but having gained the mountains, Leonidas with his 300 Spartans fell a sacrifice to their cause. [*Herodotus.*]

(a) A kingdom of ancient Greece.

Coun'cil, *s.* an assembly met together to consider, examine, or deliberate, on any subject.

Q. What was the end effected by this council?

A. Its determinations answered the best of purposes, as every thing relative to the general interests of the cities represented was there discussed; by which means, the Greeks were able to preserve their liberty and independence from the attacks of the Persians.

CHAPTER XXI.

Of Sparta or Lacedæmon.

Q. WHO is supposed to have founded the kingdom of Sparta?

A. Le'lex, from whom the inhabitants were called Lel'eges.

Q. Who succeeded Lelex?

A. His grandson Euro'tas, who having no male offspring, left the kingdom to Lacedæ'mon; hence it is sometimes called Lacedæmon.

Q. Whence did it receive the name of Sparta?

A. From Lacedæmon's having married Sparta, the daughter of Eurotas, after whom he called the city, and gave his own name to the country; but this distinction was not observed.

Q. For what were the Spartans remarkable?

A. For the extraordinary system of rigorous discipline which their legislator Lyeurgus introduced amongst them, and which rendered them the bravest, most hardy, and most abstemious people in the world.

CHAPTER XXII.

Of Thebes.

Q. WHAT was Thebes?

A. The capital of Bœo'tia, built by Cadmus, the Phœnician, who first introduced letters into Greece.

Q. What was the character of the The'bans, or rather Bœotians?

A. They were very dull and heavy, and attended more to the improvement of their bodily strength, than to the cultivation of the mind.

Q. Did the republic of Thebes at no time *emerge*, as it were, from obscurity?

A. Yes; at one period, it rose to a high degree of splendour, eclipsing even Athens and Sparta, and was the most powerful state of Greece; but their prosperity was of short duration, their city being taken and destroyed by Alexander the Great.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Of Macedon.

Q. WHAT was the ancient Ma'cedon or Macedonia?

A. Macedonia was a celebrated kingdom of

Emerge, v. to rise out of.

Asiatic Turkey, situated between Thrace, Epi^r-rus, and Greece. Its boundaries have been different at different periods. It originally was a separate kingdom of itself, but, in the time of Philip and Alexander, it became embodied in the Grecian empire. It is sometimes, and very properly called the Macedoⁿian empire.

Q. By whom, and at what time, was the kingdom of Macedon founded?

A. Macedon was founded by Car^aanus, 814 years before the birth of our Saviour, and seventy years after the time of Lycurgus, the Spartan *lawgiver*. The Macedonians were naturally a bold and warlike people, but in the infancy of their empire, they were but little known beyond the borders of their country, but afterwards they became a great and mighty people.

Q. Who was the first king who made himself conspicuous on the throne of Macedon?

A. Philip, the father of Alexander the Great.

Q. What was the situation of Greece at this time?

A. These formerly celebrated states were now visibly on the decline; the spirit of *patriotism* utterly extinct, and military glory at an end; all ambition was lost, and the spirit of luxury had entirely supplanted every heroic virtue.

Q. Did Philip of Macedon take any advan-

Law[']giver, *s.* one who makes laws.

Pat[']riotism, *s.* a love and zeal for one's country.

tage of the degenerate situation of the Grecian states ?

A. Yes ; he formed the ambitious project of bringing under his dominion the whole of Greece, in which he ultimately succeeded ; but his sudden death put an end to his ambitious schemes. He was killed by his own subjects on the eve of setting out with a numerous army against the Persians. Philip was succeeded by his son Alexander the Great, who gained the most surprising victories, and conquered a great part of the world.

Q. Was the Macedonian power of long duration ?

A. Not longer than the reign of Alexander the Great, by whom it was raised to its highest degree of elevation ; for, on his death, his dominions and conquests were divided among four of his greatest generals ; namely, Ptol'emy *, Lysim'achus †, Cassan'der, and Seleu'cus ; but Macedon itself continued an independent kingdom, till it was reduced to a Roman province, 168 years before Christ.

Q. What portion of the Macedonian empire did Ptol'emy obtain ?

A. Egypt, with Lyb'ia, and part of Arabia. He afterwards made himself master of Phœnicia, and part of Syria, and when he had reduced Jerusalem, he carried about 10,000 prisoners into Egypt, to people the extensive city of Alex-

* Pronounced *Tol-e-my*.

† Pronounced *Lisim'-a-kus*.

an'dria, which afterwards became the capital of his dominions.

Q. Who were the seven wise men of Greece ?

A. So'lon, the Athenian, the most illustrious of them all ; Bi'as, of Pri'éne ; Chi'lo, of Lacedæmo'nia ; Cleobu'lus, of Lin'da ; Tha'les, the Mile'sian, a great philosopher ; Pit'ticus, of Mytilé'ne ; and Perian'der, of Corinth, a great philosopher.

Q. What other celebrated characters lived in these times ?

A. Æ'sop, the great fabulist ; Sap'pho *, famous for her poetry ; and the great philosophers Anaxime'nes and Pythag'oras, with many other great characters.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Of Troy, and its celebrated Siege by the Greeks.

Q. WHO founded the kingdom of Troy ?

A. Dar'danus, a Phry'gian, 1400 B.C.—His successor was Tro'as ; after some time came Lam'edon, the father of Pri'am, under whose reign the Greeks took Troy.

Q. Where was Troy situated ?

A. On the sea coast, somewhat north of the present Smyr'na, in Asiatic Turkey ; it was then called Phry'gia, and situated in A'sia Mi'nor.

* Pronounced *Saf-fo*.

Q. What was the cause of the siege of Troy*?

A. The flight of He'len, wife of Menela'us, king of Spar'ta, with Pa'ris, the son of Priam.

Q. What were the names of the principal Grecian chiefs who went against Troy?

A. Agamem'non, (the commander in chief) Menela'us, Achil'les, Nes'tor, Idomene'us, Ulys'ses, and A'jax.

Q. By whom were the Grecians opposed?

A. By Priam, king of Troy, who raised a large army, and also by the neighbouring kings in Asia, who joined him; especially Rhe'sus, king of Thrace, and Memnon, king of Ethiopia, who were both experienced generals.

Q. What were some of the leading events of the Trojan war?

A. The contest was maintained with the most obstinate valour on both sides before the siege commenced. Achilles, one of the Grecian chiefs, slew Hector, but he was himself slain some time afterwards. Priam was killed by the son of Achilles, and his sons were likewise slain. At length, the Grecians were enabled to approach the walls and undertake the siege.

* Troy has received the several names of *Darda'nia*, *Perga'mi*, *Teu'eria*, *Teu'crus*, *Teu'crium*, *Ilium*, *Il'ion*, *Il'ios*, and *Tro'ja* (or Troy), but Homer has named his poem after *Ilium*; indeed, it is the opinion of many authors, that there never was a city of the name of *Troy*, but of *Ilium*, in the country of *Troy* (or Troas.) It is said to have obtained its different names from the several kings who have governed it.

Q. How many years did the siege of Troy continue?

A. Ten; when it was taken and set on fire by the Greeks, and razed to the ground.

Q. What famous stories are related by the poets relative to the taking of Troy?

A. They say that the Greeks had an armament of 1000 ships manned by 100,000 men; and also that a number of their warriors concealed themselves in an immense wooden horse, which they pretended to leave behind them after having raised the siege, and who by that means got possession of the city.

Q. What is the more probable account?

A. That some of the Trojans (among whom were Æneas and Antenor) betrayed the city into the hands of the enemy.

Q. By whom is the "*Tale of Troy*" so much celebrated?

A. By all the poets of *antiquity*. It furnished the subjects of the two most perfect *epic* * *poems* in the world, the *Iliad* †, and the

* Q. What is an *epic poem*?

A. A poem describing some great actions achieved by some celebrated hero.

† Q. What is the *Iliad*?

A. *Iliad* is the name given to Homer's (a) celebrated epic poem, recording the siege of *Troy* or *Il'ium*.

(a) Ho'mer is the most ancient of all profane writers. He lived about a thousand years before the birth of our Saviour. He was the most celebrated Greek poet.

Antiquity, *s.* (pronounced *an-tik-qui-ty*) old times; that time or period which has long preceded the present.

Æneid *, and having passed into the poetry of other nations, has become the entertainment of succeeding ages.

Q. What became of the Tro'jan princes ?

A. The greater part were slain, and some were carried into captivity.

Q. Did none escape ?

A. Yes ; two only ; Anté'nor, who is supposed to have been the founder of the city of Pad'ua, in Italy ; and Æné'as, who also went into Italy, and married Lavin'ia, the daughter of king Latí'nus.

Q. Who was Æneas ?

A. He was the son of *Anchi'ses* †, and, according to the fables of the Poets, of the Goddess Ve'nus. Asca'nus, the son of Æneas, founded the city and kingdom of Al'ba, in the territory of *Latí'um* ‡ 1153 B.C.

* Q. What is the *Æneid* ?

A. The *Æneid* is the name given to Virgil's celebrated epic poem (*a*), from Æ'neas, the Trojan hero. Vir'gil is called the prince of the Latin poets. He was born at An'des, a village near Man'tua, in Italy, about 70 years before Christ.

† Pronounced *An-ki-sees*.

‡ The country round Rome, in Italy.

(*a*) For a concise account of the various kinds of poetry, the reader is referred to the "*Catechism of Poetry*."

CHAPTER XXV.

Of the Romans.*

Q. WHO were the Romans ?

A. A people of Italy.

Q. From whom did they receive their origin ?

A. From Rom'ulus, the grandson of Nu'mitor, king of Alba, who founded Rome, 753 years before Christ. He reigned 38 years, and was succeeded by Nu'ma Pompil'ius, a Sabine †.

Q. What was the character of these princes ?

A. Romulus was enterprising and warlike ; Numa pacific, religious, and wise.

Q. Did the kingly power continue long at Rome ?

A. Through seven reigns, but the only distinguished kings were those above mentioned.

Q. What put an end to the regal authority ?

A. The regal power was put an end to in consequence of an outrage committed on Lucretia, a Roman *matron*, by the son of Tarquin the Proud.

Q. How were the Romans governed after this ?

A. By two *annual* magistrates, called consuls,

* In the Catechism of the *History of Rome*, a clear and distinct account will be found ; but those who wish to become acquainted with the transactions of that mighty empire at greater length, would do well to consult Pinnock's Improved Edition of *Dr. Goldsmith's History of Rome*.

† The Sabines were some of the most ancient people of Italy, whose origin was unknown.

Ma'tron, *s.* an elderly lady or woman.

An'ual, *a.* yearly ; for the duration of one year.

whose office consisted in managing all public affairs; such as the disposal of the public money, raising armies, naming all the officers, and the right of making peace and war.

Q. What powerful state had many contentions with Rome?

A. Carthage, in Africa, which had been settled by a colony of Phœnicians, some time before the building of Rome; and, animated by the spirit of its founders, was now become of the first commercial importance.

Q. When did the first Punic war begin?

A. 264 years before Christ: and after long and frequent struggles, Carthage acknowledged the superior power of her rival.

Q. Why were the wars between the Romans and the Carthaginians called Punic wars?

A. The word Punic is from a Latin word which signifies false or treacherous; and, as the Carthaginians were notorious for their breach of faith, hence the wars with them were called Punic wars.

Q. Who exalted the Roman power to its highest degree of splendour.

A. Julius Cæsar, who conquered Egypt, Asia, Spain, France, &c. and invaded Britain.

Q. By whom was Carthage founded?

A. By Dido, a Tyrian* princess, who left her brother in Phœnicia, on account of his cruelty.

* Q. What was Tyre?

A. A celebrated city of Phœnicia, long famous for its commerce and power at sea. The inhabitants were

CHAPTER XXVI.

Of India.

Q. WHAT is India?

A. In'dia, one of the most celebrated and *opulent* countries of all Asia, is of vast extent, being about 2400 miles in length and 2000 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 Indians?

A. No, but very little; as the geography of India, 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 Alex-

sometimes called *Tyr'ii* or *Tyr'ians*, but generally Phœnicians. They were a very industrious people, but in general deceitful. It maintained its independence till the time of Alexander the Great, who took it with much difficulty, after which it never regained its former splendour.

* Arrian, a celebrated Greek historian of the second century, was a native of Nicomed'ia, a city of Asia Minor. He united the character of a warrior and philosopher. He wrote the history of Alexander the Great.

Op'ulent, *a* rich, wealthy.

under 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 India first conquered?

A. By Bac'chus, king of the Egyp'tians: but this account is *traditionary*, and therefore cannot be relied on. In more recent ages, part of India was tributary to Darius, king of the Persians, 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 Indians paid Darius their tribute in gold, and the other *satraps* in silver.

Q. Who next invaded India after the death of Darius the king of the Persians?

A. Alexander the Great, king of the Greeks, who, after having subdued Persia, set out from Bac'tria*, and having passed mount Ima'us†, or the Strong Girdle, (as it is called by the *oriental*

* Bactria, (sometimes written Bactria'na) was a considerable country of A'sia. It was conquered by Alexander the Great.

† This extensive mountain divides Scyth'ia into two parts, the one called *Intra Imaum*, the other *Extra Imaum*; that is, Scythia within the mountain of Ima'us, or Scythia without the mountain.

Tradit'ionary, *a.* delivered by the mouth only, not written.

Rev'enué, *s.* income.

Sa'trap, *s.* the chief magistrate, or governor of a province in Persia.

Orien'tal, *a.* eastern.

geographers, crossed the Indies at *Taxila*, the only place where the rapidity of that river permits an army to be conveniently *transported* *.

Q. Was Alexander opposed in the invasion of India?

A. Yes; by Po'rus king of part of India, but who met with a *signal* defeat near the river Hydaspes; and, on a question being asked him by Alexander, how he would wish to be treated, "As a king," said Porus; 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 Alexander after this?

A. Alexander then returned to Babylon, 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 XXVII.

Of China.

Q. WHAT is the early history of China?

* It is remarkable, that in after ages, Timour, or Tam'erlane, and Nadir Shar, or Kouli Khan, entered India, by the same route as Alexander the Great.

Taxila, *s.* a city on the eastern side of the Indus, and capital of a district of the same name.

Transported, *part.* carried or conveyed from one place to another.

Signal, *a.* remarkable, memorable.

A. This large country, which is situated in the most easterly part of Asia, is so deficient in authentic historical records, that its early history is completely involved in fable. The Chinese pretend to the most remote antiquity, and there is no doubt their origin was *cotemporary* with most of the celebrated ancient nations.

Q. What was their form of government?

A. China was divided into a number of districts or provinces, governed by princes who were absolute within their own territories, but who acknowledged the supreme 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 practice of all other nations, the Chinese 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, have been confined to themselves; but, while they have thus excluded the rest of the world from a participation of their inventions, they have deprived themselves of the possibility of benefiting by the discoveries of others.

Cotem'porary, a. existing at the same time.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Arabians.

Q. WHAT remarkable circumstances present themselves to our notice respecting the Arabs?

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

Q. Where is Arabia?

A. The whole country of Arabia extends 1300 miles in length, and 1200 in breadth, reaching from Aleppo to the Arabian Sea, and from Egypt to the Persian Gulf. It is divided into three parts, Arabia Deserta, Arabia Petrea, and Arabia Felix*.

Q. How long have the Arabs continued to dwell in their present state?

A. For the space of 4000 years. In them has been fulfilled what is prophesied in Genesis 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 Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans, having always an empire equal in extent to either of them.

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

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

A. Certainly; they have never been wholly subdued, though the Abyssinians, the Persians, and the Sultans of Egypt, have partially reduced them to obedience; but 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.

CHAPTER XXIX.

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 Colossus of Rhodes; 2. The Pyramids of Egypt; 3. The Aqueducts of Rome; 4. The Labyrinth of Psammeticus; 5. The Pharos of Alexandria; 6. The Walls of Babylon; and, 7. The Temple of Diana at Ephesus.

Q. What was the Colossus 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 Mediterranean Sea, and was so situated that it stood astride the harbour of Rhodes, that the ships might sail between its legs.

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

A. It was built by Cares, A. D. 288, who performed the task in 12 years. It stood across the harbour of Rhodes 66 years, when it was thrown down by an earthquake, and remained in that state till the Saracens took possession of the island of Rhodes.

Q. What did they do with it ?

A. The Saracens sold it to a Jew, who loaded 900 camels with the brass of which it was composed.

Q. What were the Pyramids of Egypt ?

A. The Egyptian Pyramids were immense buildings or pillars of stone, of a square form, becoming narrower by degrees as they reached the top.

Q. For what were they erected ?

A. They are supposed to have been intended as burial places for the Egyptian kings. Several are still standing, the largest of which is 800 feet square at the bottom, took 360,000 workmen 20 years in building, and has now stood 3000 years.

Q. What were the Aqueducts of Rome ?

A. The Aqueducts of Rome were tunnels which conducted water under ground 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 Aqueducts constructed ?

A. They were invented by Appius Claudius, the censor, and afterwards brought to perfection by the Emperor Claudius.

Q. Where was the Labyrinth of Psammeticus ?

A. It was situated on the banks of the Nile,

and contained, within the compass of one continued wall, 1000 houses and 12 royal palaces, all covered with marble, and having but one general entrance.

Q. In what shape was this celebrated Labyrinth?

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 3000 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 in A. D. 79; he observes that it had then been in existence 2000 years, but it has been long since destroyed.

Q. What was the Pharos of Alexandria?

A. This ancient wonder was a tower built near the bay of the island of Pharos in Egypt, by order of Ptolemy Philadelpus, 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 100 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 Pharos having for ages been demolished, and a common tower and light-house erected in its place.

Q. Describe the Walls of Babylon.

A. The Walls of Babylon 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 Babylon?

A. By some it is asserted that they were built by order of Queen Semiramis; 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 Diana?

A. A celebrated temple at Ephesus, dedicated to the goddess Diana. It stood between the city and the port of Ephesus, and was completed in the reign of Servius, the sixth king of Rome.

Q. Describe it.

A. This 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.

CHAPTER XXX.

Miscellaneous Questions in Ancient History.

Q. WHAT monarch ever brought the greatest army into the field, and at last was conquered?

A. Xerxes the First, king of Persia, the son of Darius. His land forces amounted to 1,700,000 men, and above 1000 sail of armed ships. Against this immense force, the Grecians had but a small army, but, after successive battles, the army of Xerxes was totally discomfited.

Q. What were the names of the places where Alexander the Great gained his three great victories over the Persians?

A. 1. The battle of the Granicus, a river which Alexander's army, consisting of only 36,000 men, crossed to attack Darius, whose army amounted to 600,000.

2. The battle of Issus, in Cilicia, where 100,000 Persians were slain, and the tent of Darius taken, in which were his wife, mother, two daughters, and his young son.

3. The battle of Arbela, in Assyria, which determined the fate of the Persian empire.

Q. Which is accounted the most extraordinary retreat ever effected by an army?

A. The retreat of the 10,000 Greeks under the command of Xenophon, from Persia into their own country,—a distance of 2325 miles, through an enemy's country, having to contend with many barbarous nations, and their progress being frequently opposed by vast rivers, high mountains, and dangerous defiles.

Q. What noble Grecian devoted himself to death for the good of his country?

A. Codrus, the last king of Athens. In the war between the Athenians and the Heraclidæ, the oracle had declared that the victory would be granted to that nation whose king was killed in battle, but gave strict orders that the life of Codrus should be spared; the patriotic king hearing this, disguised himself, went into battle, and was killed.

Q. What great character in Rome made a similar surrender of his life?

A. Marcus Curtius. In the year 360 B. C. a very wide and deep gap suddenly opened in the forum, and the oracle having declared that it would never close till Rome threw into it whatever the state considered most precious, Curtius supposed that a human sacrifice was wanted; he therefore armed himself, mounted his horse, and leapt into the aperture, which it is said instantly closed.

Q. What ancient people sat in judgment on the bodies of the dead?

A. The Egyptians. If they were considered to have lived well, they were to be embalmed or buried; if their evil actions preponderated, their dead bodies were cast into the street.

THE END.

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