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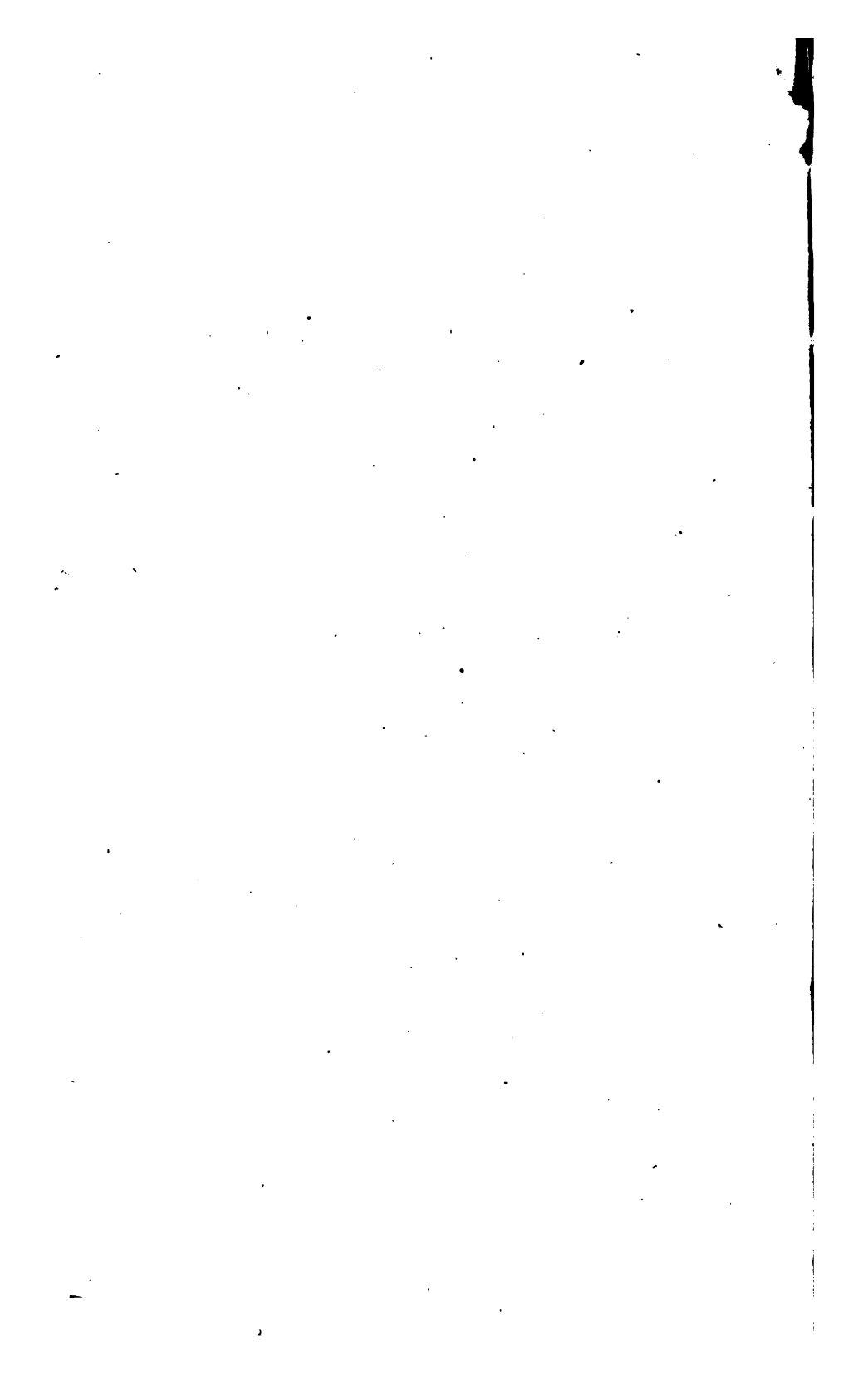
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TEUTONIC ANTIQUITIES.



TEUTONIC ANTIQUITIES;

OR,

HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL

SKETCHES

OF

Roman and Barbarian History,

EXPLANATORY OF THE

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE FOLLOWING NATIONS:

23
GOTHS,
WISIGOTHS,
OSTROGOTHS,
VANDALS,
LOMBARDS,

THURINGIANS,
BURGUNDIANS,
BAVARIANS,
FRANKS, AND
BRITONS.

BY C. CHATFIELD, Esq.

operosa parvus
Carmina fingo.

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24

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PREFACE.

THE present period is peculiarly distinguished for its progress in the investigation of history, and the traditions of nations, whereby the most useful results are daily opening to us: the vague conjectural system of inquiry is now justly laid aside, and the traces of natural origin subjected to the true analysis of philological proof; whereby we have acquired much important insight into the early history of the Northern or Scandinavian tribes, most useful in the consideration of a portion of ancient times, hitherto the most perplexing and obscure;—namely, the era of the breaking in of the torrents of victorious invaders from the North, on the gigantic, but paralysed fabric of the Roman empire.

While no portion of the mutations of the empires of the earth is more necessary for us to consider, it seemed as if every attempt to examine into this period of history, as well as the early settlement of the Hellenic tribes, or of Rome itself, was only to baffle and confound our reasonings, until the recent discoveries in languages, and the labours of philologists, with the acumen and expanded views of such writers as M. Klaproth and Baron de Humboldt, and others in the same path, have extended our researches into those mines of Eastern literature, as they are properly termed, which when worked and dug out, bid fair to yield us the most useful and splendid results.

The object of the present sketch is obviously brevity, and therefore narrows the author's preliminary remarks to a limited range, although the importance of the subject might well demand a more extended detail, since its scope includes, "Historical Notices of the Origin of the States of Europe, in the first and secondary classes."

Rome, throughout her rise and progress, manifested her unconquerable ardour and thirst for empire; in view of which daring point, she persevered amid reverses and disasters that would have beaten down and crushed any other race. Her people had indeed indomitable hearts, and

their iron frame won for them the pinnacle of greatness, whereon they overshadowed the whole earth: all nations flowed to the gates of "the Eternal City," as to their common centre; but in proportion as she increased in grandeur, she decreased in moral strength—she forgot her ancient manners, luxury introduced vices and excesses which corrupted the very vitals of her power, and steeped in the profligacy of her emperors, we in vain look for the descendants of the Camilli and the Cincinnati: at length enervated by luxury and prosperity, the Roman people acquired the habits of the mixed races, which were in their turn subjugated and incorporated into their system, for Rome in conquering the world, destroyed among those whom she overpowered, the original spirit with which they were animated. Such, however, was not the case with the hardy, warlike, and restless inhabitants of the North: it is worth our attention here, to contrast the opposite characters of the Roman, and the Goth or Teutonic warrior, for in no instance has the tyranny of early impressions operated more falsely than in the comparison drawn by contemporaries, or by modern historians, of these two classes. Far from finding grounds to sustain that weight of prejudice which affixes an opprobrium to the term of Goth, as distinguished from the Roman of this era.

the two races were, in fact, singularly marked by the reverse of the character usually affixed to their names; for the Roman citizen had sunk into the corrupting snares of sloth and slavery, while the Barbarian breathed that tone of independency and of equality, which constructed the ground work of the feudal constitutions of Europe; and which elevation of principle, modified by circumstance and climate, led to every advantage which is enjoyed by her respective states at the present day. Had Europe sustained the yoke of Rome in its state of debasement, the world had remained in the same moral degradation and slavery; but the unconquerable spirit of the Northern warriors elevated them to an equality with the proudest of their rulers, and this inequality among the nobles, established the fixed rights of their feudatory system. It is thus that history invariably records them as bearing forth from Central Asia a restless unconquered spirit—a religion, simple and martial as themselves—and institutions containing germs of liberty, destined in a future day to ripen into principles decisive of the pre-eminence and happiness of Europe; thereby making a large amends to mankind for the calamities attendant on the overthrow of the Roman empire.

But while we have thus dwelt upon the re-

sults arising from the character of the Northern tribes, it becomes very desirable to mark the distinction lines betwixt the Celts, or descendants of the ancient Scythians, who in many points of view, appear to have been the settlers of Europe in remote ages; from the Gothic, or Teutonic tribes, who acted principally in the overthrow of Rome. These two classes are too frequently confounded with each other, as they indeed possessed some corresponding characteristics; and unfortunately the Roman writers, accustomed to designate all as barbarians, saw little to distinguish in the Celts of the Danube, from the Gothic or Teutonic classes.

The Celtic tribes may certainly be deemed the genuine descendants of the ancient Scythians of Central Asia, and to partake of their character, as sketched out by Hippocrates, four centuries before the Christian era. In the pages of Ammianus Marcellinus, we find them drawn with peculiar force, as "spreading over
" the vast deserts of Scythia, and causing their
" arms to be dreaded from the Caspian sea to
" Seres, or Eastern Tartary, and even to the
" Ganges." The historian thus proceeds, "they
" cultivate no land, but feed on the flesh and
" milk of their flocks; they live in their cha-
" riots, or covered waggons, which are pitched
" wherever fresh herbage supplies nutriment

“ for their cattle, which spot serves them for a
 “ city: the children and the females remain with
 “ the chariots and prepare domestic services;
 “ but the young mount, from their tenderest
 “ years, on horseback, deeming it a dishonour
 “ to be seen on foot: they are fierce warriors,
 “ taking a delight in arms, and they brand with
 “ disgrace those who die in the usual course
 “ of nature, accident, or old age; and on the con-
 “ trary, eulogise the warrior who falls in battle:
 “ they worship a naked sword stuck in the
 “ earth, with the rites due to the god Mars:
 “ they have, moreover, a custom of determining
 “ on future events, or of divining by the Osier:
 “ slavery is unknown amongst them, as they
 “ are all originally free, and choose their judges
 “ from among those who are the most experi-
 “ enced in war.” Such were the Celts; and
 Cæsar, whose judgment and penetrating genius
 demands our respect to whatever he delivers
 from personal observation, introduces this an-
 cient race to us in his detail of the tribes of the
 Belgæ. He appeared particularly struck with
 the hierarchy of the Celts, and describing their
 Druids, Cæsar has, in truth, sketched the fa-
 vourite Buddhist tenets, as manifested in the
 East to this day, harmonizing together in the
 dogma of the metempsychosis, or principle of
 transmigrating, and a fondness for auspicious rites.

The Goths, or Teutonic tribes, which issued from the Tanais, and over-ran Scandinavia, are very ably sketched by Malte Brun: “ a number of princes, all of them claiming relation and affinity to Odin, their god of victory ; as many independent states as nature traced forth divisions ; a race, whose valour and boldness overthrew the political and military combinations of their more civilized opponents ; who possessed simple and sagacious laws, and an enthusiasm sustained to its highest pitch by their religion ; which altogether combined to produce that effect which enabled their leaders to employ as warriors, the totality of their population capable of bearing arms—such were the advantages of the Goths over the Romans : they were far more effective than fortune demanded to vanquish the degenerate descendants of Romulus and Brutus.” As the warlike tribes of the Tanais thus spread over the flanks of the Roman empire, pressing back on all sides the Celts the original possessors of Europe, they clearly appear to have rendered themselves masters of Germany, and are there identified by the unerring fact of the language, which, differing from the Celtic, is palpably the same as the Gothic or Teutonic dialect, into which the Gospels were translated by Ulphilas, for the use of the Mæsiæ Goths, in the year

367; the same also as the present vulgar tongue of the Crimea, and the same likewise, both in form, in structure, and in numerous words, as the language of the Persians, among whose tribes accordingly Herodotus actually enumerates the Germanes.*

Jornandez calls the North of Europe "the scourge of mankind;" it might rather be termed "the forge" of those instruments for breaking in pieces the fetters of mankind; for they afforded the ground-work of those institutions which were the only source of all the liberty which is among men.

The ceaseless torrents of the North, which poured upon the Roman empire on all sides, in the last stage of her existence, had, indeed, for one cause of their continuous progress, an undue increase of the population of the North beyond

* Cyrus, enumerating the chief *Persian tribes*, names the Germanians. Herod. Clio, 126, and Larcher, in note 287, considers these as the Caramanians, supporting his authority by Claverius, who again is contradicted by M. Wesseling. The Germanes, as a sect of philosophers, are treated of in Strabo, (xv book), clearly pointing to the district of Kerman, on the east side of the Persian Gulph. D'Anville, however, gives most probably the true definition, which he quotes from the Teutonic, as meaning a war man, or warrior, and in which sense the word has passed to Europe from its Asiatic import, being applied in the most accurate sense to a body of crowned feudatories, of which the emperor of Germany was the military head.

their means of subsistence; but to determine an adequate cause for the simultaneous operation of so many nations, there needs a stronger impulse.

This shock was given from two points of the world very widely apart from each other; the one from the centre of Asia, when the fierce and countless swarms of the Huns spread themselves over the largest portion of Europe; and secondly, from Scandinavia, whence an heroic and enterprising leader led a comparatively small number of Goths, from conquest to conquest. The collision of these two races overthrew the Roman empire, and opened all the avenues to her rich and defenceless provinces: swarms of barbarians flowed onward to their inviting spoil, and settled down in succession upon the bleeding fragments of Europe. The outline thus briefly given, will be found filled up in the following pages, the composition of which will be best appreciated by him who toils through the mass of authorities requisite to examine and condense the shortest compendium of this most important portion of history of the human race. To the much vilified Teutones we owe our origin; and their sense of honour, valour, and love of freedom, however wild and turbulent, placed them far beyond the degenerated races of the Roman people, whom they over-

threw and despised. "We have never rendered due homage," Malte Brun justly exclaims, "to the moral grandeur of a race, the conqueror of the conquerors of the earth." It was by a comparison of this superiority, that the great king Theodoric dared boldly to say to his Roman subjects, "imitate my Goths, they join to your civilization, the virtues of their ancestors; for they know how to combat their enemies, and to live peaceably with each other." And most clearly we may see, that to the high toned feudality of the Goths and Teutones, we are indebted for the civil rights which we most prize; they grew out of the freedom claimed by all the privileged class, the progress of which may be traced in our Saxon institutions, as they varied from the feudal to the representative system—a comparison of the vigour and advantages of these rules, as compared with any approximation to the Roman jurisprudence, will shew wherein the Gothic institutes tended to improve, in a far higher degree, the state of civil society. It is enough to have shewn, that the epochs of the following sketch of the origin of the European states, merit the close research, and warmest gratitude, of every lover of his race; for its progress of political conflicts and changes gradually matured the Teutonic feudatory tenures, into systems of milder rule and sove-

reignty, emancipating her favored population from the yoke of Asiatic despotism, and eventually, by its consequences, constituting Europe the illustrious depository of arts, of arms, of knowledge, and whatever else infers intellectual and personal supremacy on mankind.



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EXPLANATION
OF THE
GENEALOGICAL TABLES.

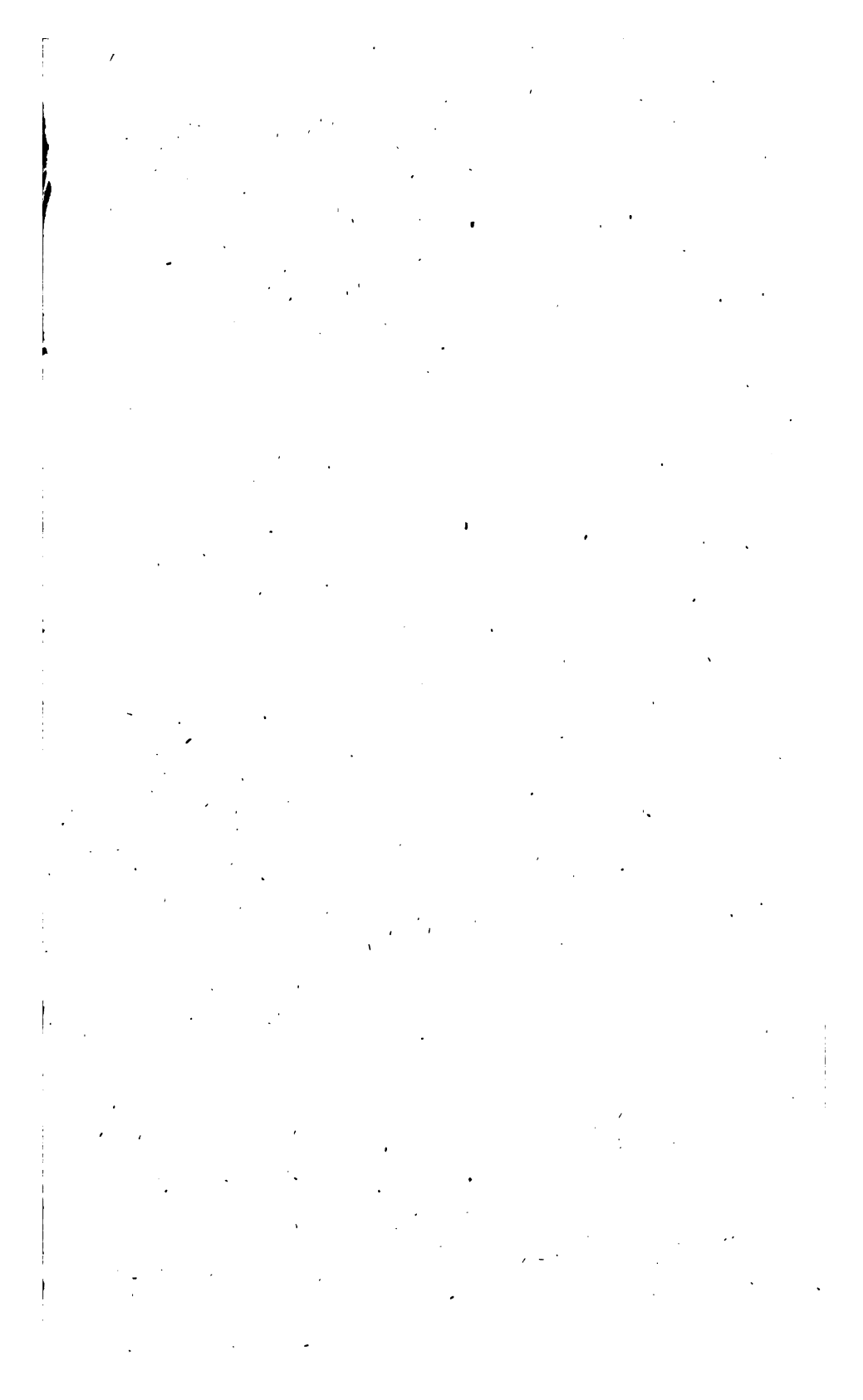


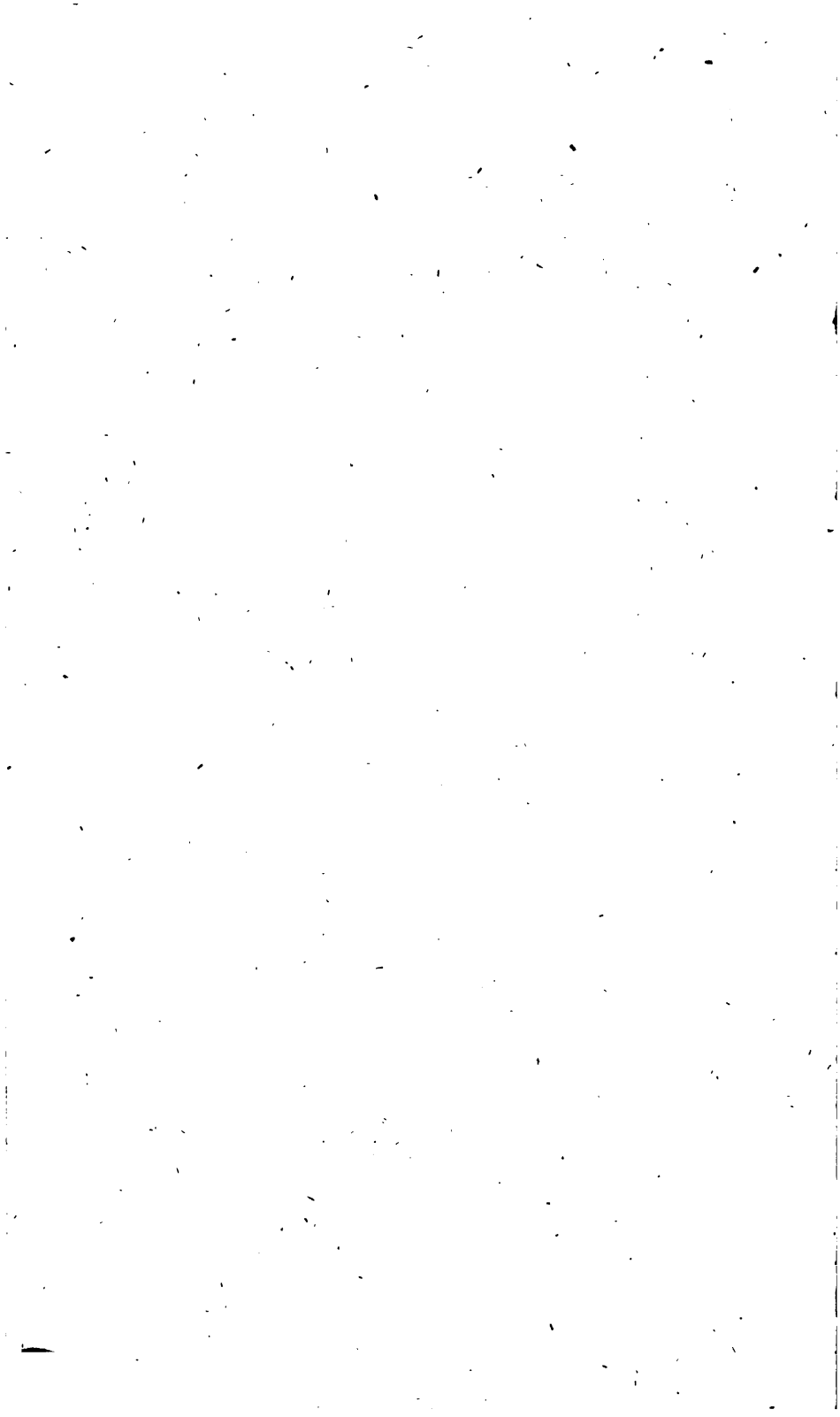
THE names in Capital Letters, and in the centre of the page, above the crowns, denote the reigning monarchs, and the dates on a line with the crowns, are the periods, as nearly as it is possible to ascertain them, when they began to reign. The names in *Italics*, on either side of the sovereigns, denote their children, and where two names are connected by vertical or horizontal lines, the upper is the name of the parent, and the lower, that of the child. Whenever the descent of a reigning monarch can be traced accurately, his name will be found in *Italics*, to the right or left of his Sire, and afterwards in the centre, surmounting a crown.

CORRIGENDA.



- In page 18, in the eleventh line, instead of "*Germany*," read "*Gaul*."
28, in the fifth line, instead of "*Danube*," read "*Rhine*."
33, in the tenth line, for the "*third*," read the "*fourth century*."
71, in the eighteenth line, for the "*seventh*," read the "*eighth century*."
136, in the second line, for the "*fourth*," read the "*fifth century*."





OSTROGOTHS.



Walamir—*Widimr*—NAME UNKNOWN—*Theodmir*.



Amalafriid—THEODOMIR—*Theodoric*.

A.D. 476.

<p><i>First Husband</i>, name unknown— <i>Theodobat</i>—<i>Amalaberg</i> married <i>Hermanfrid</i>, of Thuringia.</p>		<p><i>Second Husband</i>, <i>Thrasimund</i>, king of the Vandals, by whom she had not any children.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ostrogotha—*Amalasuinth*—THEODORIC—*Theudigotha* married *Alaric*, king of the Wisigoths, A.D. 484.

First Husband—*Second Husband*, A.D. 490.
Eutharicus Cillaca. *Theodobat*, who put her to death.

Matasuinth—*Athalarick*.
 married *Vitiges*.

Theodoric, married *Audesteda*, sister of *Clovis*, king of the Franks.
Ostrogotha married *Sigismund*, of Burgundy.

ATHALARICK.

A.D. 530.

THEODOBAT.

A.D. 534.

VITIGES—married *Matasuinth*.

A.D. 536.

ERARIC.

A.D. 540.

HILBEBALD.



TOTILAS.



TEJAS.

A.D. 552.







BURGUNDIANS.



GUNTHICARIUS.

Circa A.D.  420.

GUNDICAR.

Circa A.D.  440.

*Chilperic—Godomar—*GUNDEUCUS.—*Gundobald—Godeisgil.*

Circa A.D.  461.

*Clotildis—*CHILPERIC.



Clotildis married *Clovis*, king of the Franks.

GODOMAR.



*Sigismund—*GUNDOBALD—*Godomar.*



*Sigeric—*SIGISMUND—*Suavigotha.*

A.D.  516.

Sigismund married *Ostrogotha*, daughter of *Theodoric*, king of the *Ostrogoths*,
and *Suavigotha* married *Theodoric*, king of the Franks.

GODOMAR.

A.D.  530.

LONGOBARDS.



Visigard—Valtaris—WACCHO—Waldrada, betrothed to *Theodobald*
 married *Theodebert* of Austrasia. A.D. 500. of Austrasia, but afterwards mar-
 ried to *Garibald*, of Bavaria.

VALTARIS.



*Alboin—AUDOIN—*married *Rosalinda*, daughter of
 A.D. 560. *Hermanfrid*, of Thuringia.

A Daughter, name unknown—*ALBOIN—*married *Rosamunda*, daughter of *Cun-*
 A.D. 566. *mund*, the king of the Gepidæ.

Antharis—CLEPHO.

A.D. 574.

A.D. 576.

On the death of *Clepho*, the nation was governed by Dukes for ten years.

*ANTHARIS—*married *Theodelinda*, of Bavaria.

A.D. 586.

*Adelwald—Gundoberga—AGILULF—*married *Theodelinda*, widow of
 A.D. 588. *Antharis*.

ADELWALD.



ARIALDUS—married *Gundoberga*.



Rodoald—ROTHARIS.

A.D. 643.

RODOALD.



Godobert—ARIBERT—Bertarid.



Cunibert—BERTARID.



BERTARID

and

CUNIBERT

} reign together.

Liutprand—ANSPRAND.



*Name unknown—LIUTPRAND—*married *Guntrudis*, of Bavaria.

Hildebrand—

A.D. 727.

HILDEBRAND.

A.D. 744.

RACHIS—duke of Friuli.

A.D. 749.

AISTULPHUS, his brother.

A.D. 752.

A Daughter, name unknown—*DESIDERIUS.*

A.D. 774.



FRANKS.



Name unknown—**CLODIO**—*Meroveus*.

A.D. 440.

Childeric—**MEROVEUS**.

Died A.D. 456.

Clovis—Lanthildis—**CHILDERIC**—*Audofleda*, married *Theodoric*, king of the Ostrogoths and Italy.

A.D. 457.

Theodoric—Chlodomir—**CLOVIS**—*Childebert—Clotildis—Clotharius*.

A.D. 482.

Clovis married *Clotildis*, daughter of *Chilperic* of Burgundy. *Theodoric* married *Suavigotha*, daughter of *Sigismund* of Burgundy. *Chlodomir* married *Guntheuga*. *Clotildis* married *Amalarick*, king of the Visigoths, A.D. 530. *Clotharius* married *Radegundis*, daughter of *Bertharius*, of Thuringia.

Theodobert—**THEODORIC**—king of Belgica, prima and secunda.

A.D. 511.

Theodobert married *Visigard*, daughter of *Waccho*, king of the Lombards.

Theodobald—**THEODOBERT**, king of Belgica, prima and secunda.

A.D. 534.

THEODOBALD, king of Belgica, prima and secunda:

A.D. 552. died without issue, A.D. 554.

CHLODOMIR, king of Orleans: killed in battle,

A.D. 511. A.D. 534.

CHILDEBERT, king of Paris: died without issue,

A.D. 511. A.D. 538.

Sigebert—Claribert—Guntram—Chilperic—**CLOTHARIUS**, king of Soissons—became sole king, A.D. 558.

A.D. 511.

Clotharius first married *Radegundis*—secondly, *Guntheuga*, widow of *Chlodomir*:

Bertha—**CLARIBERT**, king of Paris: died A.D. 572.

A.D. 561.

Bertha married *Ethelbert*, king of Kent.

GUNTRAM, king of Orleans and Burgundy;

A.D. 561. died A.D. 593.

First wife, *Audovera*—**CHILPERIC**, king of Soissons: killed A.D. 584.

Meroveus—Theodobert—Clovis—A.D. 561.

Second wife, *Gailesuinth*,

Ingundis—

Third wife, *Fredegundis*,

Clotharius 2d—

Clodasuinth—Childebert—**SIGEBERT**, king of Austrasia: killed A.D. 575.

A.D. 561.

Sigebert married *Brunehild*, daughter of *Anathagild*, the Wisigoth; and after his death she married *Meroveus*.

Theodobert—Theodoric—**CHILDEBERT**, king of Paris, Orleans, and Austrasia, died A.D. 596.

A.D. 584.

THEODOBERT, king of Paris, Orleans and Austrasia: died A.D. 610.

A.D. 596.

Sigebert—Childebert—Corbus—Meroveus—**THEODORIC**, king of Paris, Orleans, and Austrasia: died 611.

A.D. 596.

FRANKS *continued.*

SIGEBERT, king of Paris, Orleans, and Austrasia.
A.D. 611.

CHILDEBERT, king of Paris, Orleans, and Austrasia.
A.D. 611.

CORBUS, king of Paris, Orleans, and Austrasia.
A.D. 611.

MEROVEUS, king of Paris, Orleans, and Austrasia.
A.D. 611.

Dagobert—Charibert—CLOTHARIUS 2d, king of Soissons. Afterwards sole king. Died A.D. 628.
A.D. 584.

Sigebert—Clovis 2d—DAGOBERT, married *Nantilde*. Sole king. Died A.D. 628. A.D. 638.

CHARIBERT.

Dagobert 2d—SIGEBERT—died A.D. 650.
A.D. 638.

Clotharius 3d—Childerick—Theodoric—CLOVIS 2d—sole king. Died A.D. 656.
A.D. 650.

CHILDERIC—CLOTHARIUS 3d—and THEODORIC—reigned together.
A.D. 656.

Daniel. — *Childerick 3d—Clovis 3d.*
Childerick died A.D. 673; *Clotharius 3d*, A.D. 670; *Theodoric* A.D. 691.

Clotarius—DAGOBERT 2d, king of Austrasia—killed A.D. 678.
A.D. 673.

CLOVIS 3d, possessed all the kingdom, except Austrasia. Died A.D. 695.

Dagobert 3d—CHILDEBERT 3d, possessed all the kingdom, except Austrasia. Died A.D. 711.

Theodoric—DAGOBERT 3d, possessed all the kingdom, except Austrasia. Died A.D. 715.

First wife, *Plectrudis*—PEPIN, of Herstatt, king of Austrasia: died

Grimoald—Drogo— A.D. 678. A.D. 714.

Second wife, *Alpais*,

Charles Martel—Childebrand—

Grimoald married *Teutsinda*, a Frisiau princess.

Childerick 3d—DANIEL or CHILPERIC 2d—died A.D. 720.
A.D. 715.

CLOTARIUS, son of *Dagobert 2d*.

Carolomannus—Pepin—Grifo—CHARLES MARTEL—*Chiltrud*, married *Odilo*, duke of Bavaria.

Charles Martel married *Sunehild*, daughter of *Theodebert*, of Bavaria.

Theodoric—CHILDERIC 3d—deposed A.D. 747.
A.D. 742.

Charlemagne—PEPIN—sole king.
A.D. 747.

CHARLEMAGNE.
A.D. 768

BRITONS.

ROMAN INVASION.

B.C. 55.

FINAL REDUCTION OF BRITAIN BY THE ROMANS.

Circa A.D. 90.

Britain was governed by Military Officers appointed by the Roman Emperors, till a few years before

THE SAXON INVASION.

A.D. 449.

THE HEPTARCHY.

KENT.

HENGIST—*Esk.*

A.D. 457.

Esk—*Octa.*

A.D. 488.

OCTA—*Ermenric.*

A.D. 512.

ERMENRIC—*Ethelbert.*

A.D. 532.

ETHELBERT—*Ethelbald.*

A.D. 560.

Ethelbert married *Bertha*, daughter of *Clari-
bert*, king of the Franks.

ETHELBALD—*Ercombere.*

A.D. 616.

Lotharius—*ERCOMBERE*—*Egbert.*

A.D. 640.

Wightred—*EGBERT*—*Eadric.*

A.D. 664.

LOTHARIUS.

A.D. 673.

EADRIC.

A.D. 685.

WITTRED and WABBERD, Saxon Chiefs.

A.D. 686.

Ethelbert 2d—*WIGHTRED*—*Eadburt*—*Alric*

A.D. 694.

ETHELBERT 2d.

A.D. 727.

EADBERT.

A.D. 749.

ALRIC.

A.D. 760.

HEAHBERT and SIGARED.

A.D. 764.

EAGFERT.

A.D. 778.

EADBERT.

A.D. 786.

CUTHRED.

A.D. 794.

BALDRED.

A.D. 805.

MERCIA.

CRIDA—*Wippa.*

A.D. 585.

Penda—*WIPPA.*

A.D. 593.

CEORL.

A.D. 614.

Ethelred—*PENDA*—*Wulthere*—*Penda*

A.D. 627.

PEADA.

A.D. 655.

OSWRY.

A.D. 656.

MERCIA *continued.*

WULTHERE—*Kenred.*
 A.D. ☞ 659.
 ETHELRED—*Ceolced.*
 A.D. ☞ 675.
 KENRED.
 A.D. ☞ 704.
 CEOLCED:
 A.D. ☞ 709.
 ETHELBALD.
 A.D. ☞ 719.
 BEORNRED.
 A.D. ☞ 755.
Egfert—OFFA.
 A.D. ☞ 756.
 EGFERT.
 A.D. ☞ 796.

Kenelm—KENWULF.
 A.D. ☞ 796.
 KENELM.*
 A.D. ☞ 819.
 KEOLWULF.
 A.D. ☞ 820.
 BEORNWULF.
 A.D. ☞ 821.
 LUDICAN.
 A.D. ☞ 824.
 WITHLAF.
 A.D. ☞ 825.
 BERTWULF.
 A.D. ☞ 839.
 BURHED.
 A.D. ☞ 852.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

BERNICIA.

(That is, the country between the Tweed and
 Edinburgh.)

Odda—IDA—*Theodoric*—*Æthelric.*
 A.D. ☞ 547.
 ODDA.
 A.D. ☞ 559.
 CLAPPA.
 A.D. ☞ 564.
 THEODWULF.
 A.D. ☞ 571.
 FREOTHWULF.
 A.D. ☞ 572.
 THEODORIC.
 A.D. ☞ 579.
Æthelfrid—ÆTHELRIC.
 A.D. ☞ 588.

DEIRA.

(That is the country between the Tweed and
 the Humber.)

ÆLLA—*Edwin.*
 A.D. ☞ 559.

 EDWIN.
 A.D. ☞ 589.

Eanfrid—ÆTHELFRID—*Oswald*—*Oswy.*

A.D. ☞ 593.
 EDWIN, restored.
 A.D. ☞ 617.

EANFRED.
 A.D. ☞ 634.

OSRIC—*Oswin.*
 A.D. ☞ 634.

OSWALD.
 A.D. ☞ 635.

* The kings, from KENELM down to BURHED, were tributaries to EGBERT, king of the West Saxons.

NORTHUMBERLAND *continued.*

BERNICA.

Egfrid—OSWY—Alfred.

A.D. 642.

DEIRA.

OSWIN, slain by *Oswy.*

A.D. 644.

Egfrid—OSWY, sole king—*Alfred.*

A.D. 651.

EGFRID.

A.D. 670.

ALFRED—*Osred.*

A.D. 685.

OSRED.

A.D. 705.

KENRED.

A.D. 716.

OSRIC.

A.D. 718.

CEOLWULF.

A.D. 729.

EGBERT—*Osulf.*

A.D. 737.

OSWULF.

A.D. 751.

ETHELWARD—*Ethelred.*

A.D. 759.

ALURED—*Osred 2d.*

A.D. 765.

ETHELRED.

A.D. 774.

ALFWOLD.

A.D. 778.

OSRED 2d.

A.D. 789.

ETHELRED, restored.

A.D. 790.

OSBALD.

A.D. 794.

EARDULF.

A.D. 795.



EAST ANGLES.

Titylus—UFFA.

A.D. 575.

Redwald—TITYLUS.

A.D. 578.

Earpenswald—REDWALD.

A.D. 593.

EARPENWALD.

A.D. 599.

SIGEBERT.

A.D. 636.

EGRIC.

A.D. 638.

EAST ANGLES *continued.*

ANNA.
A.D. 643.
Beorne—Ailsulf—ETHELHER—*Ælfwoold.*
A.D. 654.
ETHELWALD—*Ethelred.*
A.D. 685.
ALDWULF.
A.D. 664.

ÆLFWOLD.
A.D. 683.
BEORNE.
A.D. 690.
ETHELRED—*Ethelbert.*
A.D. 714.
ETHELBERT.
A.D. 749.

SOUTH SAXONS.

ÆLLA—*Cissa.*
A.D. 491,
CISSA.
A.D. 515.
ATHELWALD.
A.D. 618.

BERTUN and AUTUN.
ALDWIN.
A.D. 725.

EAST SAXONS.

ERCHENWIN.
A.D. 527.
SIGEBERT.
A.D. 535.
SAICHELM.
A.D. 535.
Sebert—SLEDA.
A.D. 587.
SEBERT.
A.D. 596.
SEXRED, SEWARD, and SIGEBERT.
A.D. 617.
SIGEBERT.
A.D. 623.

SIGEBERT—*Scred.*
A.D. 648.
SWITHELM.
A.D. 660.
Offa—SIPHERUS and SEBBA.
A.D. 663.
SIEGHARDUS and SWENFREDUS.
A.D. 693.
OFFA.
A.D. 700.
SELRED.
A.D. 709.
SWITHRED.
A.D. 746.

WEST SAXONS.

CERDIC—*Cynric.*
A.D. 519.
CYNRIC—*Coawlin.*
A.D. 534.
CEAWLIN.
A.D. 560.
CEOLRIC.
A.D. 591.
CEOLWULPH.
A.D. 597.
CYNEGILSUS—*Kenewale.*
A.D. 611.
CWICHELM.
A.D. 613.
KENEWALE—*Æskwin.*
A.D. 643.
SAXBURGIA, his queen.
A.D. 672.
ÆSKWIN.
A.D. 674.

CENTWIN.
A.D. 676.
CEADWALLA.
A.D. 685.
INA.
A.D. 688.
ÆTHELHEARDUS.
A.D. 728.
CUTHRED.
A.D. 741.
SIGEBERT.
A.D. 754.
CYNEWULPH.
A.D. 755.
BRIHTRIC.
A.D. 784.
EGBERT.
A.D. 802.
Became king of all England,
A.D. 820.

THE GOTHS.

OSTROGOTHA.

A.D. 244.

CNIVA.

A.D. 249.

ARIARIC.

A.D. 333.

GEBERIC.

A.D. 334.

Here the Nation is divided into OSTROGOTHS and WISIGOTHS.

Witheric—ERMANERIC, king of the Ostrogoths.

A.D. 354.

WITHERIC.

A.D. 376.

ATHANARIC, king of the Wisigoths.

A.D. 367.

Died 382.

Theodoric—ALARIC.

A.D. 395.

ATUALPH—married the princess *Placidia*, daughter of the emperor *Theodosius*.

A.D. 414.

SINGERIC.

A.D. 415.

CONSTANTIUS—married the princess *Placidia*.

A.D. 415.

WISIGOTHIC KINGDOM IN SPAIN.

WALLIA.



A Daughter—A Daughter—THEODORIC—*Euricus—Thrasimund—Theodoric.*

A.D. 420. or *Thorismund.*

One Daughter of *Theodoric* was married to *Hunoric*, king of the Vandals, and the other to *Recharius*, king of Suevi.

THRASIMUND.

A.D. 453.

THEODORIC.

A.D. 454.

Alaric—EURICUS.

A.D. 462.

Gesalic—Amalarick—ALARIC—married *Theudigotha*, daughter of a natural son. A.D. 484. *Theodoric* (the Ostrogoth) of Italy.

GESALIC.



THEODORIC, the Ostrogoth, governs as Guardian to AMALARICK, his grandson.



AMALARICK—married *Clotildis*, daughter of *Clovis*,

A.D. 530. king of the Franks.

THEUDIS, or THEUDES, succeeds on failure of the

A.D. 531. Royal Line.

THEUDISCUS.

A.D. 548.

AGILA.

A.D. 549.

Brunchild—ATHANAGILD—*Gailesuinth.*

A.D. 549.

Brunchild married *Sigebert*, king of the Franks, and *Gailesuinth* married *Chilperic*, king of the Franks.

LIVOA.

A.D. 567.

Hermenegild—LEOVIGILD, brother of *Livoa*—*Reccaredus.*



Hermenegild married *Ingundis*, daughter of *Sigebert*, king of the Franks, or of *Chilperic*, his brother.

RECCAREDUS, married *Ingundis.*

A.D. 586.

Favila, duke of Cantabria—CHINDASUINTH—*Theudfred*, duke of Cordova.



—*Roderic.*

Witiza—ENICO.

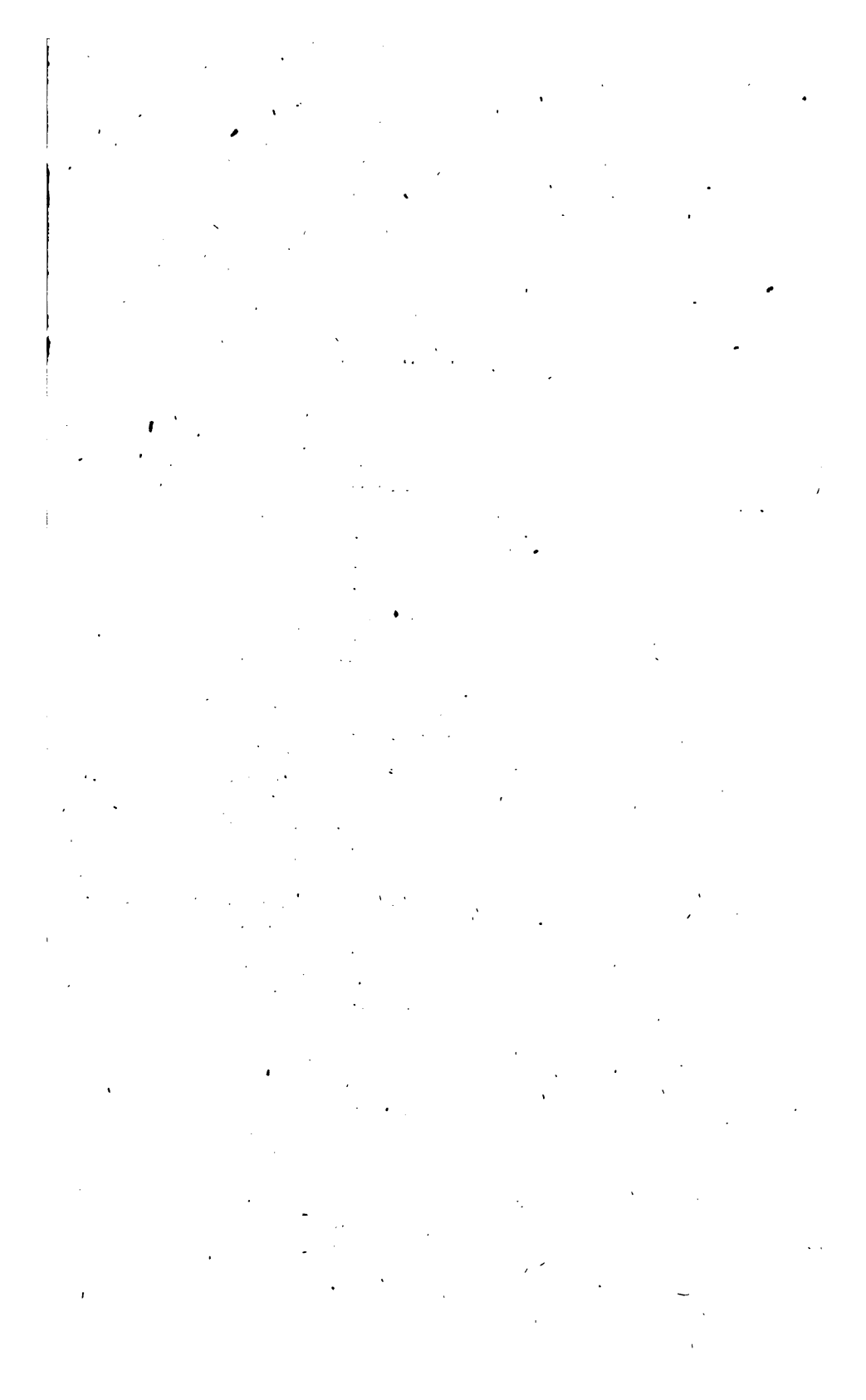


WITIZA.



RODERIC.

killed A.D. 711.



VANDALS.



VISUMAR.

A. D. 323.

Gunderic—GODEGESILUS—*Genseric*.

A. D. 400.

GUNDERIC.

A. D. 406.

Genso—GENSERIC—*Hunnoric*.

A. D. 428.

Golaris—*Gundamund*—*Thrasimund*.

Gelimer—*Tzazo*.

Hilderic—HUNNORIC—*Name unknown*.

A. D. 477.

Hoamer—*Edemer*.

Hunnoric married—first, a daughter of *Theodoric*, king of the Wisigoths, and secondly, *Eudocia*, daughter of *Valentinian* the 3d.

GUNDAMUND.

A. D. 484.

THRASIMUND—married *Amalafri*d, sister of *Theodoric*, king of the Ostrogoths.

A. D. 496.

HILDERIC.

A. D. 523.

GELIMER.

Circa A. D. 530.

THURINGIANS.



Bulderic—Hermanfrid—BASINUS—Bertharius

Circa A.D. 457.

|—*Radagundis.*

Radagundis married *Clotarius 1st*, king of the Franks.

Amalfrid—HERMANFRID—Rosalinda.

is deposed

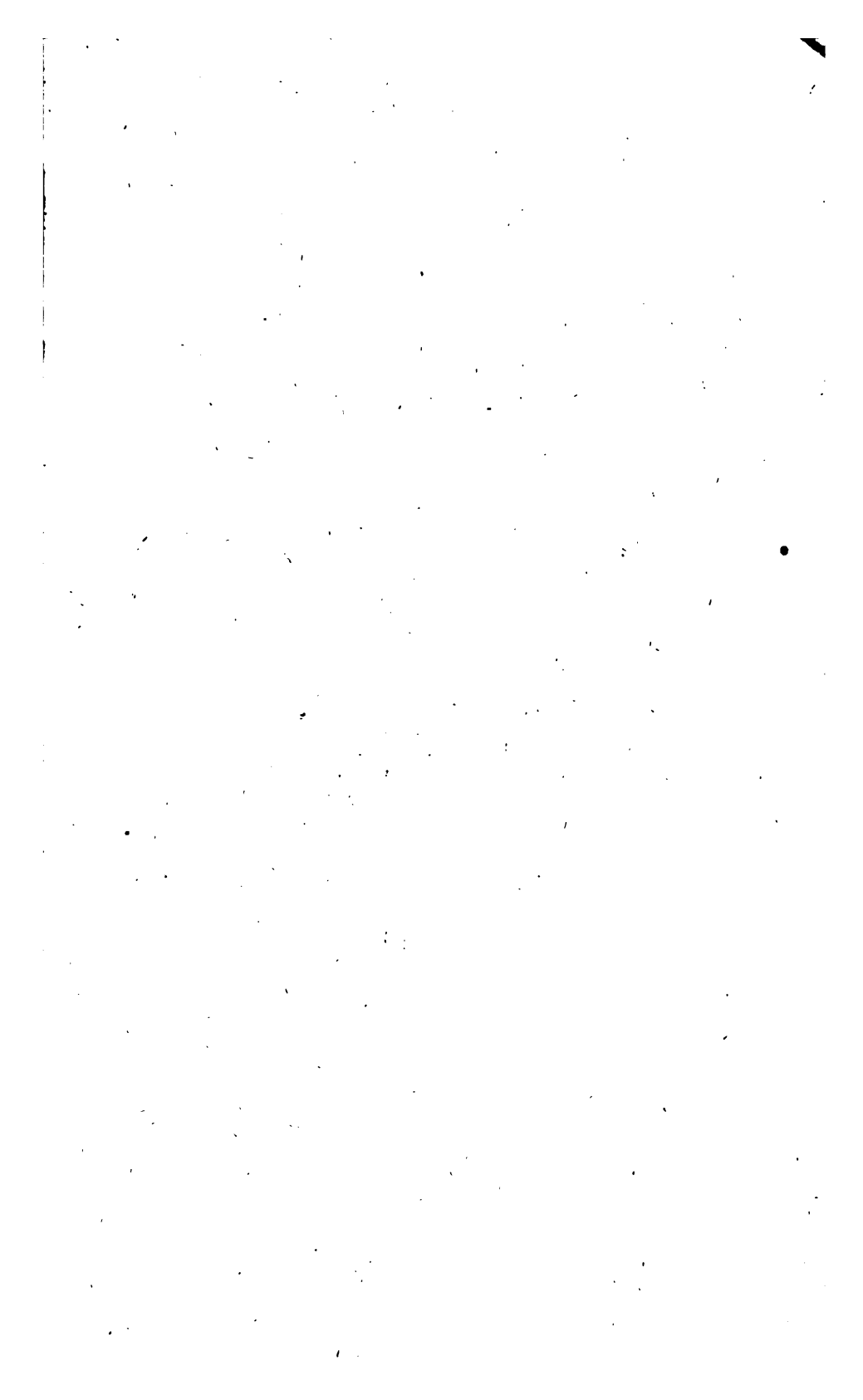
Circa A.D. 511.

Hermanfrid married *Amalaberg*, niece of *Theodoric*, king of the Ostrogoths.

Rosalinda married *Audois*, king of the Longobards.

Amalfrid became a general in the service of *Justinian*.





BAVARIANS.



Theodolinda, married—GARIBALD—*Gundoald*, duke of Asti, in Italy.
Antharis, king of the Longobards. A.D. 511.

Garibald married *Waldrada*, daughter of *Waccho*, king of the Longobards.

Garibald 2d—THRASSILO.

A.D. 542.

GARIBALD 2d.

A.D. 609.

THEODO 1st.

A.D. 640.

Theodobert—THEODO 2d.—*Theodobald*—*Grimoald*.

A.D. 680.

Huobert—*Guntrudis*—*Sunchild*.

Guntrudis married *Liutprand*, king of the Longobards, and

Sunchild married *Charles Martel*.

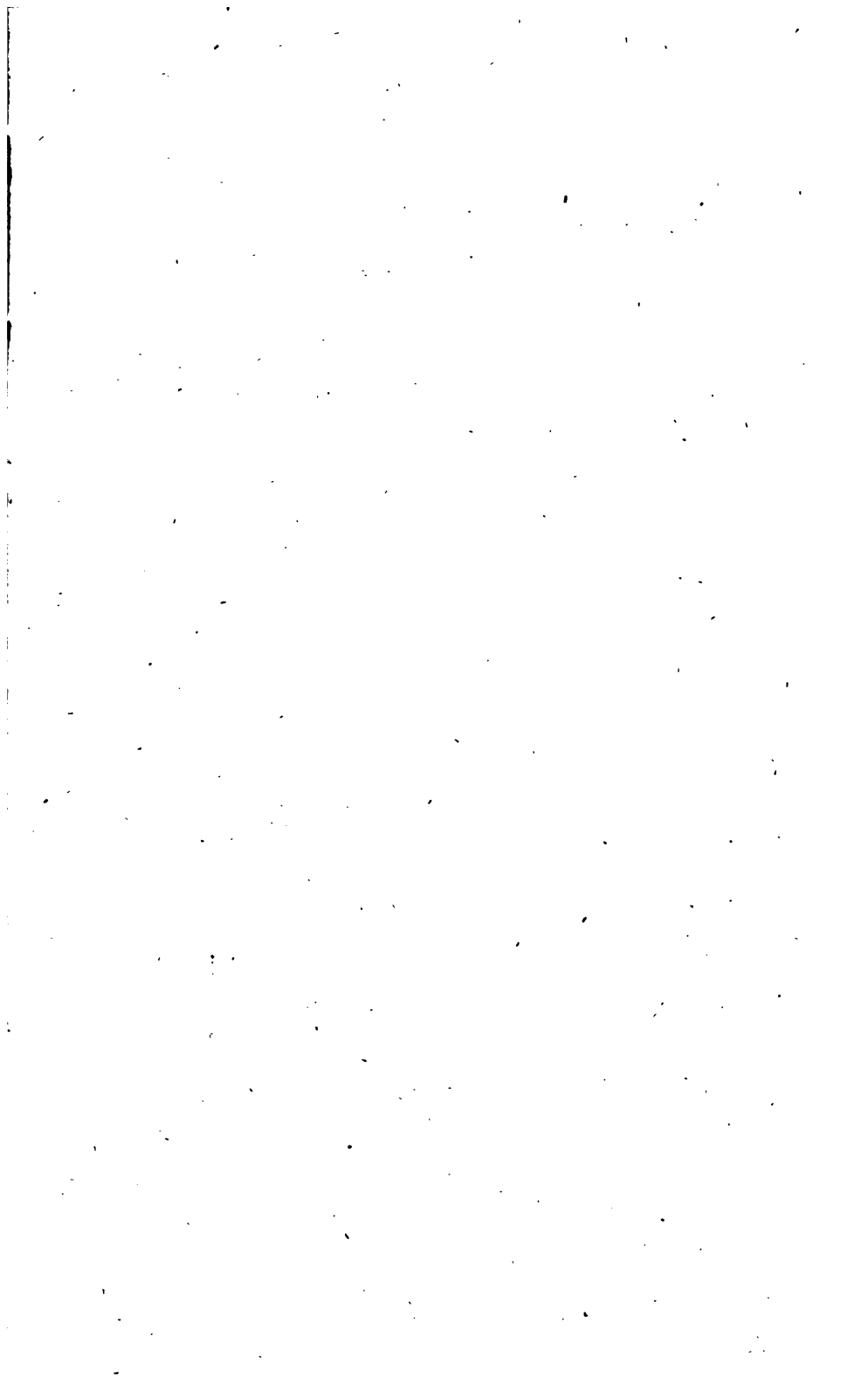
HUEBERT.

A.D. 725.

Thrassilo 2d—ODILO—married *Chiltrud*, daughter of
Charles Martel.

THRASSILO 2d.

A.D. 748.





A SUMMARY

OF THE

HISTORY OF THE DARKER AGES.



CHAP. I.

General Sketch of Roman and Barbarian History.

AT the remote period of six centuries prior to the Christian æra, the northern and central parts of the continent of Europe were inhabited by four distinct classes of barbarians; the GAULS, GERMANS, SARMATIANS, and SCYTHIANS. Of these, the former occupied that tract of country which extends in breadth from the English Channel to the Rhine, and in length from Holland to the Pyrenees; comprehending within its limits the larger portion of modern France. GAEL, subsequently to the conquest of it by the Romans; was divided into *Belgic*, containing those provinces bounded on the north by Holland, and known at present as the Netherlands; *Lugdunensis* or Celtic Gaul, comprizing the country which lies between the rivers Seine, Loire, Rhone,

and Saone—namely, Bretagne, Normandy, Orleanois, Maine, part of Burgundy, and the adjacent districts; *Aquitania*, which extended from the Loire to the Pyrenees; and *Narbonensis*, which contained Dauphinè, Languedoc, Roussillon, and Provence, and extended in length from the source of the river Dordogne, which falls into the sea near Bourdeaux, to the frontiers of Spain, and from Valence, a city near the Rhone, to Nice, on the shores of the Mediterranean.

Among the Gauls may also be numbered the Celtiberians, or inhabitants of the northern parts of Spain, whose name is supposed to have been derived from the circumstance of a tribe of Celtic Gauls emigrating to the banks of the Ebro, or Iberus, as it was then called, and uniting the title of the river with that of the nation.

The territory inhabited by the GERMANS, was situated between the Rhine and the Vistula: it was bounded on the north by the Baltic sea, and on the south by the Danube, and contained the modern states of Germany, Prussia, and part of Poland.

The SARMATIANS had their residence in those immense districts which extend in breadth from the Vistula to the Volga, and in length, from the Baltic to the frontiers of Hungary.

The particular residence of the Scythians has not been accurately ascertained: it is only known that they occupied the extreme verge of Russia in Europe, and extended far into Tartary. Mention is seldom made of them in early history, but there is not any doubt that the majority of their tribes were of Tartar extraction, driven at various periods from the eastern parts of Asia by the pressure of other more powerful hordes, or compelled by increasing population and the want of pasture to search for new abodes. The principal circumstance which has occasioned the history of these nations to be enveloped in obscurity, is, that they were sunk in ignorance, and destitute of writers to record their origin: the Romans, therefore, who knew them only as barbarians, without distinction of tribe or residence, perpetuated their memory as ferocious enemies, and applied to them indiscriminately the names of Scythians and Sarmatians.

From the best information, however, extant on the subject, it may be collected that the four grand divisions of barbarians, Gauls, Germans, Sarmatians, and Scythians, although placed under separate denominations, were descended from two original sources. To judge by their manners, customs, and religion, the Gauls, Ger-

mans, and Sarmatians, composed one class, and the Scythians, another: or if it be permitted to entertain a fanciful idea, and to assume that of the sons of Noah, Shem was the father of Asia, and Japhet of Europe, the Scythians, according to this hypothesis, will be Asiatics, and the Gauls, Germans, and Sarmatians, Europeans. In support of the assertion, it may be remarked, that the natives of Denmark, Germany, Norway, Prussia, France, and Sweden, bore evidently, in the early ages, traces of a common origin. By nature they were a wandering people, subsisting on the milk and flesh of their cattle, which they retained in considerable numbers, and seldom cultivating the ground, because they were under the necessity of removing their tents frequently for the purpose of obtaining new pasture for their herds. Their dress was composed of the skins of animals, either domestic or such as had been killed in the forests, but their women afterwards learned the art of weaving coarse linen, which afforded them more durable and convenient garments. The men were addicted to war, and perpetually engaged in making incursions on the possessions of their neighbours, or in controversies with each other. Their offensive and defensive weapons consisted of spears, darts, and shields, and they

fought on foot, as the Germans generally prefer to do at the present day. The females were virtuous, and devoted themselves to the labours of the household, and in time of war, attended their husbands, fathers, and brothers, to the field, where they occupied themselves in aiding the wounded, and not unusually in attacking the enemy. The Priests or Druids were the depositories of the traditions of the nation: they treasured up in memory the exploits of their bravest warriors, and on public festivals excited the people to emulation by repeating, in national songs, the achievements of their reputed heroes. They worshipped the Sun and inferior planets, in groves, as did the idolaters of Palestine, and in imitation of their barbarous example, occasionally immolated human victims on the altars of the Beings to whom they paid adoration. They appear to have been impatient of liberty, each tribe living under the guidance of its peculiar chief, and the nation submitting to the controul of a common leader in seasons of danger only, when the most esteemed warrior was elevated to that station on the same principle on which, in similar cases, the Romans united in the choice of a Dictator. The continuance, however, of the power of this general was coeval only with the event

which occasioned his election, and on the termination of the war, he retired again into the bosom of the nation. With regard to their legal institutions, it is conjectured that justice was administered by persons clad with requisite authority, and chosen, at stated periods, in a general assembly of the people, and this surmise is founded on the distinction made by the Romans, in alluding to the public officers of the Germans, between *Reges* and *Duces*. The Sarmatians, however, who were the ancient inhabitants of Poland, were led by their vicinity to the Scythians, to adopt many of their customs, and on that account they are frequently, but inaccurately, supposed to be of Asiatic origin. Their camps were moveable, and their wives and children were conveyed from place to place in wag-gons drawn by oxen. The men were generally clothed in furs, and their weapons were bows, arrows, long lances, and dag-gers. They neither fought nor travelled on foot, but constantly rode on horseback, and in war or on journies, led a spare horse with them in case of accident. But this semblance of distinction between the Germans and Sarmatians is easily reconciled, by remembering that an equal difference existed between the Poles and Germans in more recent times: the native of

Poland, to use the expression of a celebrated writer, deviated from the swarthy Tartar without attaining the fair complexion of the German, and then, as now, formed the connecting link between the Asiatic and the European. A question has arisen whether the Muscovites are of Sarmatian or Scythian extraction: the probability is that they are descendants of the ancient Moschi, a tribe of Huns or Tartars, who inhabited the country which lies between the Black Sea and the Caspian, and is at present distinguished by the name of Georgia. They are imagined to have emigrated subsequently to Kiow or Kiev, on the river Dnieper, and thence to Moscow, to which latter place they gave their name.

But the majority of the Russian people are said to be descendants of the Slavonians, by which name the Sarmatians became generally known in the reign of the Emperor Justinian. In aid of this supposition, historians affirm that the Slavonian language is spoken, in its native purity, in Bosnia: that the Polish dialects still retain traces of it, and that the language of the Venedi, a principal branch of this wandering nation, is yet preserved in Stiria, Carinthia, and Carniola.

For the better comprehension of the events narrated in the following pages, it is

requisite to mention that the several states conquered by the Romans at various periods of history, were annexed to the empire under the title of Provinces, and governed by military law. The provinces in Europe were, *Spain: Upper and Lower Germany*, consisting of the whole range of country from Leyden in Holland, to Basle on the frontiers of Switzerland, including the provinces of Gaul: *Rhætia*, or *Vindelicia*, of the districts from the Alps to the Danube, viz. Bavaria, Augsburg, the Tyrol, and the Grisons: *Noricum* and *Pannonia*, of Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Lower Hungary, and Croatia: *Mæsia*, of Servia and Bulgaria: and *Dacia*, of Upper Hungary, Transylvania, Wallachia, and Moldavia. Lower Germany was garrisoned by two military legions; Upper Germany, by three; Spain, Rhætia and Noricum, each by one; Pannonia, by four; Mæsia, by three; and Dacia, by two; in number, seventeen.

B. C. 578. About six centuries before the Christian æra, Ambigatus, one of the kings of Gaul, dismissed his nephews, Bellovesus and Sigovesus, in search of their respective fortunes: the latter established himself in Germany, and the former in the north of Italy. Nearly at the same period the Phœnicians, a nation settled on the eastern shores of the Medi-

terranean, and celebrated for their courage and proficiency in navigation, established colonies on the southern coasts of Spain, and having there discovered valuable gold and silver mines, compelled the natives to dig their rich contents. From these sources they drew incredible wealth, inso-much that a silver mine, in the neighbourhood of Carthagera, is said to have produced annually to the invaders a quantity of precious metal, equal in value to three hundred thousand pounds of English money at the currency of the present day. By some it is, indeed, asserted that the Phœnicians were acquainted with Spain at an earlier period, and founded Cadiz one thousand years prior to the Christian æra, but it is more probable that the country was not colonised until the conclusion of the seventh century before Christ, when that enterprising people sailed along the coasts of Africa on a voyage of discovery, at the instance of Nechos, king of Egypt.

During the exile of Camillus, the Gauls, under the command of Brennus, their general or king, descended in vast numbers from the northern parts of Italy, and being reinforced by several German tribes, inundated the Roman territories. They pillaged the imperial city, massacred the senate, and would have gained possession of the Capitol, had not Camillus opportunely appeared

B. C. 380.

at the head of an army, and driven the invaders out of Rome with immense slaughter.

B. C. 224. At the expiration of one hundred and thirty years, the memory of this defeat was entirely obliterated from the minds of the barbarians, and they again invaded Italy, but with similar misfortune: their numerous tribes were defeated: they were driven across the Po, and the greater portion of those who escaped the sword, became victims to the watery element. About a

B. C. 109. century previous to the Christian æra, Italy was threatened with a more formidable attack by the Cimbri and Teutones, nations then resident in Denmark and its islands, and a destructive war ensued which continued eight years. These barbarians assembled in arms to the number of five hundred thousand men, including auxiliary tribes of Gauls and Germans, encountered and defeated the Romans on the banks of the

B. C. 105. Rhone, and rushed into Italy with the violence of a torrent

At this season of danger, Caius Marius was appointed to the command of the Roman armies, and this celebrated general, after carrying on a defensive war with the enemy for several years, happily terminated the contest by the destruction of the Teutones in a pitched battle, in which, according to the Roman historians, two hundred thousand of the enemy were destroyed, and

ninety thousand taken prisoners. Following the tide of success, he then attacked the Cimbri in the neighbourhood of Aix in Provence, (a district afterwards so called in consequence of being annexed by Cæsar to the Roman state as a Province,) and gave them a signal defeat, in which their loss, including prisoners, is said to have amounted to more than one hundred and fifty thousand men. B. C. 101.

These successive defeats appalled the hearts of the barbarians: the destruction of such multitudes annihilated their political strength, and they did not venture to appear in arms against their conquerors for the space of half a century. Subsequently to these events, the Romans are found actively engaged in extending their territories, and on the nomination of Julius Cæsar to the command of their armies, he determined to subdue Gaul, and afterwards to conquer Britain. B. C. 55.
Julius Cæsar With this view, he marched into the former country with a numerous and well appointed army, and finding on his arrival that it was distracted by a war then raging between the Sequani and Ædui, Gallic tribes, he supported and encouraged the latter, and by artfully fomenting the differences of the contending parties, kept the war alive till the exhausted country became an easy prey to his ambition. Cæsar continued to

administer the affairs of Gaul several years, and amongst other precautionary measures adopted to keep the people in subjection, employed his army during that period in building strong fortresses on the banks of the Rhine.

B. C. 50. On the commencement of the war with Pompey, Cæsar resigned the command of Gaul and returned to Rome, having previously enlisted in his service a considerable number of German and Gallic troops, and invited the leading chiefs of those nations to accompany him in his expedition.

B. C. 44.
Augustus. On the death of Cæsar, Augustus succeeded to the government of Rome, and commenced his career by an expedition against the Sicambri, a people of Germany, then under the command of a chief, named Melo, and having reduced them to subjection, he placed them in the western provinces of Gaul. During this reign the

B. C. 15. Romans made rapid advances amongst the barbarous nations. Austria became a Roman province, under the title of Noricum: the Rhæti and Vindelici, nations residing in the Tyrol, and the bishopric of Augsburg, were subdued by the Roman generals, Drusus and Tiberius, and the Grisons, the Tyrol, Augsburg, and Bavaria, were annexed to the empire under the names of

B. C. 12. Rhætia or Vindelicia. Tiberius also sub-

dued Pannonia, which comprehended Croatia, Carniola, Styria, Bosnia, part of Servia and of the modern kingdom of Hungary, and Drusus completed the triumph by the conquest of the northern barbarians, who then inhabited the country between the rivers Ems and Weser. Eight years before B. C. 8. the Christian æra, Maroboduus, king of the Marcomanni, a German nation on the Banks of the river Neckar, near Stutgard, marched at the head of his people into the country of the Bojii, or Bohemia, and having expelled them, took up his residence there, and the Boii crossed the Danube, and established themselves on the banks of the river Inn. Several tribes of the Helvetii, who inhabited Switzerland, and of the Sequani, who resided in Franche Compté, a province of France, occupied the country which the Marcomanni had left, and became known by the name of the Alemanni.

At this period, the Romans turned their arms against the Longobardi, a German nation, who are supposed to have resided near Brandenburgh, in Prussia, and an army, under the command of Tiberius, conquered their country. But the imperial arms afterwards sustained a severe loss in the destruction of Quintilius Varus, the Proconsul, and several legions, who fell in

a general revolt of the Germans, headed by their leader Arminius.

- A. D. 14. *Tiberius.* On the death of Augustus, Tiberius became emperor, and Germanicus being appointed general, retrieved the honour of his country by the defeat of Arminius and the subjugation of the people of Holland, then known by the name of Batavi, for which exploits he was honoured with a triumph at Rome. After the return of Germanicus, a war broke out between Maroboduus and Arminius and other native chiefs, in the course of which Maroboduus resigned his command, and was succeeded by Vannius, and Arminius being dispatched by poison, peace was restored, and Germany continued in tranquillity for several years.
- A. D. 37. *Caligula.* Tiberius was succeeded by Caligula, who made an expedition into Gaul, but returned without achieving any conquest, and on the death of Caligula, the reins of government were assumed by Claudius, who undertook an expedition into Britain, and reinforced his army by the addition of a body of German auxiliaries.
- A. D. 41. *Claudius.*
- A. D. 43.

During this reign, the Chauci, by whom the country near Bremen was inhabited, invaded Lower Germany, but were defeated by Corbulo, the Roman Lieutenant, who is said to have founded the city of Groningen, in North Holland. The Catti

also, a German nation, residing near Hesse Cassel, and ancestors of the modern Hessians, invaded Upper Germany, and met with a similar fate at the hands of L. Pomponius, another of the Roman generals

On the decease of Claudius, Nero succeeded to the throne, and on his death, Galba, who was assassinated within the space of twelve months from the time of his accession, and succeeded by Otho. Vitellius at that time commanded the army on the Rhine, and being proclaimed Emperor by the soldiers, marched towards Rome. In his progress he was met by Otho, who offered him battle, in consequence of which an engagement took place; and Otho was defeated and slain.

In the following year, Vespasian was induced to aspire to the throne, and being then in the east, instigated Claudius Civilis, and Julius Classicus, Batavian chiefs in the Roman service, to rebel against Vitellius, and create a diversion against him on the Upper Rhine. This stratagem answered for the time, but the Batavian leaders were not inclined, after the death of Vitellius and the accession of Vespasian, to resign the advantages they had gained, and continued to prosecute the war for the purposes of their own emolument, which they were

A. D. 54.
Nero.

A. D. 68.
*Galba, Otho,
& Vitellius.*

A. D. 69.
Vespasian.

enabled to do the more effectually, in consequence of having trained the Batavians to arms after the Roman fashion. Cerialis, the Roman general, was then ordered to reduce them to submission, and he accordingly drew the legions together, and marched against Civilis. The latter by way of retaliation, destroyed several of the Roman forts on the Rhine, but being attacked and defeated by Cerialis, retired into Holland, and caused the country to be inundated. Cerialis followed him, and a sea-fight took place between the Batavi and Romans at the mouth of the Maes, which ended in a drawn battle; after which the Romans finding it difficult to prosecute the war in that remote country, offered terms of peace, which Civilis accepted and returned to his allegiance.

A. D. 79. On the death of Vespasian, he was succeeded by his son *Titus*, and the latter, **A. D. 81.** after a reign of two years, by *Domitian*.

With the exception of a trivial war between the Catti and Charioner, king of the Chemsii, in which the latter was defeated, Germany appears to have remained in tranquillity for some years, and several of the barbarian chiefs were induced to visit Rome, amongst whom were Masyas, king of the Semnoncs, a nation residing on the banks of the Elbe, and Ganna, a celebrated augress. The peace was, however,

broken by the Suevi, a nation situated **A. D. 85.**
 between the Oder and the Elbe, who made
 incursions into Pannonia, whilst L. Anto-
 nius, a Roman lieutenant, added to the
 confusion by revolting against the empe-
 ror, and Decebalus, king of the Daci,
 by whom Hungary and the adjacent dis- **A. D. 88.**
 tricts were then inhabited, availed himself
 of the opportunity to make war upon
 Domitian. These difficulties were met
 and overcome by the resolution of the
 emperor: the Suevi were repelled, Anto-
 nius defeated, and Decebalus persuaded to
 enter into a treaty of peace.

After a reign of fifteen years, Domitian **A. D. 96.**
 was put to death, and succeeded by Nerva, *Nerva.*
 and he, having reigned two years, by **A. D. 98.**
 Trajan. The latter monarch renewed the *Trajan.*
 war against the Daci, and after a reso- **A. D. 103.**
 lute but unavailing defence, Decebalus de-
 stroyed himself, and Dacia became a Ro-
 man province, in commemoration of which
 event, a triumphal column, known by the
 name of Trajan's pillar, was erected at **A. D. 114.**
 Rome. The vacancy in the empire occa-
 sioned by the death of Trajan, was filled by **A. D. 117.**
 Adrian, who took a survey of the Roman *Adrian.*
 provinces, and founded several towns on
 each side of the Danube for the better
 preservation of tranquillity, and amongst

others Juvavia, a city in Austria, on the banks of the River Inn, on the site of which Salzburg now stands.

A. D. 138. Adrian was succeeded by Antoninus *Antoninus Pius.* Pius, who reigned for many years in peace,

A. D. 161. and at his death, Marcus Aurelius, who *Marcus Aurelius.* had married his daughter Faustina, and become his associate in the empire, assumed the entire administration of affairs. About this period, the Catti passed the Rhine in considerable force, and invaded Germany, but were repelled by Didius Julianus, a Roman General, and afterwards a candidate for the imperial dignity.

A. D. 162. In the ensuing year a war broke out with the Parthians, and Aurelius being deeply engaged in it, the Marcomanni and several other German nations took advantage of the opportunity to cross the Danube, and

A. D. 165. approach the south. The Parthian war, however, was brought to a successful conclusion, and Aurelius, together with

L. Verus. Verus, whom he had allowed to participate in the sovereign power, turned their arms against the Germans, and after a

A. D. 170. desultory warfare of five years, during which Verus died, the barbarians were totally defeated and driven across the Danube. But the desire of invasion had not wholly subsided; a general insurrec-

A. D. 174. tion of the German nations took place,

amongst whom the Quadi, inhabitants of Moravia, the Jazyges, residing on the banks of the Dniester, and the Marcomanni, were the most conspicuous. This contest continued for the space of three years, during which Rhætia, comprehending Bavaria, the Tyrol, and Grisons, was occupied by the enemy, but Aurelius, assisted by Pompeianus, who had married his daughter Lucilla, and Pertinax, afterwards emperor, prosecuted the war with such vigour, A. D. 177. that Rhætia was recovered from the invaders after a series of splendid victories, and the confederates constrained to sue for peace. Their petition was granted on condition that they were not to approach the Rhine, and in order to secure their observance of the treaty, Aurelius took their principal youths as hostages, enlisted them in the Roman armies, and sent them into Britain. Two years after, a feeble attempt was A. D. 179. made by the Marcomanni to invade Italy, but they were expelled by Aurelius, who advanced as far as Vienna, and died at that place. Commodus succeeded to the imperial dignity, and prosecuted the war with success similar to that of his predecessor, and compelled the barbarians to solicit a renewal of the general peace.

The attention of the historian is hence- A. D. 181.

forth occupied for the space of nearly seventy years, with the internal dissensions of the Romans, during which the German nations, fearful of a repetition of the calamities they had suffered, remained silent spectators of the various contests for power.

A. D. 192. Commodus was assassinated about eleven years after his accession, and on his decease *Pertinax.* Pertinax chosen emperor, but he being destroyed by the soldiers, a war arose

A. D. 207. between Didius Julianus, Pescennius Nig-
Septimius
Severus. ger, Albinus, and Septimius Severus, commander of the Roman army in Pannonia, which terminated in the destruction of all the competitors, except the latter.

A. D. 211. On the death of Severus, his sons *Caracalla.* Caracalla and Geta, ascended the throne: Geta

A. D. 212. *Geta.* was assassinated by his brother in the following year, and Caracalla in turn ex-

A. D. 217. perience a similar fate at the hands of *Macrinus.* Macrinus. The reign of this emperor was of short duration: he was destroyed by

A. D. 218. *Heliogabalus.* Heliogabalus, and the latter being killed by his soldiers, was succeeded by Alex-

A. D. 222. *Alexander* Alexander Severus.

Severus. Soon after, the Germans invaded Gaul, and Severus marched against them at the head of a numerous army, but the troops revolted, put him to death, and pro-

A. D. 235. claimed Maximin, the second in command, *Maximin.* emperor in his stead. Maximin prosecuted

the war with unrelenting fury: advanced into the centre of Germany, wasted the country for the space of four hundred miles with fire and sword, and received from his soldiers the reward of his cruelty on the plains he had ravaged. He was killed in his tent, and succeeded in the empire by **A. D. 236.**

Marcus Antonius Africanus Gordianus, *The Gordians.*

Proconsul of Africa, and his son of the same name, who had been chosen a few weeks prior to the death of Maximin, by the people of that province, governor of Mauritania. They, however, died within a very short period after their election, and the Senate nominated Maximus Pupienus and Balbinus, in their stead. But their reign was equally limited in duration: they were successively put to death by the

people in the same year, and Gordianus (a **A. D. 238.** *The younger Gordian.*)

grandson of Marcus Antonius Gordianus,) assumed the reins of government. During these scenes of anarchy and bloodshed, the Franks and Goths were occupied in concentrating their wandering tribes into national masses, and silently descending from their abodes in the north of Europe: the former to the western, and the latter to the eastern banks of the Danube.

Not long after the accession of Gordian, Sapor, king of Persia, declared war against the Romans, and the emperor taking up

- arms against him, marched into the east, defeating in his way a numerous body of Goths, who had penetrated into Mæsia, (Servia and Bulgaria,) and carried on hostilities with great success against the Per-
- A. D. 244. sians. He was, however, assassinated and
Philip. succeeded by Philip, one of his generals, in whose reign the Goths and Scythians, headed by their king, Ostrogotha, crossed the Danube, and besieged Marcianopolis, a city on the borders of the Black Sea. Philip, anxious to preserve his newly acquired honours, purchased their retreat by a liberal donation, but being assassinated five
A. D. 249. years afterwards by Decius, the Goths availed themselves of the confusion created by that event, and again crossed the Danube under the command of their general Cniva. Decius attacked them several times with success, till at length a battle took place in Mæsia, in which the Romans were defeated
A. D. 251. with great loss, and the Emperor slain.
Gallus. Gallus was then raised to the throne, and deemed it prudent, in the exhausted state of the country, to propose a truce, to which the Goths acceded, on payment of a considerable sum of money. He reigned two years, and was then killed by his soldiers,
A. D. 253. who elected Æmilianus, governor of Panno-
Æmilianus. nia, emperor in his place. The latter commenced his career by an expedition against

the Goths, which promised a favourable issue to the Romans, but he was murdered by his licentious troops, and Valerianus raised to the imperial dignity. Immediately on his accession, this monarch gave the command of the army to his son Gallienus, and sent him with Posthumus, a Roman general, against the Germans, over whom they gained several important victories. Valerianus then undertook an expedition against Sapor, king of Persia, which terminated in his own destruction, for he was seized by stratagem, imprisoned, and after suffering extreme tortures, put to death.

A. D. 254.
Valerian.

The Goths observing the defenceless state of the eastern part of the empire, Valerianus being dead, and Gallienus absent in Gaul, made three dreadful incursions into Greece, during which Athens and many other cities were sacked and ruined. Emboldened by this success, they afterwards passed into Turkey in Asia, committed similar depredations on the maritime cities, and destroyed the celebrated temple of Diana at Ephesus. These disasters compelled Gallienus to return to Italy for the purpose of repelling the Goths, on which Posthumus, his colleague, assumed the supreme command in Gaul, and continued the war with the Germans.

A. D. 257.
Gallienus.

Gaul, thus severed from the Roman

Empire, continued to exist as a separate kingdom under the government of Posthumus, and his successors Lælianus, Victorinus, and Tetricus; till the latter was subdued by the Emperor Aurelian, and the alienated provinces again united to the Roman state. On the approach of Gallienus, the Goths retired, but the emperor pursued and attacked them, laden with spoil, and ultimately drove them out of Mæsia. It should appear that the dread of his resentment prevented any serious incursions of these barbarians for some years after his return, but at length they ventured to make another expedition into Greece, in which, after committing their usual depredations, they were defeated by Gallienus with immense loss, and compelled to retrace their steps across the Danube.

- A. D. 267.** In the following year Gallienus was murdered, and *Flavius Claudius* succeeded to the throne. At this time the safety of the empire was threatened by the Alemanni, who had invaded Italy, and the Goths who had penetrated in great force into Bosnia and Servia. Claudius immediately levied a large army, and marching against the Alemanni, gave them a signal defeat; he then turned his arms against the Goths, whom he also routed with so great slaugh-

ter, that three hundred thousand are said to have fallen in their various encounters with the Romans. Claudius died soon afterwards, and was succeeded by the emperor A. D. 270. Aurelian, who revived the terror of the *Aurelian.* Roman name, and shone, for the space of five years, a brilliant constellation in the dark horizon of the Roman state. On assuming the reins of government, Aurelian found his dominions invaded by the Marcomanni, who had penetrated into Italy as far as Milan: the Vandals had followed their steps with increasing numbers: and many tribes of Sarmatians had formed encampments in Thrace, Hungary, and Croatia, whilst the Juthungi and Alemanni, threatened an attack on Gaul. In this critical situation of affairs, the courage and promptitude of Aurelian unexpectedly led him into the path of victory: he attacked his German foes, as being the most distant, and having reduced them to obedience, marched into Gaul, and compelled Tetricus, who had assumed the imperial dignity in that province, to resign his usurped authority. With forces thus augmented by the accession of the Roman troops in Gaul, he encountered the Vandals and other barbarians, who had invaded the northern parts of Italy, and defeated them in several battles, particularly at Pavia,

where their army was nearly exterminated.

A. D. 272. The climax of this success was the defeat of the Goths and Sarmatians in Thrace and Croatia, and the restoration of those districts to the Roman empire.

A. D. 273. Aurelian afterwards undertook an expedition into Asia, with the view of subduing Zenobia, queen of Palmyra, who had assumed the title of Empress of the East and obtained possession of several provinces in Asia Minor. Returning in triumph from this enterprize, the emperor found that, during his absence, the Franks had made inroads into Spain, and the Germans into Gaul, on which he marched against them with his victorious troops, drove them out of Spain and Gaul, and reunited the latter province to the empire.

A. D. 274. Aurelian perceived, however, that it was impossible for the state to resist the increasing pressure of the barbarous nations, and he therefore resigned the province of Dacia to the Goths and Vandals, and concluded a treaty of peace with them. This cessation of hostilities was to continue for twenty years, and in order to insure the due observance of it, he took hostages from the principal families of the barbarians, and married several of their chief women to officers in the Roman service. In the ensuing year, Aurelian occupied himself

in preparing to march against the Persians; but a tumult arising amongst his soldiers, at the instigation of one of his officers, he was assassinated; and Tacitus, a descendant ^{A. D. 275.} *Tacitus.* of the celebrated historian, succeeded him in the empire. This monarch, though advanced in age, distinguished himself as a warrior during a short reign of six months, by the defeat of the Germans, who had made an incursion into Gaul, and of the Alauni, a nation of Scythians or Tartars, who had emigrated from the Palus Mæotis, or Sea of Azof.

In his expedition against the latter, ^{A. D. 277.} *Probus.* Tacitus was assassinated, and Probus being proclaimed emperor in his stead, prosecuted the war against the enemy with renewed vigour. He drove the Germans, Franks, and Burgundians, (a nation of Vandalic origin), out of Gaul, carried the war into Germany, and defeated the confederate tribes on the banks of the Elbe. His career was arrested for a time by the rebellion in Gaul of his generals, Proculus and Bonosus, but several of the German chiefs sided with him, and enabled him to gain the ascendancy, on which he caused Proculus to be put to death. Amongst other remarkable circumstances connected with this war, is the discovery of the Aarii, a nation near Poland, of whom it is said that

they painted their bodies and their armour black, and always made their attacks under cover of the night. Having restored tranquillity to Germany, Probus built a wall of stone from Ratisbon to the Danube, to prevent the frequent incursions of the barbarians, and employed his army in planting vineyards in the neighbourhood of the Rhine and Moselle, and in rebuilding the cities, as well on the northern as on the southern side of the Danube, which had suffered by the war. But the licentious spirit of the soldiery could not patiently submit to these laborious occupations; a tumult arose, and several of them in a paroxysm of fury, rushed on the emperor and stabbed him with their swords, whilst he was superintending the works.

A. D. 282. Probus was succeeded by **Carus**, who
Carus. immediately on his accession, sent his eldest son, Carinus, into Gaul, and marched with his youngest son, Numerianus, against the Persians, over whom he gained repeated victories. Carus was killed in Asia by a flash of lightning, after a reign of two years: Numerianus was put to death by one of his relations, in the expectation of succeeding him in the command, and Carinus, after a short enjoyment of the imperial dignity, was attacked by Dioclesian, a Roman general, who had revolted against

him, and a battle ensued, in which he was slain by a soldier, whose wife he had violated.

On the death of Carinus, Dioclesian as-
 cended the throne, and selected Maximian, *Dioclesian
 and
 Maximian.* an officer who had been his comrade during his military career, for his colleague in the empire. During the space of four years from this period, the attention of these sovereigns was occupied in repelling the Burgundians and Alemanni, who frequently invaded Gaul, and the Franks, who had taken part with Carausius, a Menapien, formerly in the Roman service, and had assisted him in occupying several of the sea-ports in Britain with a hostile force.

The Romans afterwards entered into a *A. D. 288.* treaty of peace with Carausius, in order to enable them to turn their arms more effectually against the revolted Germans, and the latter were soon reduced to submission. At the same time, war broke out between Narses, king of Persia, and the Romans, on which Dioclesian appointed Constantius and Galerius, natives of Pannonia, to be his generals, with the title of Cæsars, and Galerius relieved the imperial dominions from the pressure of the barbarians, by taking numbers of the Goths with him to the east as auxiliaries. Constantius, on the other hand, directed his

- attention to the recovery of Britain, and
- A. D. 292. landing in the Isle of Wight, defeated a body of Franks posted there to intercept his passage, conquered Allectus, by whom Carausius had been succeeded, on the
- A. D. 296. coast of Kent, and regained possession of the island.
- A. D. 304. In the midst of a brilliant and unclouded reign, Dioclesian and Maximian resigned the imperial power into the hands of Constantius and Galerius, and Dioclesian retired to Salona, a town of Dalmatia, on the sea coast, where Spalatro now is, and where the ruins of his palace are yet visible.
- A. D. 304. Soon after this event, Constantius undertook an expedition into Britain, and died
- A. D. 306. at York, on which he was succeeded by his son Constantine, who married Fausta, the daughter of Maximian, and established himself in Gaul. For the space of five years from this time, Italy was agitated by continual contests between Galerius who had married Valeria, the daughter of Dioclesian, and Maxentius, son of Maximian, the late emperor, both of whom aspired to the throne. . . On the termination of these
- A. D. 311. dissensions by the death of Galerius, Constantine quitted Gaul, and marching towards Rome, was attacked by Maxentius, whom he defeated in a pitched battle, and the latter, in making his escape over a bridge thrown across the Tiber, fell into the river

and was drowned. By this event, Constantine found himself without any opponent, except Licinius, an officer of considerable abilities, to whom the government of the provinces of Pannonia and Rhætia had been entrusted. Constantine appointed an interview with him at Milan, and succeeded in gaining his favourable opinion and support by giving his sister Constantia to him in marriage. The long and glorious reign of Constantine was distinguished by the subjugation of several barbarous nations, and the defeat of his enemies at home. The Franks, it is true, invaded Gaul, and the Goths made inroads into Thrace, under their king Ariaric, but they were successively compelled to acknowledge the prowess of the emperor and submit to his authority: multitudes of Sarmatians expelled from their territories by other and more powerful tribes, sought shelter within his dominions: the Vandals, oppressed by the Goths, applied to him for succour, and were established in Pannonia; and Licinius, his brother-in-law, after repeated attempts made against his life, was defeated and slain. The remainder of the reign of Constantine was devoted to the internal regulation and improvement of his dominions: he built a magnificent city on the site of Byzantium, the capital of

Thrace, to which he gave his own appellation, and named it Constantinople: appointed governors, under the title of *Prefecti Pretorii*, to superintend the various districts of the empire, and having embraced Christianity, ordained Bishops to administer the spiritual affairs of every province. These Ecclesiastics were, at first, distinguished by the title of Metropolitan, and afterwards of Archbishop, and several provinces united formed a diocese, the bishop of which was termed the Primate. In like manner, the dioceses were added to each other, and committed to the charge of spiritual persons, denominated Patriarchs, the principal of whom were those of Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Constantinople.

A. C. 337. On the death of Constantine, the empire was divided amongst his three sons *Constantinus*, *Constantine*, *Constantius*, and *Constans*; but disputes arising between them in regard to the partition, and Constantine being killed in an engagement with Constans, the latter became emperor of Rome or the

A. D. 340. west, and Constantius of Constantinople or the east. About this period, the Franks having committed depredations in Gaul, drew the attention of Constans, and he prepared to take the field against them, but after some time consumed in negotiation, tranquillity was restored, and the

Roman provinces remained for the space of six years, unmolested by the barbarians. This season of leisure, however, was amply occupied by the celebrated controversy A. D. 344. which then arose in the church between the followers of Arius, who denied the divinity of the *Word*, and others, who supported the affirmative of that doctrine. These dissensions commenced in the early part of the third century, and owed their origin to Arius, Presbyter of Alexandria, a man of a subtile turn, and remarkable for his eloquence. He maintained that the Son was essentially distinct from the Father, and inferior both in nature and dignity. His tenets were first promulgated in the year 315, and in 325 a council of the clergy was held at Nice to discuss the question, at which it was declared by the majority of the bishops that the Son was co-equal and co-eternal. The principal champion on the side of Arius, at the period in question, was Eusebius, bishop of Cesarea, whilst Athanasius, Patriarch of Alexandria, as warmly espoused the cause of the opposite party, and Constantine finding it impossible to quell this religious difference, summoned all the bishops, as well eastern as western, to a council at Sardica, now Sophia, in Thrace; for the purpose of re-arguing the question. It would be foreign

to the object of these pages to enter on the discussion of this subject, but it is worthy of remark that amongst the ecclesiastics summoned to the meeting was the bishop of Treves, or Triers, a city in Gallia Belgica, who is mentioned to have taken equal rank with the Pope, or bishop of Rome.

- A. C. 350. Constans was afterwards killed by Magnentius, a German in the Roman service, who aspired to the imperial crown, on which Constantius marched against the assassin, defeated his troops on the banks of the river Drave, in Hungary, and reduced him to such extremity, that he put an end to his existence, to escape the hands of the conqueror.

No sooner had Constantius become the sole possessor of his father's dominions, than he found himself involved in a contest with the barbarous nations, who began to spread the flames of war throughout Germany. The first step towards revolt was taken by Silvanus, a Frank employed in the Roman service, and stationed near the Rhine, but his designs were not supported by his countrymen, and he was ultimately killed by the soldiery. With the view of preserving tranquillity, the emperor passed the Rhine, and attempted to form an offensive and defensive alliance with Gundomar

and Vandomar, princes of the Alemanni, who had commenced hostilities against the empire, but his endeavours were unsuccessful, and finding himself unable to resist the pressure of the enemy without additional assistance, although he had defeated them near the banks of that river, he gave his sister Helena in marriage to Julian, his cousin, and divided the empire with him. The result fully answered the expectations of Constantius, for Julian, with that portion of the army entrusted to his command, took the field against the Franks and Alemanni, and gained a series of splendid victories over them. A gleam of success, indeed, shone for a time on the arms of the barbarians, but it was of short duration. A powerful army had been detached from Italy under the command of Barbatio, the Roman general, in order to assist the emperor in his military operations. His ardour, however, as a soldier, overcame his prudence as a commander, for he incautiously passed the Rhine near Basle, and attacking the enemy, who were posted in considerable force, sustained a severe defeat. On receipt of this unwelcome intelligence, Julian marched to his relief, and although the barbarians were animated by their recent victory, he attacked them near Strasburgh, routed them

with immense slaughter, and carried their leader, Chnodamar, who had been taken prisoner in the action, to Rome, where he died. Nor did Constantius remain an idle spectator of these events, for whilst Julian was pursuing his successful career and carrying the war into the heart of Germany, and whilst Barbatio, who had collected his scattered troops, was making atonement for his former error by driving the Juthungi out of Rhætia, Constantius marched against

A. C. 357. the Quadi, by whom Moravia had been occupied, and having compelled them to swear fealty on their swords, a common mode of submission amongst the Germans, led his troops into Asia, and commenced hostilities against the Persians.

Towards the conclusion of the year, Julian placed his army in winter quarters at Paris, and availed himself of the opportunity to subdue the Salii, a nation so called from living in the Saal, or

A. D. 358. Low Countries near the river Yssel. He also reduced to obedience Surmarius and Hortarius, chiefs of the Alemanni, who had shewn a disposition to revolt, and, in order to secure their fidelity, obliged them to rebuild the forts on the Rhine, which had been destroyed by the barbarians during the war. As the country had been ravaged by the contending parties, and provisions

were scarce, Julian resolved to obtain corn for his army from Britain; and for that purpose, vessels were built in the forest of Ardennes, and sent to Britain for supplies. On their return they sailed up the Rhine, and delivered their cargoes at the different forts erected on the banks of that river, where the grain was deposited in magazines. The good fortune of Julian had rendered him very popular with the troops, and they proclaimed him emperor, in exclusion of Constantius, on which he led them out of Gaul into Italy, with the intention of assuming the government of Rome and Constantinople. As soon as Constantius received this intelligence, he withdrew his army from the Persian war, and marched to encounter his rival, but being suddenly attacked by illness, he died in Cilicia, on his route, and Julian succeeded to the empire without opposition.

A. D. 360.
Julian.

The tumultous spirit of the barbarian nations being for the time lushed into tranquillity by the terror of the Roman name, Julian was left at liberty to prosecute the Persian war, which he did with considerable success, but at length he was killed in battle, and succeeded by Jovian. This emperor occupied the throne for a few months only, after which the two

A. D. 363.
Jovian.

A. D. 364. brothers *Valentinian and Valens*, divided the empire between them. During their joint reign, the troubles of the state recommenced: the Alemanni invaded Gaul; Procopius, a general in the Roman service, rebelled and seized on Constantinople: the Wisigoths, who had recently been permitted to settle in Thrace, took up arms against the Romans, and the Saxons, then resident in Denmark or Holstein, and proverbially known as pirates, ravaged the coasts of Britain and Gaul. The genius, however, of Rome triumphed amidst these accumulated disasters. The Alemanni were defeated and reduced to submission by Valentinian, aided by Jovinus, an enterprising officer and general of the Roman cavalry: Procopius was attacked, defeated, and slain by the emperor Valens: the Wisigoths, under their prince, Athanaric,

A. D. 367. were compelled to sue for peace, and the Saxons were defeated in Britain by Theodosius, the Roman general. The latter also attacked a fleet of Saxons, who had plundered the maritime states of Gaul, and punished them severely for the outrages they had committed.

Having thus reduced the barbarians to submission, Valentinian employed his army in rebuilding the forts on the Rhine, and

not contented with securing, by this measure, the provinces of Gaul from the incursions of the Germans, he proceeded to divert the attention of his enemies from the destruction of the empire, by setting them at variance with each other. A favourable opportunity presented itself for carrying this plan into effect, in consequence of disputes having arisen between the Burgundians and Alemanni, in relation to the right of using certain salt-pits, and so well did Valentinian improve his advantage, that for several years their mutual aggressions delivered the Romans from all apprehension as to the safety of the provinces of Gaul.

No sooner were the affairs of the western A. D. 374. empire restored to tranquillity, than Pannonia was threatened by an irruption of the Quadi, under the command of Gabinius. This formidable attack, from which the most serious consequences were, at first, anticipated, was averted by a proposal for peace made by the emperor, and during the progress of the treaty, Gabinius having accepted an invitation to a banquet given in the Roman camp, was treacherously assassinated. The Quadi, infuriated at this breach of the laws of hospitality, resumed their arms, and prosecuted the war with redoubled vigour, but being deprived of their

leader, and pressed by the superior forces of the Romans, they were defeated with great loss. These disastrous events, however, did not prevent them from again appealing to the decision of the sword; they appeared in the field with numerous reinforcements, renewed the contest, and were again routed with immense slaughter. Finding it vain to contend with their adverse fortune, they were reduced to the alternative of suing for peace: on which occasion they sent ambassadors to negotiate with the emperor. During the conference which took place for the purpose of settling the terms of the treaty, the passion of Valentinian obtained the mastery over his reason: he proceeded to comment on their alleged infidelity with increasing violence, and in the midst of his animadversions, burst a blood-vessel and expired.

A. D. 375. Valentinian was succeeded by his sons
Valens,
Gratian,
and
Valentinian
2nd. Gratian, who was then of age, and had been previously allowed by his father to participate in the imperial dignity, and Valentinian the second, an infant, both of whom were associated with Valens in the empire. At this time the disposition of the barbarous nations in the east, was nearly in the following order: the Wisigoths inhabited Moldavia, Podolia, and Wallachia: the Ostrogoths resided near the Tanais or

Don; on the right of that river were the Alauni, a tribe of Tartars, who had also settlements on the banks of the Caspian Sea, and near them were the Huns, a Scythian nation, whose abode was on the eastern shores of the sea of Azof.

Many learned commentators have asserted that the country occupied at that time by the Huns, was the same as is mentioned in Ezekiel by the description of Gog, the land of Magog. Magog was the second son of Japhet, and, it is said, gave his name to that part of the world, the Mogul Tartars, who are unquestionably Scythians, being still known by the name of Gog. Michaelis assimilates the word Gog to that of Kak or Chak, the general name of kings amongst the ancient Turks, Moguls, and Tartars, and Dr. Hyde asserts that the Arabs distinguish the celebrated Chinese wall, which was built nearly three hundred years before the Christian æra, to prevent the incursions of the Tartars, as the wall Gog and Magog. It seems probable that Magog was the name given to those vast tracts of land, called Scythia by the Greeks, and Tartary by the moderns, and that the Tartars being defeated and repelled by the Chinese and other Oriental nations, directed their course towards the west, and established themselves, at the

close of the second century, on the banks of the Caspian Sea and the borders of Russia. In proportion as the Romans became less capable of resisting their encroachments, these barbarians pressed towards the west, and occupied the fairest provinces of the empire. Amongst others the Abari, an Hunnic nation, established themselves in Pannonia, or Lower Hungary, and remained in possession of that country till the time of Charlemagne, by whom they were subdued, and after that period, they were known by the modern appellation of Hungarians. In Menander, mention is made of the Khan of the Abari, taking an oath by uplifting his sword, and as the Sarmatians adopted a similar custom, it is to be inferred that it was the usual mode of adjuration adopted in the earlier ages by the barbarians of Asia as well as of Europe. To other branches of the Hunnic race also may be added the Bulgarians, a people of roving disposition, and living on the flesh of their horses and cattle: in the reign of the emperor Justinian, they emigrated from the shores of the sea of Azof, established themselves in Europe, and gave their name to the province of Bulgaria.

The safety of the Roman empire had been hitherto threatened on the side of

Gaul and the Danube: it now began to be menaced on its Asiatic boundaries. The Huns fell on the Alauni, and after defeating them, attacked the Goths, and compelled them to seek the protection of the Romans. This was readily granted, and the Goths were permitted to occupy part of Thrace, but a dissention suddenly arose between them and their allies, on which they united their forces to those of the Huns, and overran the country, under the command of their prince, Farnobius.

They were, at first, successfully opposed and routed by Frigerid, a general in the Roman service, and multitudes of the prisoners sent into Italy, as slaves. But this good fortune was of short duration; Gratian was compelled to march against the Leuticenses, who had established themselves in Rætia and threatened Gaul, and during his absence on this expedition, Valens was attacked by the Goths near A. D. 378. Adrianople, defeated and slain. Flushed with victory, the Goths laid siege to the imperial residence, and Constantinople, in all probability, would have fallen into their hands, had it not been vigorously defended by a body of Saracens, then within its walls. On learning the mournful fate of his colleague, Gratian immediately withdrew his forces from Gaul, and proceeded

towards the east, but finding it impossible to cope single handed with the numerous tribes of barbarians scattered over the extensive surface of the state, he selected Theodosius, by birth a Spaniard, and by rank a commander in the Roman army, as worthy of his confidence, and having divided the empire with him, entrusted him

A. D. 379. with the conduct of the Gothic war. From

Gratian,
Valentinian
2nd, and
Theodosius. the defective state of the annals of history at this period, it is impossible to detail, with accuracy, the frequent changes which

took place in political affairs; it can only be collected generally, that in addition to the irruptions of the Goths and Huns, the empire was harrassed by the Quadi and other Sarmatian tribes: that the Romans were materially assisted by the Franks, who marched to their relief with a powerful

A. D. 380. army, and that Theodosius and Gratian, after having defeated the Quadi, by the assistance of these auxiliaries, on the banks of the Danube, entered into a treaty of peace with the Goths and Huns. Matters

A. D. 381. thus arranged, Gratian assumed the command in Gaul, and Theodosius remained at Constantinople, where he exercised the authority of Emperor of the east. But this season of repose was terminated in the course of the ensuing year, in consequence of the invasion of the Gallic provinces by

Maximus Magnus, a Spaniard by extraction, and the Roman governor in Britain. This commander landed in Gaul at the head of his troops, advanced into the country, and having seized the emperor Gratian, caused him to be put to death, together with Mellobaudes, a chief of the Franks, his companion, who bravely sacrificed his life in defence of his patron and ally.

Maximus then claimed admission to the imperial throne, and Theodosius, being unable to offer any effectual opposition, was compelled to accede to his demand.

A. D. 383.
Theodosius,
Valentinian
2nd, and
Maximus.

On this, Maximus prepared to march into Italy, with the intention of deposing Valentinian 2nd, to whom the care of that portion of the state had been committed, but Theodosius, apprehending that his own safety was involved in that of Valentinian, hastily collected his troops, and proceeding from Constantinople towards the west, encountered the invading army at Aquileia, a city on the northern shore of the Adriatic, put it to the rout, and Maximus fell in the action.

A. D. 387.

Valentinian the 2nd did not long survive his deliverance from his opponent, for after his return to Rome, which he had quitted at the approach of the invader, he was stabbed by Arbogastes, a Frank in the Roman service, and the latter being disqualified on account of his foreign extrac-

A. D. 392. tion, from assuming the imperial title,
Theodosius placed Eugenius, a Rhetorician, on the
and throne. But the conspirators were not per-
Eugenius. mitted to enjoy the fruits of their perfidy :
 Theodosius again advanced from Constan-
 tinople, and gave battle to them : their
 troops were routed, Eugenius was slain, and
 Arbogastes terminated his existence by his
 own hands. Theodosius died at Milan
 A. D. 395. about three years after these events, and
Arcadius
and
Honorius. left his dominions to his two sons, Arcadius,
 who became emperor of the East, and
 Honorius, of the West.

During the reign of Theodosius, the mar-
 tial spirit of the Romans rapidly declined :
 monasteries sprang up in all parts of the
 empire, and the degenerate inhabitants of
 Italy preferring the safety of the cowl
 to the honour of the sword, took refuge
 within the walls of religious edifices, from
 the assaults of the barbarians. Thus was
 laid the foundation of that temporal power
 which the Bishop or Pope of Rome exer-
 cised in after-ages over the descendants of
 the conquerors of Italy, and of that spiritual
 dominion which extended its empire, not
 only over the persons, but the minds also,
 of mankind. This reign is also rendered
 remarkable by the introduction and formal
 avowal by the church of the doctrine of the
 Trinity. The divinity of the Son had been

previously recognised by all except the followers of Arius, and a council of bishops was held by Theodosius at Constantinople (A. D. 381), in which the Nicene Creed was approved, and the equal deity of the Holy Ghost admitted and confirmed. The fruits of this decision were the baptism of the emperor in the name of the Trinity, and the promulgation of an imperial mandate, declaring the belief of the new faith to be essential to salvation, and denouncing penalties against those who should decline to receive it. The Arian and other dissenting clergy were deprived of their ecclesiastical preferment: the laity were punished by fine, imprisonment, and the confiscation of their property: and the triumph of the orthodox church was consummated by the destruction of the Pagan idols and temples in Spain, Africa, and Egypt.

But to return from this digression: early in the reign of Honorius and Arcadius, Alaric, chief of the Goths, commenced hostilities against the state by invading Greece and plundering Athens. Stilico, the commander of the Roman army, was sent in quest of the invader, and having defeated him, compelled the Goths to sue A. D. 396. for peace. But the tranquillity thus restored did not long continue, Gainas, a

A. D. 400. Gothic chief, who had visited Constantinople from motives of curiosity, raised a disturbance during the performance of some public ceremony, and was slain in the tumult. In consequence of this event, the war broke out again in the Italian states, and after a series of encounters between Alaric and Stilico with varied success, the scale was ultimately turned in favour of the Romans by two bloody battles fought between these generals, at Pollentia and

A. D. 405. Verona. Incredible numbers of the barbarians perished by famine and the sword during the contest, and these losses so completely exhausted their strength, as a nation, that they were compelled to submit to the Roman authority, and fortunate it was for the empire that such was the result of the campaign, for scarcely was the Gothic war ended, when a countless multitude of Germans, headed by Radagaisus, descended into Italy and laid siege to Florence. Honorius, who till that period had held his court at Rome, removed the seat of government to the more secure fortress of Ravenna, on the eastern shores of Italy: leaving the task of repelling these new marauders to the skill and bravery of Stilico. The Roman general accordingly returned from his triumph over the Goths, and having reinforced his army, formed an encamp-

ment near Florence, from whence he viewed with astonishment the myriads by whom the city was surrounded. Sensible, however, that the annihilation of the enemy in battle must be attended necessarily by the destruction of a considerable portion of his own troops, he adopted the safer plan of enclosing them within an immense wall, and the barbarians thus hemmed in between the city and the entrenchments, and consequently deprived of all means of obtaining supplies, fell in numbers before the united assaults of these destructive foes, want and disease. The remainder, driven to desperation, made a powerful effort to escape, and forcing their way through the barrier raised around them, into Gaul, attacked the Franks, and laid the country waste, as far as the frontiers of Spain, with fire and sword.

On the demise of Arcadius, his son, A. D. 408.
 Theodosius the 2nd, then an infant, was Honorius,
 Theodosius
 2nd. elected emperor of the East; but in consequence of his minority, the affairs of the state were administered for six years by an aristocracy, of whom Anthemius was the president. At the termination of this and period, Pulcheria, daughter of the deceased A. D. 414.
 emperor, assumed the reins of govern- Pulcheria.
 ment and held them, in conjunction with

her brother, Theodosius, for the space of forty years, without interruption.

- A. D. 408. In the west, however, the scene was far different; Stilico having been accused by Olympius, the favourite of Honorius, of plotting against the state, was condemned to death and executed, and Alaric taking advantage of the defenceless situation of the empire, commenced hostilities against the Romans, and after a predatory war, which the emperor vainly endeavoured to avert by repeated largesses, sacked and
- A. D. 410. plundered Rome. Thus become master of Italy, Alaric directed his attention to the conquest of Sicily, and made preparations for his intended expedition. His plans, however, were frustrated by the approach of death, and he was succeeded by Atualph, or Adolphus, his brother-in-law, who formed an alliance with the Romans by his marriage with Placidia, daughter of Theodosius the first. During these changes, Constantine, governor of Britain, renounced his allegiance to the state, landed in Gaul, caused himself to be proclaimed emperor of the West, and established his court at Arles, near the mouths of the Rhone. But the death of Alaric having set the imperial forces at liberty, Constantius, the Roman general, marched against the usurper and

put him to death, on which Jovinus, another officer in the service of the emperor, assumed the imperial dignity in Gaul.

This last candidate for power was defeated and deposed by Atualph, who then marched into Spain, and having taken possession of the country, was assassinated at Barcelona by Singeric, a Hun, whom he had patronised, and by whom he was succeeded. Constantius was then deputed by Honorius to avenge the crime committed against his relative and ally, and Singeric having expiated his guilt by the loss of his life, Constantius married Placidia, the widow of Atualph, and resigned Spain to Wallia, the Wisigoth, who entered into a treaty of peace with Honorius, and became the founder of the Wisigothic kingdom.

On his return to Italy, Constantius was allowed by Honorius to participate in the imperial honours, but he died shortly afterwards at Ravenna, and being followed by Honorius, Valentinian the 3rd, son of Constantius by the princess Placidia, ascended the throne of the western empire, under the guardianship of his mother. In the early part of his reign, Africa, which, for many years, had been numbered among the Roman provinces, was occupied by the Vandals, on the invitation of Boniface, a general in the Roman service, who had retired from

A. D. 421.

A. D. 423.

*Theodosius**2nd,**Pulcheria,**and**Valentinian**3rd.*

A. D. 428.

court in disgust, and adopted that method of avenging his wrongs. The country had been long the scene of violent dissensions between two religious sects, the Catholics and Donatists, (the latter maintained that their community was alone to be considered the true church,) and in its agitated state, it became an easy prey to the invaders.

A. D. 431. Boniface afterwards repented his precipitancy in thus exposing his fellow countrymen to the swords of the barbarians, and having obtained pardon of the emperor, landed in Africa with an army and attacked the Vandals. But his expedition was unsuccessful: the Romans were repulsed, and compelled to re-embark, and Boniface, on his return to Rome, challenged to single combat Cælius, an officer of Hunnicks extraction, under whose advice he had acted, and fell in the contest.

A. D. 433. It was at this period that Attila, king of
 440. the Huns, burst into Thrace with a formidable army, and Theodosius, to preserve his dominions from destruction, sent an embassy to the invader, proposing the payment of tribute as the purchase of peace. The ferocious disposition of the Hun was conciliated by the ready submission of the emperor, and he sent Edecon, a chief in his service, to the court of Theodosius, as his representative. This officer had not long

resided at Constantinople, when Chrysaphius, one of the eunuchs attached to the palace, began to tamper with him, and by dint of splendid promises, engaged him in a conspiracy to put Attila to death. However, before the fatal blow could be struck, Edecon, doubtful of the success of the enterprize, or perhaps repenting his treachery, disclosed the plot to his sovereign. At this discovery, the resentment of the Hun burst forth in all its native violence, and would have displayed itself in the desolation of the eastern provinces; had not Theodosius hastened to avert the impending storm by the timely offer of rich presents, the mission of a new embassy, and probably the disavowal of any knowledge of the conspiracy. The court of Attila was in the vicinity of Buda in Hungary, and an account of it is extant, given by Priscus, who was sent by the emperor as ambassador on one or other of these occasions. The king of the Huns then led his troops into Italy, and on his entrance into that country, Honoria, sister to Valentinian, who had been detected in an intrigue and confined in a convent to expiate her crime, sent a messenger to him with the offer of her hand. The Hun accepted the proposal, and demanded the princess in marriage, and this request being refused by the

emperor, Attila, partly in opposition to Valentinian, and partly at the solicitation of the Vandals, who were then at enmity with the Goths and Romans, invaded Gaul, destroyed Metz by fire, and laid siege to Orleans. Previous to this event, (Etius, the commander of the Roman army in the west, and of whom mention already has been made, had established his head-quarters in Gaul, and occupied himself in keeping the Wisigoths and Alauni in subjection. The latter nation had settled near Valence in Dauphinè, and even penetrated as far as Orleans, and it required no inconsiderable degree of ability to restrain the warlike spirit of these wandering people. When, however, the Goths and Romans were threatened alike with ruin by the invasion of Attila, they readily entered into an offensive and defensive league, and marched their united forces against the common

A. D. 450, enemy. A dreadful battle ensued near Chalons sur Marne, in which the Huns were routed with immense slaughter, and driven back on Italy, as were the Theringi, the ancestors of the modern Thuringians, who accompanied Attila in his expedition, and disgraced themselves by the exercise of every species of barbarity.

This disaster, however, did not subdue the courage of the Hungick king, for in

the following year he invaded Italy, and ravaged the whole country as far as Calabria, on which numbers fled for refuge to the isles in the Gulf of Venice, and made their permanent abode in them: the inhabitants of Padua, in particular, selecting for their residence the island of Rialto. This was the commencement of the Venetian Republic, afterwards renowned in history, and the people having experienced in their own persons, the evils of a despotic government, determined to preserve political freedom in their new habitations, and confided the management of their affairs to twelve judges or tribunes, who were changed at stated periods. The last expedition of Attila was undertaken against Gaul, but he was equally unsuccessful as in the former attempt, and suffered a severe defeat at the hands of Thorismund, king of the Wisigoths. Soon after this battle, Attila died A. D. 453. by the bursting of a blood-vessel, and his sons contending for the succession, some of them fell in the conflict, and the others enfeebled by their domestic dissensions, retired with a considerable part of their adherents to the shores of the Black Sea.

Pending these events (A. D. 450) Theodosius, whose dominions had happily escaped the devastation of the western empire, by his treaty with Attila and payment

*Valentinian
3rd, and
Pulcheria &
Marcian,*

of tribute, died, and was succeeded by his sister Pulcheria. This princess had participated with her brother for many years in the government of the east, and after his decease, she gave her hand to Marcianus, who had raised himself by his abilities and address from a private station to that of a principal officer of the imperial court. Nor did her selection of a consort disappoint the expectations of the people, for the new emperor placed his dominions in a military attitude, refused to pay the tribute which had been rendered to the Huns by Theodosius, and boldly set Attila at defiance.

A. D. 454. After the retreat of the Huns, Valentinian Pulcheria & Marcian and Petronius Maximus. the 3rd became suspicious of the fidelity of Etius, or more probably envious of his popularity, and caused him to be destroyed. The emperor, however, was assassinated in the following year at the instance of Petronius Maximus, a person of rank, who succeeded him on the throne, and compelled Eudoxia, widow of the late monarch, to become his consort. Soon after the marriage, the empress discovered that Maximus was the murderer of Valentinian, and, in a fit of revenge, she sent messengers to Africa, and solicited the Vandals to attack Rome.

The barbarians eagerly accepted the invitation, fitted out their fleet, landed in

Italy, and sacked the imperial city, whilst in the general tumult, Maximus was seized by the irritated soldiery, and put to death. The Vandals remained in the enjoyment of their conquest until Avitus, a Roman general, who happened to be at Toulouse, the court of the king of the Wisigoths, caused himself to be proclaimed emperor of the west, and marched into Italy, accompanied by a numerous army. Marcianus ^{A. D. 455.} *Marcian,* *(Pulcheria* also became apprehensive of the evil consequences of permitting the undisciplined Vandals to retain possession of Italy, and *being dead)* *and* he therefore hastened to the aid of Avitus, *Avitus.* and the confederate sovereigns, attacking the enemy with their united force, compelled them to withdraw into Africa.

After the return of Marcian to Constantinople, Avitus was deposed by Ricimir, a Suevian, and Marjorianus placed on the throne. ^{*Marcian,*} ^{*and*} ^{*Marjorianus,*} The short reign of this emperor was occupied in war with Genseric, king of the Vandals, who took advantage of the troubles existing in the west, to ravage the Italian coasts, but was ultimately defeated with great loss.

In the following year, Marjorianus went into Gaul with a considerable force to quell a revolt which had taken place in that province, and having succeeded in his object, marched into Spain, and assembled a fleet ^{A. D. 458.} A. D. 460.

at Carthage with the intention of passing into Africa. Genseric, however, anticipated his design, and suddenly seized all his ships, and thus put an end to the enterprise.

A. D. 461. On his return to Rome, Marjorianus was deposed and put to death by Ricimer, who raised ^{Leo} Libius Severus to the throne.

A. D. 465. This emperor was afterwards poisoned, and Ricimer retained the reins of government in his own hands, though, being of barbarian extraction, he was incapacitated from assuming the imperial title.

The empress Pulcheria died anterior to these events (A. D. 454), and was followed by Marcianus (A. D. 457,) and he was succeeded by Leo, as emperor in the east. The Ostrogoths at this time were increasing rapidly in population and extent of territory: they formed an impenetrable barrier against the incursions of the Huns, who made repeated efforts to regain their footing in the Roman dominions, and as they were favourably disposed towards Leo, the emperor availed himself of the opportunity, and entered into a formal treaty of peace with them.

A. D. 467. As the Roman empire in the west was destitute of a legitimate sovereign, Leo placed ^{Leo and} Anthemius on the throne of Italy, but in the course of three years, Ricimer,

who had established his residence at Milan; resolved to depose the new emperor, and with that intention marched against Rome. A. D. 470. After an ineffectual resistance, the city was taken by storm and plundered, and Anthemius fell in the tumult.

The seven succeeding years present the view of four short reigns: Olybrius was placed on the throne by Ricimer, as the successor of Anthemius, but he died soon after his accession, as also did his patron, Ricimer. Olybrius was succeeded by Glycerius, a soldier of fortune, who gave way to Julius Nepos, and the latter being afterwards assassinated by Glycerius, Romulus Augustulus ascended the throne. Romulus, in his turn, was deposed by Odoacer, king of the Heruli or Lemovii, a savage people who had emigrated from the neighbourhood of Dantzick, the imperial title the west became extinct, and Odoacer governed Italy under the denomination of Patrician. During the short period in which these rapid changes took place, Leo had been engaged in an expedition against the Vandals; he fitted out a fleet, directed his course towards Africa, and attacked and captured Tripoli, a city on the northern shores of that continent. The Vandals, however, found means to burn his ships,

A. D. 472.

Leo and Olybrius.

A. D. 474.

*Leo and Glycerius.**Leo and Julius Nepos*

A. D. 476.

Leo and Romulus or Augustulus.

A. D. 479.

EXTINCTION OF THE WESTERN EMPIRE.

and having cut off his retreat, compelled the emperor to resign his conquest, and sign a treaty of peace.

On the death of Leo, the vacant throne *Zeno*. was ascended by Zeno, who had married Ariadne, daughter of the late emperor, and the Ostrogoths, then in Thrace, and the allies of the Romans, protected the imperial dominions from the attacks of Odoacer. A. D. 479 to 491. Zeno reigned several years at Constantinople without molestation, a circumstance which can be alone attributed to his address in prevailing on the Ostrogoths to turn their arms against the king of the Heruli. Allured by the hope of plunder, and stimulated by their natural inclination for war, they readily assented to the suggestion of the emperor, and marching into Italy, a long and bloody war ensued between these powerful nations; which terminated in the defeat of Odoacer and his subsequent assassination at a banquet, to which he was invited by the conqueror.

A. D. 491. About the same period died Zeno, and *Anastatius*, his widow Ariadne married Anastatius, an *Emperor in the East*. officer of the court, far advanced in life, who ascended the throne and reigned without opposition for the space of twenty-seven years. During these events Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths, governed

Italy with humanity and discretion, and maintained a strict alliance with the emperor Zeno, so that the empire began to recover from the state of depression to which it had been reduced by a series of destructive contests. It has been remarked that there are few evils unaccompanied by an antidote, and although the first incursions of the German nations were attended with the usual miseries of hostile invasion, yet it cannot be denied that their settlement in Gaul and Italy was ultimately productive of considerable benefit to those countries.

To illustrate this position: the Germans were more moral than the Romans, their system of government more pure and simple, and the people were consequently more attached to it. Under their reign, a degree of liberty unknown to the Romans, was enjoyed by the nation, for it was the custom of their kings to take the opinion of their subjects on all questions of national importance, in general assemblies convened for the purpose of such deliberations, and the bishops, at the same time, had the privilege of representing the spiritual powers and voting in these conventions. As the Germans either were averse to trade, or unacquainted with its operations, they left the cities and towns, which were gained by force of

arms, or became subject to them by the right of conquest, to the exercise of their original laws, and without confining or removing the inhabitants, merely appointed officers or Counts to keep them in subordination. The victors remained in the field, and were contented with the allotment to each warrior of a portion of the hostile districts, adequate to the services he had performed or might be required to execute: a system from which the penetrating mind will readily deduce the principle of feudal tenures.

A. D. 518. *Justin.* On the death of Anastatius, Justin, by birth a Dacian, and by occupation a peasant, but who afterwards exchanged the sickle for the sword, and became commander of the guards at Constantinople, ascended the imperial throne. His reign continued for the space of nine years, during which the annals of the east were not distinguished by any remarkable event. Clovis, king of the Franks, had taken possession of Gaul, from which the Romans were unable to remove him; Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths, governed Italy and Spain, and the Vandals were too firmly established in Africa by their alliance with the latter, to induce the emperor, who was advanced in years and averse to war, to make any effort to dispossess them.

The decease of Justin, however, gave A. D. 527.
 birth to a new era, and the warlike spirit Justinian.
 of ancient Rome, again shone forth for the
 space of thirty-eight years, in the victories
 of his nephew and successor, the renowned
 Justinian. This emperor at the period of
 his uncle's death, was commander of the
 guards, and was raised to the imperial dig-
 nity by the unanimous choice of the army;
 and with the simultaneous assent of the
 people. The splendid abilities of Justi- A. D. 533.
 nian, were called into action for the first 533. A
 time after his accession, by a war which
 arose in Africa between Hilderic, the
 reigning king of the Vandals, then an ally 533. A
 of the Romans, and a party, headed by
 Amalafid, the widow of the preceding
 sovereign of that nation. Hilderic fell in
 the conflict, and Justinian, who had sent a
 numerous army to his relief under the 533. A
 command of his celebrated general, Beli-
 sarius, then turned his arms against the
 insurgents. A series of encounters ensued,
 in which the Romans were uniformly vic-
 torious. Several of the royal family perished
 in the field of battle: the survivors fell into
 the hands of the emperor, and were carried
 away to Constantinople, where they con-
 tinued to reside during the remainder of
 their lives, and the provinces of Africa were
 again united to the Roman empire.

At the time of Justinian's accession to the throne, Theodoric was king of the Ostrogoths, and an ally of the Romans.

Soon after his decease, his family became extinct, with the exception of his daughter Amalasuinth, and she married Theodobat, her cousin, who then assumed the regal power. Theodobat afterwards caused her to be put to death, and Justinian, to revenge this act of cruelty, commenced hostilities against him, and sent Belisarius

A. D. 535. with an army into Italy. On this, a destructive war ensued, which continued nearly three years, and during that time

A. D. 536. Theodobat fell by the hands of his own soldiers, and Vitiges, an Ostrogothic general, who succeeded to the vacant throne, was deposed by the Roman commander and taken to Constantinople, where he ended

A. D. 538. his days in captivity. The conquest of Italy, in all probability, would have been effected at this period, had not Justinian been induced by the enemies of Belisarius, to imagine that it was the intention of that general to make himself master of the country, and then to raise the standard of rebellion against his sovereign. But with this impression on his mind, the emperor deemed it prudent to remove the warrior from the scene of victory, and accordingly sent Belisarius into Asia to

conduct the war in which he was then engaged with Chosroes, king of Persia. During the absence of the general, Eraric and Hildebald, two barbarian chiefs, successively assumed the command of the Ostrogoths, and these having perished by the hands of the people, were succeeded by Totilas, an Ostrogothic officer, who boldly made head against the emperor, defeated his troops, and recaptured Rome. Justinian perceiving that Italy was about to escape his grasp, used every exertion to terminate the Persian war, and having ultimately succeeded in restoring peace, again invested Belisarius with the command of the troops in the west. A desultory war ensued, which continued several years with varied success: Totilas contending for the preservation of his power, and Belisarius being left to conduct his military operations without adequate supplies: a circumstance attributable, in all probability, to the secret jealousy of the emperor. At length Belisarius finding it impossible to bring the war to a successful conclusion, solicited his recall, which was granted, and on his return to Constantinople, the Ostrogoths assumed new courage, established themselves again in Rome, and overran Sicily and Sardinia. The increasing power of the barbarians alarmed

the emperor, and he sent Narses, then his favourite commander, into Italy, at the head of a well appointed army; hostilities were renewed with increased vigour, and after a series of bloody engagements,

- A. D. 552. Totilas was killed in battle, and the remainder of the Goths submitting to their conquerors, were carried away and settled in the neighbourhood of Constantinople. Narses succeeded to the government of Italy, which was conferred on him by the emperor as the reward of his victories, and took up his abode at Ravenna, where he continued to administer the affairs of the western empire for fifteen years, at the expiration of which, Italy was invaded by the Lombards, who occupied it during the space of two centuries.

- The fate of the eastern and western empires may be thus concisely narrated. In the eighth century, the Lombards were attacked and subdued by the Franks under Charlemagne, their celebrated king. The latter nation had previously taken possession of France and Germany, and it retained the nominal sovereignty of the western states for a considerable time. At length the attention of the Franks was diverted, by domestic commotions, from the affairs of Italy, and the popes or bishops of Rome taking advantage of their absence, and of

the extensive power which superstition gave them over the minds of the ignorant laity, gradually acquired the temporal and spiritual dominion of the civilized world.

On the other hand, the eastern empire enfeebled by the perpetual attacks of the Persians, Tartars, and other Asiatic nations, with difficulty maintained its political ascendancy, under the government of a race of despotic and voluptuous monarchs, until the fifteenth century. At that period, Constantinople was stormed and plundered by A. D. 1453. Mahomet the Second, emperor of the Turks, and the reign of the Crescent succeeded that of the Cross.



THE GOTHS.

CHAP. II.

*Their origin. Division of the Nation.
Rise, progress, and extinction of the
Wisigothic and Ostrogothic kingdoms.*

THE Goths are supposed by some authors to have been the people distinguished by the name of Gothones, who occupied the sea coast of that part of Prussia, which lies on the western side of the Vistula, but others assert that they were originally natives of Scandinavia, or Sweden, and resided in that district of it which is named Gothland. At this distance of time it is scarcely possible to decide, with accuracy, which of these opinions is correct, but it is a task infinitely more difficult to ascertain under what particular division of barbarians they are to be classed, for at the period in which they became known to the Romans, their local situation was amongst

the German tribes, but their manners and customs were evidently those of the Sarmatians. Judging by the latter circumstance, and adding to it the received opinions of eminent authors, it must be assumed that the Goths were Sarmatians by extraction, and afterwards became divided by time or chance, into distinct nations, known by the names of Ostrogoths and Wisigoths. Viewing the subject in this light, it is immaterial to enquire whether the Goths merely quitted Poland, crossed the Vistula, and established themselves in Germany, or passed from the northern shores of Russia in Europe, into Sweden, and afterwards visited the coasts of Prussia by the dangerous navigation of the Baltic. Certain it is, that the Gothic tribes in course of time, became eminently celebrated amongst the barbarous nations by their military prowess, their numbers and the extent of their conquests.

When the forests of Prussia ceased to afford accommodation to their increasing population, the Goths following the course of the Vistula, descended towards the eastern part of the Roman empire, and desolated the rich districts of Thrace. It was in vain that famine, pestilence, and the sword of the Romans, reduced their ranks, and swept them from the surface of the

invaded provinces: myriads continued to issue from that inexhaustible fountain head, their native woods, till the vast torrent expanded its living waters over the fertile plains of Italy. But the political, equally with the natural, constitution, frequently carries within it the seeds of dissolution, and thus it was with the Gothic nation. From the period of their arrival in the Roman territories, these barbarians separated into two divisions, and were distinguished, as has been already mentioned, by the names of Wisigoths and Ostrogoths: terms synonymous with western and eastern Goths. The former passed through the imperial dominions into Spain, where they founded the Wisigothic kingdom, which existed till the seventh century of the Christian æra, when it was destroyed by the Arabians. The Ostrogoths settled in Italy, and remained the virtual, though not the nominal, masters of that country for one hundred years, at the expiration of which they were subdued by Narses, a Roman general, in the reign of the emperor Justinian.

The Goths are mentioned by name, in history, for the first time at the commencement of the third century, when they made A. D. 213. an attack on the Roman provinces, in conjunction with the Catti, inhabitants

of Cassel, who commenced their incursions in the reign of Aurelius, and afterwards introduced the Goths into the Roman dominions. This inroad was repelled by the emperor Caracalla, who defeated the invaders with great slaughter, and would probably have exacted severe retribution, had not the domestic dissensions of the Romans demanded his presence in Italy, and induced him to enter into a treaty of

A. D. 238. peace with them. Fifteen years after this event the Goths crossed the Danube, and spread their multitudes over Mæsia, (Servia and Bulgaria.) It happened that the younger Gordian was then engaged in war with the Persians, and on his route into Asia Minor, he attacked the barbarians, and drove them out of the province with severe loss. The consequences of this defeat deterred them for a few years from invading the empire, but during the reign

A. D. 244. of Philip, their king Ostrogotha uniting his *Ostrogotha* people with the Scythian tribes resident in the south of Russia, again crossed the Danube, and laid siege to Marcianopolis, now Marcenopoli, a city in Bulgaria, near the Black Sea, or, as others will have it, though without the slightest regard to locality, Breslaw, in Silesia. The arrival, however, of the Roman army, compelled them to desist from their enterprize, and

after some negotiation, they were induced to retrace their steps on receipt of a considerable sum of money. In a few years A. D. 249. Ostrogotha died, and Cniva, his successor, *Cniva.* burning with ardour to distinguish himself as a warrior, took the field, and advancing to the former scene of action, commenced hostilities against the Romans. The war was continued for some time with varied success, but the result was unfavourable to the Romans: the invaders concentrated their forces in Mæsia, and falling on their opponents, put them to the rout, and the emperor Decius, who had headed the troops, lost his life in the engagement.

After this disaster, the Romans despairing A. D. 251. of making any effectual resistance to the barbarians, entered into a treaty with them, and appealing to their avarice by the offer of an ample donation in the shape of ransom, purchased their alliance and retreat.

In the successive reigns of Æmilianus A. D. 253 and Valerian, war again broke out between *and 254.* the Goths and Romans, which continued for the space of two years, and terminated in the barbarians being driven across the Danube by Gallienus, son of Valerian, and Posthumus, a distinguished officer in the Roman service, to whom he had entrusted the conduct of the war. It was, however,

impossible to extinguish the restless spirit of this enterprising nation: after an interval of tranquillity, sufficient to enable them to recruit their shattered forces, they again had recourse to arms, burst into the plains of Thrace, forced their way into Greece, and ravaged the country as far as Athens, which they sacked and partially destroyed. Allured by the expectation of additional plunder, and encouraged by the faint resistance, or perhaps passive submission of the terrified inhabitants of the districts they had ravaged, the king of the barbarians led his countrymen into Asia Minor, penetrated as far as Ephesus, and destroyed the celebrated temple of Diana. But their homeward march bore resemblance to the disorderly retreat of a defeated army, rather than to the steady progress of victorious troops: incumbered with spoil, and delayed by a lengthened train of captives, each barbarian was intent on the safe conveyance of his own plunder, and regardless equally of the orders of his chief and safety of his comrades. Pending these events, the emperor Gallienus was actively engaged in repressing a rebellion in Gaul, but the danger of the state demanding his immediate presence, he relinquished the object of his expedition, and led back his army towards the east. No sooner had the Goths

returned from Asia into Europe; then the emperor fell on them, put them to the rout, and compelling them to resign their ill-gotten spoil, drove them across the Danube.

The history of the Goths, at this period, contains merely a repetition of scenes of plunder and devastation, for whenever the hand of time had effaced from their minds the recollection of their former disasters, they recommenced the work of destruction with redoubled ardour. In the course of a few years, they made another irruption into Greece, in which they surpassed, if possible, the enormities committed during their prior invasion of the seats of ancient learning. This second outrage convinced the emperor that it was useless to place confidence in an enemy at once so near and powerful, and he therefore marched against the Goths with a numerous army, and in the full determination of bringing them to an unconditional surrender. In pursuance of this plan, he contrived to enclose them in a narrow space, and then cut off their supplies of provision, harassed them by sudden and unexpected attacks, and when they gave ground, pursued and destroyed them without mercy. The Goths were thus reduced to the necessity of soliciting the clemency of their opponents, and a truce

A. D. 267.

was granted, the prominent conditions of which were the abandonment by the Goths of all their conquests on the south of the Danube, and the promise that they would forbear, for the future, to invade the provinces of the empire. At this time, the major part of the Gothic tribes were resident in Moldavia and Wallachia, and the remainder, farther to the east, on the banks of the river Don, at its confluence with the Palus Mæotis, or sea of Azof.

Some imagine that the Wisigoths were the nation who descended into Wallachia, and that the Ostrogoths constituted a separate tribe, were of Tartar extraction, and originally emigrated from the vicinity of the Caspian Sea. There is, however, but slight foundation for the conjecture, and although it is impossible, at this remote period, from the want of sufficient information on the subject, to argue the question with success on either side, those historical facts, the knowledge of which has descended to the present day, clearly negative the supposition.

A. D. 268: On the accession of the emperor Claudius, the Goths ventured to recommence hostilities: with this intent they assembled in vast numbers, passed the Danube, and commenced their ravages at their usual points of attack, Bosnia and Servia. The

emperor, in imitation of the example of his predecessor, immediately took the field against them, and after defeating them in a series of battles, the detail of which would afford neither amusement nor instruction, pursued them with unremitting diligence till the barbarian multitudes were nearly extirpated by the united efforts of hunger and the sword. Historians estimate their loss at numbers which appear incredible; but without giving entire belief to their calculations, it is certain that the carnage was sufficiently great to prevent the Goths for some time from making any serious attack on the Roman provinces. The A. D. 272. scanty annals of the Goths are nearly destitute of information, as far as the Romans are interested, till the commencement of the fourth century; in the interim, disputes arose between the roving tribes of Alemanni, Goths and Burgundians, which led to hostilities between those nations, and the time of the contending parties was fully occupied in mutual reprisals on the persons and property of their opponents. When the termination of these differences enabled the Goths again to direct their attention to the Roman provinces, the emperor Aurelian deemed it expedient to sacrifice a portion, to preserve the residue, of his dominions, and accordingly entered into a

A. D. 274. treaty with them for the cession of Dacia.

By the terms of the arrangement, the Goths were permitted to occupy that district in conjunction with a numerous body of Vandals, who had descended from the north of Germany in quest of new abodes, and the children of the barbarian chiefs were delivered into the hands of Aurelian, as hostages for the good conduct of the nation. The emperor also prudently availed himself of the opportunity, and on the one hand, strengthened the alliance by the intermarriage of their principal women with the Roman officers, and, on the other, effectually weakened the power of the Goths, by enlisting multitudes of them into the imperial service, and sending them to perish in the war, in which he was then engaged with the Persians.

A. D. 323. During the reign of Constantine, the

Ariaric.

Goths broke the treaty, and under the command of Ariaric, their king, invaded Thrace, but they were defeated, and Ariaric compelled to sue for peace and to surrender his son to the Romans. The Gothic monarch afterwards made another incursion into the states of the empire, which was equally un-

Geberic.

fortunate in its result, and Geberic, his successor, finding it unavailing to continue hostilities against the Romans, made war on the Vandals. That nation immediately

took the field, and made head against the Goths, but after sustaining repeated defeats, their force was so reduced that Visumar, their king, was under the necessity of entreating the aid of the Romans, who extended their protection to him and placed the Vandals in Pannonia. Thirty years after the conclusion of this war, the Goths^{A. D. 354.} are found engaged, with their king Ermanaric,^{Ermanaric.} in a successful contest with the Heruli, a people then resident in Prussian Pomerania, and governed by Alaric, their chief or prince: the Venedi who dwelt near Königsberg, and the Æstui, a tribe situated farther to the east of that place. The latter, who are especially mentioned as gatherers of amber, were evidently Prussians, and inhabited the province of Estland, the inhabitants of which, at a more recent period, were denominated Estlings or Eastlings. Ermanaric, or Hermanaric, as he is occasionally named, became, by the fortunate result of this war, sovereign over the greater part of Prussia and Germany, and it will appear from subsequent events, that he also maintained his settlements on the river Don.

It is probable that the division of the Gothic nation happened at this period, for^{A. C. 367.} in the reign of the emperor Valens, the Wisigoths are mentioned by name, as^{Athanaric.}

having crossed the Danube under the command of Athanaric, their prince, or leader. Their expedition, however, was unsuccessful, they were attacked by the Romans, defeated with loss, and reduced to submission.

- A. D. 376. About this time the Huns attacked and defeated the Alauni, a nation dwelling near the Don, and then fell on that branch of the Goths which had encamped near the same river, and must in future be distinguished by the name of Ostrogoths. Ermanaric, their king, took the field against the Huns, and made a resolute but ineffectual opposition to them, after which he died, and was succeeded by his son, *Witheric*, an infant. Alatheus and Saphrax, chiefs of the nation, then took charge of the people, and led them to the banks of the Dneister, which separates Russia from Turkey, and there joined Athanaric, king of the Wisigoths, and awaited the appearance of the enemy. The Wisigoths, however, were seized with a panic on the approach of the Huns, and conceiving success to be impossible, deserted the banners of their sovereign and marched away to the Danube, headed by Alavivus and Fritigernus, two of their generals. There they solicited the protection of the Romans, and Valens gave them permission to settle in

Thrace, on condition that they should surrender their arms before they crossed the Danube, and resign the custody of their children. In the urgency of the moment they assented to these rigorous terms, but found means, by offering their money and cattle as temptations to the avarice, and their women to the lust, of the Roman officers, who were appointed to superintend their transit, in a great measure to avoid the fulfilment of them. The Wisigoths scarcely had passed the river, when the Ostrogoths, who closely followed their steps, made their appearance and demanded similar protection, but this was refused by the emperor from motives of apprehension as to the future conduct of the fugitives. The Wisigoths, who had been allowed to enter Thrace, were soon driven by famine and the cruelty of Lupicinus and Maximus, the Roman governors of that district, to revolt, and the Ostrogoths, seizing a favourable opportunity, crossed the river and uniting their force to that of the Wisigoths, attacked the Roman troops near Marcianopolis and gave them a total defeat, Lupicinus falling in the action. The Huns immediately took advantage of these dissensions, joined their forces to those of the Goths, and made an inroad into Thrace, which they ravaged with fire

and sword. But the Romans marched to the relief of the district, and falling on the enemy, put them to the rout and captured vast numbers of prisoners, whom they distributed, according to their custom, amongst the cities of Italy. This practice tended materially to accelerate the decline of the Roman power, for it placed enemies around the imperial city, and enabled them to form plans against it, which had the projectors been situated at a distance, neither could have been conceived nor carried into operation.

A. D. 378. The Goths were not disheartened by their defeat, but again proceeded to attack the Romans: the emperor advanced from Constantinople to meet them, and a battle ensued near Adrianople, in which the barbarians were victorious, and Valens fell in the conflict.

Emboldened by success, the Goths proceeded to attack the city, but were repulsed: they then directed their march towards Constantinople, which they besieged, and the terrified inhabitants would have surrendered it to the barbarians, had not a party of Saracens, who had taken refuge in it on the approach of the invaders, resolutely stood on the defensive, and by making repeated sallies on the Goths, who were unprepared for a protracted siege, harassed and threw them into confusion.

It is said that the barbarians were filled with alarm at the ferocity of their new opponents, and that their terror arose from the circumstance that in one of their early encounters, a Saracen having killed a Goth, immediately proceeded to satiate his fury by sucking the blood of his adversary.

The empire was, at this period, in a situation of no ordinary peril: on the eastern side, it was over-run by the Goths and Huns, and in the west, the Alemanni took advantage of the general confusion to make a serious inroad into Gaul. Fortunately, however, Gratian, who had been associated in the empire of the west at a very early age, and had resided for many years in that country, observing the critical situation of affairs, fell on the enemy in the plains of Alsace, drove them across the Rhine, and reduced them to submission. After this victory, he proceeded by rapid marches towards Italy, and having nominated Theodosius, a general in the Roman service, emperor in the east, furnished him with troops, and directed him to expel the barbarians from the Roman territories.

It has been already stated that it was the custom of the Romans to distribute their captives and the children of strangers who were placed in their hands, as hostages, in different provinces of the empire, and there

were, at this period, considerable numbers of persons of these descriptions in Asia. The intelligence of the Gothic war, as it might be reasonably expected, created an unusual degree of anxiety in their minds, accompanied by wishes for its favourable result to their countrymen; and Julius, the Roman general, apprehending a general insurrection, gave secret orders that all the Goths in Asia should be massacred on a particular day, and his cruel mandate was carried into execution without resistance on the part of the oppressed, or remorse on that of the oppressor.

A. D. 382. There is a chasm in history at this time which cannot be accurately supplied, but it may be collected that Gratian and Theodosius finding it impossible effectually to resist the Goths in the field, withdrew their troops into fortified cities, and from thence harassed them by frequent excursions. The Goths lost incredible numbers by this mode of warfare, and the death of Fritigernus, one of their principal leaders, at the same period, occasioned serious dissensions amongst the various chiefs, who were competitors for the vacant post, and these disturbances were not quelled until much blood had been shed by the contending parties. In addition to these troubles, Modar, a Gothic chief, went over to the

Romans, and by his information enabled them to surprise the main army of the Goths, which was consequently routed with immense loss. This accumulation of misfortunes induced Athanaric, the Gothic king, to propose terms of peace, to which Theodosius readily acceded, and on the conclusion of the treaty, the barbarian visited Constantinople, where he was entertained with suitable magnificence. But the journey proved fatal to him; his constitution was undermined by repeated excesses, and he died from intoxication at a banquet, or, as some will have it, by means of poison.

After the decease of Athanaric, numbers A. D. 393. of the people remained in Thrace, but others retired across the Danube under the command of Alatheus and Saphrax, and wandered on the northern bank of that river for the space of three years. At the conclusion of that period they returned in great force under the command of Alatheus, their numbers having increased not only in the ordinary course of population, but by the addition of swarms of other barbarians, equally restless and unsettled, and prepared to invade the empire. The Romans, however, had watched their movements attentively, and seizing a favourable opportunity attacked and defeated them with incredible slaughter, before they could concentrate

their forces or commence hostilities with effect. But the physical strength of the barbarians was such that the Romans could neither annihilate nor effectually repel them, and Theodosius at length established the Goths in Thrace, as the only remedy for the increasing evil, and enlisted forty thousand into the Roman service. A column is said to have been erected at Constantinople, on which was engraven the narrative of a splendid victory obtained by Theodosius over the Quadi on the banks of the Danube, and the probability is that a portion of the barbarian army engaged in the war, consisted of that nation: for the Quadi, though usually termed Germans, were Sarmatians equally with the Goths.

A. D. 392. Towards the close of the fourth century, the Christian religion which began to be widely diffused over the continent of Europe, found its way into Germany and Gaul, and Uphildo, a bishop of the former country, materially contributed to the dissemination of the gospel by translating it into the Gothic language.

A. D. 395. During the joint reign of Arcadius, as emperor of the east, and Honorius of the *Alaric*. west, Alaric, who became king of the Goths on the death of Athanaric, made an inroad into Greece, captured Athens, and laid the adjacent country waste; but Stilico, the

Roman general, intercepted his retreat, defeated his army, and drove the Goths back into the north. This success produced a temporary cessation of hostilities, but it was not of long duration.

Gainas and Tribigild, chiefs in the Gothic service, attended by many of their countrymen, paid a visit to Constantinople, where the emperor Arcadius then reigned, and allured by the splendour of the city and encouraged by the effeminacy of its inhabitants, boldly aspired to the imperial dignity, and declared their intentions at a public festival. This event created a serious disturbance, but, fortunately for Arcadius, the soldiers and mercenaries in Roman pay, continued unshaken in their allegiance, and evinced their fidelity by falling on the Goths, who were cut to pieces, and Gainas atoned for his temerity by the loss of his life. Alaric had recruited his forces in the intermediate period, and this event again brought him into the field accompanied by a cloud of Goths, with whom he ravaged Italy and penetrated as far as Rome. Honorius then resided in the city of Milan, but being unprepared to defend it against the invaders, fled to Paltentia with his treasures, and Alaric, tempted by the prospect of a golden harvest, immediately followed him. It happened oppor-

tinely for the emperor that Stilico was at hand; and that general lost not an instant in marching to the relief of his sovereign, whom he found besieged within the walls of Pollentia, and defended only by a few faithful adherents. On the arrival of the Roman commander, he made proper dispositions for surrounding the Goths, and the latter, apprehensive of being hemmed in between the Roman army and the town, made a furious attack on their opponents, which terminated in the total defeat of the barbarians. The remnant of the Gothic fugitives fled from the scene of action to Verona, where they were rallied by Alaric, and being re-inforced by additional bodies of their countrymen, awaited the assault of Stilico. Nor did he disappoint their expectations: having raised the siege of Pollentia and set his royal master at liberty, he conducted him to Ravenna, (to which city, on account of its better security, Honorius determined to remove the seat of government,) and then led his victorious troops against the Goths, whom he overthrew in a great battle, and destroyed such immense numbers that Alaric was unable for six years, to undertake any act of aggression against the Roman territories. Several tribes of Vandals and Germans who were amongst the Goths, suffered severely

in the action and were driven out of Italy: they then made an attack on France, in which they were defeated with great slaughter, and the remnant of the Vandals ultimately forced their way into Spain, and established themselves in that country.

On the decease of Arcadius, the courtiers A. D. 408. of Honorius, envious of the popularity and military fame of Stilico, charged him with disaffection to the government, and the emperor giving credence to their assertions, issued orders for the destruction of the meritorious officer, to whom he was indebted for the recent preservation of his throne. But this act of injustice did not escape with impunity; Alaric again poured his troops into Italy and laid siege to Rome, and as the army was destitute of any leader competent to direct its operations with effect, the emperor was obliged to purchase the retreat of the Goths by payment of a vast sum of money. Even this expedient was but of slight avail, for Alaric returned in the following year, took possession of the city, and having permitted his soldiers to plunder at discretion, raised Attalus, a Roman prefect, to the rank of Governor, and then retired to the north of Italy. The severity of the Gothic leader may be attributed principally to an act of unwarrantable cruelty committed by Honorius

on the first intelligence of the approach of the enemy. It was the policy of the Roman government on all occasions, to take hostages from the barbarians with whom they entered into treaties of alliance, and these pledges of public faith, together with the prisoners taken in action, were, as it has been already mentioned, distributed for safe custody amongst the cities of Italy. Honorius, sensible of the danger of permitting these disaffected multitudes to remain in the rear, at the time when he was assailed in the front by hostile armies of the same nation, was persuaded to put them to death, and the order being carried into execution without delay, thousands of Goths perished in the general massacre, and the barbarian troops in the Roman service, irritated at this outrage on humanity, deserted in crowds to the camp of the enemy. But the misfortunes of Rome did not here terminate, nor was the measure of her calamity completely filled. Attalus, in the administration of the public affairs, unfortunately gave umbrage to Alaric, who descended for the third time towards Rome, and the inhabitants, over-rating their means of defence and dreading the fury of the Goths, inconsiderately set him at defiance and prepared to defend their walls. But the effeminate spirit of the degenerate

Romans was ill-qualified to struggle with the hardy genius of the invader. Rome was stormed and plundered ; her chief men and their children fell a prey to the fury, and the women to the lust, of the besiegers : her poorer inhabitants were annihilated without distinction of age or sex : her splendid edifices were devoted to the flames : her treasures ransacked, and the mistress of the world, weltering in her blood, sank at the feet of the barbarian.

After these events, Alaric planned the A. D. 414. conquest of Sicily, but was arrested in his Atualph. career by the hand of death before he could carry his ambitious projects into execution, and Atualph, or Adolphus, his brother-in-law, became king of the Goths. Alaric left a son, named Theodoric, who, at a subsequent period, assumed the reins of government, and though there is not any reason assigned for his temporary exclusion from the throne on the death of his father, the probability is that he was too young and inexperienced at that time to assume the command of his restless and warlike people. On his accession, Atualph married the princess Placidia, daughter of the emperor Theodosius, an event which united him to the Roman interests, and the first proof given of his attachment to that cause was the circumstance of his marching into

Gaul to attack Jovinus, who had assumed the imperial dignity in that province. In this expedition the Gothic king was successful, and having reduced Jovinus to submission, he proceeded to Spain and was assassinated at Barcelona, by Singeric, a Hun, to whom he had confided the charge of part of his troops, and whose ambition

A. D. 415: was gratified by succeeding to the command of the Goths. Atualph, it is said,

Singeric.

resided principally at Narbonne, a city near the western shore of the Gulf of Lyons, and this conjecture is founded on the fact that when the Franks in the sixth century, took possession of that place, they discovered a quantity of cups, chalices, and other royal paraphernalia belonging to him. The villainy of Singeric in destroying his benefactor, did not escape observation but speedily received the punishment it deserved. Constantius, a Roman general, married the princess Placidia, widow of Atualph, and having been permitted by Honorius to participate in the sovereign power, set his army in motion against the assassin, who fell, in his turn, by the sword of one of his adherents.

Wallia. Wallia, a Gothic chief, then assumed the command of the nation, with the concurrence of the Romans, and marching into Spain, defeated the Vandals, who had taken

up their abode there; in several battles. The victorious Goths proceeded to occupy the north of Spain and the south of France, and thus laid the foundations of the Wisigothic kingdom, of which Toulouse became the capital and the residence of Wallia. Numbers of the Alauni who had emigrated from the vicinity of the Black Sea, and of the Silingi, a people of Vandal origin, had found their way, at an earlier period, into Spain, and when the Vandals, who arrived next in succession, were oppressed by the Wisigoths, they, in turn, encroached on the possessions of the Alauni and Silingi, and drove them into the interior of the country.

On the death of Wallia, Theodoric, son of Alaric, became king of the nation, and renewed the war against the Vandals, and compelled them to retire to a greater distance from the frontiers, on which the latter again fell on the Alauni and Silingi and nearly annihilated them. The ultimate fate of these tribes is uncertain, but it is probable that the remnant of the Silingi was absorbed by the Vandals, and that the Alauni withdrew into Catalonia, and when that province was afterwards seized by the Goths, became lost amongst their conquerors. This conjecture is heightened by the circumstance that the words Catalan

or *Gotalauni*, names given to the ancient inhabitants of Catalonia, are evidently compounded of the appellatives of each nation, *Gothus* and *Alaunus*.

A. D. 428. A few years after these events, the Vandals were solicited by Boniface, a Roman general, who was at variance with his court, to pass into Africa, an invitation which they readily accepted, and resigned their possessions in Spain to the Wisigoths.

A. D. 441. At this period, the Goths formed an alliance with the Burgundians, who had descended from their native country to the southern districts of France, and joining that nation, laid siege to Narbonne, but they were attacked by Ætius, who commanded the Romans, and repulsed with great loss, whilst their new allies escaped destruction by retiring into the mountains of Savoy. The presence of Ætius being required at Rome, he entrusted the command of the army to Litorius, one of his officers, and the latter having rashly besieged Toulouse, the residence of Theodoric, was defeated by the Gothic monarch, and would have been cut off entirely with his troops, had not Ætius opportunely returned and succeeded in making peace.

A. D. 450. This year was rendered memorable in consequence of the invasion of Gaul by the Huns, which was occasioned principally by

the following incident. Theodoric had two daughters, one of whom married Rechiaris, king of the Suevi, and the other was affianced to Hunnoric, son of Genseric, king of the Vandals. Under the infamous pretence that she was forming a conspiracy against him, Genseric deprived his daughter-in-law of her nose and ears, and sent her in that mutilated state to Theodoric, who immediately took up arms against him, and aided by the Romans, prepared to avenge the crime by the destruction of the Vandal king. Genseric, conscious of his inability to resist the united forces of the Goths and Romans, had recourse to stratagem and prevailed on Attila, king of the Huns, who was then in Italy, to invade the southern parts of Gaul, in consequence of which Theodoric had only the alternative to forego his revenge or abandon his dominions to the mercy of the invaders.

Attila fell with unrelenting fury on the fairest provinces of Gaul: consigned the city of Metz with others of inferior note, to the flames, and besieged Orleans, which would have fallen into his possession, had not the Goths and Romans hastened to its relief. A desperate encounter took place between the Huns and their opponents near the town of Chalons sur Marne, in which A. D. 450. Attila was totally defeated, but the victory

was purchased dearly on the part of the allies, Theodoric being killed in the battle. Depressed by this reverse of fortune, the Huns were compelled to solicit a cessation of hostilities, and to make peace with the Romans, and yet their turbulent disposition again displayed itself before the conclusion

A. D. 453. of the year, by another incursion into Gaul, *Thorismund* in which they were repelled by *Thorismund* or *Thrasimund* or *Thrasimund*, king of the Wisigoths, who had succeeded to the throne of Theodoric, his father, and driven back into Italy.

A. D. 454. In the ensuing year, Petronius Maximus, the reigning emperor, having been put to death, Avitus, magister militum, or commander in chief of the Roman troops, was supported by the Goths, and raised to the imperial dignity in the west: an event which affords a convincing proof of the height, which the power of the Wisigothic nation had then attained. Thorismund did not long survive his victory over Attila,

Theodoric. being assassinated by his brother Theodoric, who immediately ascended the throne and engaged in a bloody war with the Suevi, who were then in Spain, headed by their king, Recharius, in which he nearly annihilated their army.

A. D. 462. After a reign of eight years, Theodoric *Euricus.* was killed by his brother, Euricus, and the

latter governed the Wisigoths for the period of twenty-two years, during which he extended his dominions in Gaul from Toulouse to the river Loire, and captured the city of Marseilles in the south of France, and the towns of Saragossa and Pampeluna in Spain. The Suevi, who inhabited the north of Spain and of Portugal, were occupied for several years in contests amongst themselves for the sovereign power: the principal competitors were Fratan, Masdras, Framarius, and Remismund, and the progress of their dissensions was marked by the plunder of Oporto and Lisbon. As there has not yet been given any detailed account of the rise and progress of these barbarians, it may be as well to mention that their original establishment was in Lusatia, a district of Upper Saxony, from whence they emigrated into Spain, and in the course of their descent from their native forests towards the south, drew with them many scattered tribes of Marcomanni, Alemanni, and other German nations, who are frequently confounded with them under the general denomination of Suevi.

On the death of Euricus, Alaric, his son, **A. D. 464.** succeeded to the throne, and employed the *Alaric.* early part of his reign in completing and revising a code of laws, which had been

partially compiled by his father, and the Wisigothic kingdom, then distinguished by the name of Gothia, became subject, for the first time, to written ordinances. Alaric married Theudigotha, daughter of Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths, at that time virtually king of Italy, by whom he had one son, Amalarick: he also left a natural son, named Gesalic, whose transient appearance on the stage of public life scarcely deserves notice.

- A. D. 490. About this period, Clovis, the celebrated king of the Franks, began to make incursions into that part of the Wisigothic dominions situated in the south of France, and a war ensued, which continued several years and ended in the death of Alaric, who was killed in battle, and the conquest by A. D. 507. Clovis of all the country as far as Bourdeaux.

The probability is, that the greater part of the kingdom would have fallen into the power of the conqueror, had not Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths, become alarmed for the safety of his own territories, and marched out of Italy at the head of a considerable force, to interrupt his victorious career. The contending armies met at Arles, a city near the mouth of the Rhone, and a furious engagement ensued, in which Clovis and his Franks experienced

a severe defeat, and were compelled to retrace their steps.

The Goths destitute of a leader, raised Gesalic, the eldest son of Alaric, to the throne, but he was deposed by Theodoric, the Ostrogoth, who placed the crown on the head of his infant grandson, Amalarick, and in the character of his guardian, protected his dominions from the inroads of the Franks during his minority.

At the death of Theodoric, Amalarick A. D. 530. assumed the reins of government, and prudently contracted an alliance with his formidable neighbours, by marrying Clotildis, daughter of Clovis, and thus ensued safety and tranquillity to his subjects. Amalarick was afterwards killed, but whether by accident or design is not known, and Theudis, the lieutenant or principal commander of the Wisigoths, seized the crown on failure of the royal line. After a lapse of some years he was opposed by Theudiscus, another leader of the same nation, and a tumult arose, in which Theudis was slain and Theudiscus immediately proclaimed king in his stead. But the ferment thus excited, was not easily allayed, and the attractions of royalty, to which there was not any chief then entitled by descent or usage, induced other competitors to enter the field, amongst whom the principal were Agila and

A. D. 549. *Athanagild.* **Athanagild.** These princes, or commanders, disputed the possession of the throne with Theudiscus, and having succeeded in deposing him after a short contest, in which he lost his newly acquired honours and his life, turned their arms against each other, and fortune favouring the cause of Athanagild, he ascended the throne. In the midst of these contentions, the Franks, no longer united to the Wisigoths by the ties of family compact, availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the unprotected state of their country, and led by Childebert and Clotarius, seized on Gascony, an extensive tract between the river Garonne and the Pyrenees, which they wrested from the feeble hands of the Wisigoths. A temporary suspension of hostilities succeeded these events, overtures for peace were made, and the negotiation terminated in the marriages of Sigebert and Chilperic, the sons of Clotarius, with Brunehild and Gailesuinth, daughters of the Wisigothic king.

A. D. 567. *Livoa.* *Leovigild.* On the death of Athanagild, Livoa, and Leovigild, his brother, chiefs of the same nation, successively assumed the sovereign power, and reigned without molestation, till Hermanegild, son of the latter monarch, having espoused Ingundis, daughter of Sigebert and Brunehild, or, as others insist,

of Chilperic and Galesuinth, became a convert to the tenets of the orthodox church, rebelled against his father, who adhered to the doctrines of Arius, and threw the kingdom into confusion. A civil war ensued, which was carried with the greatest animosity for several years: the Franks, Suevi, and Romans, alternately assisting the prince, in the character of allies; but at length Hermanegild experienced a fatal reverse of fortune and fell into the hands of his incensed parent, by whom he was immediately put to death.

Having thus delivered his kingdom from A. D. 585. the scourge of war, Leovigild determined to take revenge on the Suevi, who had materially contributed to the transient successes of his son: he therefore attacked them with all his troops, gave them a signal defeat, seized and imprisoned their king Audeca, and united their territories to his own.

The Wisigothic monarch did not long A. D. 586. survive the restoration of peace, and at his death, Reccaredus, his second son, ascended the throne and married Ingundis, by whom he was converted to the orthodox faith, and assumed the titles of Catholicus and Christianissimus. The Wisigothic kings had, till this period, professed the faith of Arius, and it is to be regretted that the first adorer

of the Trinity should have drawn the sword of persecution against those who dissented from his religious opinions. Certain, however, it is, that the Jews, of whom considerable numbers were resident in Spain, having been transported, it is said, by the emperor Adrian from Judea, were severely persecuted and many of them compelled reluctantly to profess Christianity.

Chinda-
suinth. On the decease of Reccaredus, Chinda-
suinth became sovereign of the Wisigoths,
and died in a few years, leaving two chil-
dren in their minority, Favila, afterwards
Duke of Cantabria, and Theudfred, who
became Duke of Cordova. As the sons of
the deceased monarch were incompetent,
on account of their youth, to assume the
Enico. reins of government, Enico, a Wisigothic
chief, ascended the throne, and subse-
quently bequeathed the royal power to
Witiza. his son Witiza, who, with the view of se-
curing the uninterrupted possession of the
crown, caused Favila and Theudfred to
be put to death. But the murderer did not
escape with impunity: Roderic, son of
Theudfred, on his arrival at manhood,
excited a rebellion against him, and put the
Roderic. usurper to death. Roderic then filled the
vacant throne, and governed the people
several years without molestation by fo-
reign or domestic enemies. This monarch

is celebrated in history for the splendor of his military achievements, the gracefulness of his person, and the benevolence of his disposition; but the indulgence of unbridled passions led him to destruction, and hastened the dissolution of the Wisigothic kingdom. Roderic became enamoured with the daughter of Count Julian, who ranked amongst the chief of his subjects, and found means, by force or persuasion, to violate her person and stamp disgrace on her father's name.

The anger of the irritated parent was incapable of being appeased by any other sacrifice than the life of the offender: in conjunction with the sons of Witiza, he raised the standard of revolt and invited the Saracens, who had overrun Mauritania, to make an incursion into Spain. The followers of Mahomet, inflamed with the desire of humbling the Christian king, readily accepted the overture, and quitting the shores of Africa, landed on the opposite coasts under the guidance of Count Julian. Roderic marched instantly with the flower of his army to attack the invaders, and a desperate and bloody conflict ensued; but fortune deserted his banners, and the sovereignty of the Wisigoths in Spain, which had existed three hundred years, perished A. D. 711, with Roderic, the last of their kings.

On the advance of the enemy, the remnant of the Goths retired into the north-western provinces of Spain, and established their residence in the mountainous districts of Asturias and Galicia, where they continued to defend themselves for several centuries against the attacks of the Mahomedans.

Within one hundred and fifty years after the death of Roderic, Pelagius, or Pelagio, rallied the descendants of the Wisigoths, made head against the Arabians, or Saracens, as they are more frequently termed, and founded the kingdom of Leon. His example was imitated, in course of time, by other chiefs of the same nation, and the states of Navarre, Castile, and Arragon, successively arose out of the ruins of the Gothic monarchy. The Arabians, however, by dint of personal bravery and political strength, maintained their ascendancy till the fourteenth century, when the Christian inhabitants of the country overpowered them in turn, compelled them to seek refuge on the barren shores of Africa, and thus terminated the dominion of the Moors in Spain.

THE OSTROGOTHS.

Having detailed the rise and fall of the Wisigothic kingdom, it remains, in the next place, to trace the steps of the Ostrogoths, who, it will be remembered, were permitted to establish themselves in Thrace towards the conclusion of the fourth century. A. D. 390.

By the death of Attila and the retreat of his sons and most of their companions to the vicinity of the Black Sea, from whence A. D. 453. they had emigrated, the Ostrogoths were delivered from the restraint, till that time imposed on them by the presence of their formidable neighbours. Finding themselves under the necessity of extending their boundaries in consequence of the increase of their population, the Ostrogoths crossed the Danube, occupied the tract of country situated between Sirmium, or Semlin, and Vienna, and wrested Belgrade, in Hungary, from the possession of the Sarmatian tribes, by whom it was occupied. A. D. 467. But they were not permitted thus to enlarge their territories without molestation: for the space of four years they were perpetually at variance with the Romans and such of the Huns as remained in Pannonia, after the retreat of the sons of Attila, and

it was not until the accession of Leo to the throne of Constantinople, that they were enabled to enjoy a respite from the fatigues of war. They made a treaty of peace with that emperor and then directed their attacks against the wandering remnant of the Huns, whom they effectually disabled by a series of defeats, from making incursions into their territories, after which they turned their arms against the Swabians and Bavarians, the latter of whom came into notice for the first time, at this period of history.

A. D. 476. The rapid progress of Odoacer, prince of the Heruli, and his invasion of Italy, induced Zeno, who succeeded to the throne on the death of Leo, to invite the Ostrogoths into the western parts of Thrace, with the view of interposing them as a line of defence against the enemy, should he venture to assail the imperial dominions in the east. The Ostrogoths accordingly quitted Pannonia, crossed the Danube under the command of three brothers, *Theodomir*, *Theodomir*, *Walamir*, and *Widimir*, and *Walamir*, *and* *Widimir*, advancing towards the west, effectually secured the eastern states from attack; whilst Odoacer, pursuing his conquests in Italy, deposed Romulus, or Augustulus, as he is occasionally termed, emperor of the west, and assumed the government of Italy. Subsequently to this emigration, *Widimir*

separated himself from his brothers and taking with him a considerable number of his countrymen, led them in search of new adventures into Italy and Gaul: Walamir was killed in a contest with some of the neighbouring people, and Theodimir became sole king of the Ostrogoths. At his decease, he left two children, Amalafid, and Theodoric. The former married Thrasimund, king of the Vandals, and the latter *Theodoric* ascended the throne, and became the most distinguished monarch of the nation. In early youth he had been sent as a hostage to Constantinople, where he received a liberal education and acquired a knowledge of military tactics and political science, with which few co-temporary sovereigns were endowed, and which enabled him to govern his people in prosperity and peace for the space of forty years. The ambition of Odoacer was preparing to indulge itself in farther conquests, when the emperor Zeno, alarmed for the safety of the east and probably actuated by a latent apprehension of the ambitious views of the Ostro-Gothic monarch, persuaded Theodoric to lead his troops into Italy and wrest the laurel from the hand of the victorious barbarian. The king immediately adopted the suggestion, and collecting an army adequate to the magnitude of the

enterprize, marched into Italy and proclaimed the object of his expedition. The war was not so remarkable for its duration as for the fury of the contending parties. A desperate battle was fought between the hostile armies on the banks of the Isonzo, or Lyzonso, a river which forms the eastern boundary of the city of Aquileia, in which Odoacer sustained a severe defeat and retreated to Verona. Another engagement ensued in the vicinity of that place, when the good fortune of Theodoric again prevailed and the Heruli were routed with dreadful carnage.

A. D. 489. After these fatal reverses, Odoacer had not any other alternative than that of collecting the scattered remains of his forces, retiring within the walls of Ravenna, and there awaiting the final attack of his elated foe. But Theodoric fully appreciated the valour of a desperate enemy, and wisely determined to reduce his strength gradually by famine, rather than stake his own fortune on the hazard of a single cast. He therefore contented himself with encompassing the city with his troops and cutting off the supplies of the Heruli, in consequence of which they were obliged to capitulate, and Odoacer having been invited to participate in a magnificent entertainment given by Theodoric to the captive

chiefs after the surrender of Ravenna, was assassinated, either by design or accident; in one of those tumults with which the military banquets of the early ages frequently concluded.

On the death of his rival, Theodoric be- A. D. 490. came in fact, though not by title, king of Italy, over which he reigned more than thirty years, in splendour and tranquillity, nor is it a slight proof of his moderation that although a professed Arian, he tolerated the exercise of the Catholic faith and continued the practice of the Roman emperors, by nominating, in cases of vacancy arising from death or resignation, the Bishop, or, as the person possessed of that dignity was afterwards termed, during the reign of this monarch, the Pope, of Rome. It is not intended to enter into the discussion of the two questions so frequently and furiously agitated in former times, whether the Pope be infallible or not, and whether it be of divine right that he assumes the authority of a sovereign in temporal affairs: but it is worthy of remark, that the first bishops of Rome were invariably appointed by the Roman emperors and afterwards by the Ostrogothic kings, who succeeded them in the government of Italy, and that in the reign of Athalarick, the successor of Theodoric, fees of a particular amount were

paid by them to that monarch on their consecration.

- A. D. 507. Some years after his accession, the Franks fell on the Wisigothic dominions in the south of France, and conquered the districts situated in the vicinity of Bourdeaux. Clovis afterwards crossed the country, and attacked several cities near the Rhone, on which Theodoric, apprehensive that he would extend his incursions into Italy, took the field against him and defeated the Franks with great slaughter. Notwithstanding this success, Theodoric considered it more politic to conciliate than to irritate his formidable enemy, and he accordingly formed an alliance with Audeffeda, sister of Clovis, by whom, however, he did not leave any male issue. Yet this union had the effect of protecting Italy from the incursions of that enterprising chief, and at the same time his family connexion with the Wisigoths in Spain, and the countenance of the emperor enabled Theodoric to direct his attention to the internal regulation of his kingdom, and to repair, by the encouragement of agriculture and other peaceful arts, the ravages of war. To this period of history is ascribed the invention of the Gothic order in architecture, and it is fancifully said that places of religious worship were originally erected in that gloomy style to

imitate the dark caverns to which the primitive Christians were compelled to resort for the performance of divine service.

The reign of Theodoric was also distinguished by the presence, amongst other eminent men, of Boethius, a Roman by birth, of splendid talents and profound research, who was promoted to the office of minister, and for a considerable time possessed the confidence of his sovereign. But he was, at length, accused, though with what degree of truth is uncertain, of aspiring to the crown, and beaten to death with clubs, after suffering a long confinement in the tower of Pavia, during which he composed his celebrated treatise *de Consolatione*. Theodoric held his court at Ravenna, where he died at an advanced A. D. 530. age, leaving three daughters, of whom Ostrogotha married Sigismund, king of Burgundy: Amalastintha was affianced to Eutharicus Cillaca, a Roman of noble extraction, (by whom she had Athalarick and Matasuintha,) and Theudigotha married Alaric, king of the Wisigoths. It is a remarkable proof of the experience of Theodoric in the art of government, that although he lived in turbulent times, such was the impression of his talents and power on the minds of surrounding nations, that he not only ruled his own territories without

interruption, but also governed Spain for the space of fifteen years during the minority of his grandson, Amalarick.

A. D. 530. Theodoric was succeeded by Athalarick, son of his daughter Amalasuinth, but he being then a minor, the public affairs were administered by his mother, who did not spare any pains in the education of her child. The young king, however, suddenly gave way to the pleasures to which royalty affords ready access, and fell a victim to intemperance before he had attained the age of manhood.

A. D. 534. On the failure of issue in the male line, Amalasuinth and Theodobat. Amalasuinth, in order to maintain herself on the throne, gave her hand to Theodobat, her cousin, and allowed him to participate in the sovereign power. But the conduct of Theodobat was widely different from that of Theodoric; he commenced his reign by repeated acts of oppression towards his subjects, and when the queen ventured to remonstrate with him on his cruelty, he caused her to be put to death by suffocation in a bath.

At that time Justinian was emperor in the east: induced by gratitude to avenge the cause of the family of Theodoric, who had been faithful adherents of the Roman state for many years, or more probably anticipating the restoration of Italy to the

empire, he made a treaty of peace with the Franks, with whom he was then at war, and ordered Belisarius into Italy to attack Theodobat. The latter terrified at the determination of Justinian, sent ambassadors to Constantinople to implore his mercy and to deprecate his anger by payment of tribute, but a party of Goths on the frontiers having gained a temporary advantage over the Romans, after the departure of the embassy, Theodobat countermanded his instructions, set the emperor at defiance, and concentrated his army at Rome.

On receipt of this intelligence, Belisarius landed a considerable body of troops in the vicinity of Naples, which he stormed and plundered, and the Goths, alarmed at the progress of the imperial forces, rebelled against Theodobat, put him to death, and elected Vitiges, their general, king in his place. The first act of the new monarch was to conciliate the affections of the people by his marriage with Matasuinth, daughter of Amalasuinth, their late unfortunate queen, and he then advanced from Ravenna towards Rome, which the vigilance of his opponent had already fortified and placed in a state of security. Vitiges, on his arrival, immediately surrounded the city with a numerous army and endeavoured to starve it into a surrender, but the

Vitiges.

A. D. 537.

superior skill of Belisarius enabled him to obtain supplies in despite of all exertions to the contrary, and to harass the attacking party by frequent and unexpected sallies. During a siege of twelve months continuance, vast numbers of the Goths fell by the sword, and a pestilence then broke out amongst them, which so effectually diminished their strength that Vitiges was compelled to decamp with precipitation and retire within the walls of Ravenna, and that city was immediately surrounded by the Roman forces. Mention is made at this time, of an expedition into Italy, undertaken by Theodobert, or Theudebert, king of Austrasia, at the instance of Justinian, in which the Franks committed dreadful ravages, but their career was of short duration, most of them were swept away by a dysentery, occasioned by unwholesome food and a pestiferous atmosphere, and their leader was compelled to retreat.

In this state of things, the Goths, weary of the ill success of their commander, revolted and offered the crown of Italy to Belisarius, on which Vitiges, finding resistance ineffectual, surrendered at discretion and was carried prisoner with his family to

A. D. 538, Constantinople, in the vicinity of which Justinian provided a residence for them.

Deprived of their king and subdued by a

series of misfortunes, the Goths submitted to the emperor, and Italy, in all probability, again would have formed part of the Roman dominions, had not the jealousy of Justinian induced him to recall Belisarius from the scene of action and employ him in the war then raging between the emperor and the king of Persia. The only objection which can be urged against the Roman general is, that he did not, in the first instance, positively decline the offer of regal power, but his uniform fidelity during the whole of his life is sufficient to preserve him from the imputation of disloyalty or insubordination, and the more correct inference is, that he expected, by temporizing with the enemy, to bring them gradually into subjection, without having occasion to resort to extremes. The result proved the accuracy of his judgment: Vitiges died soon after his removal to Constantinople, and the Goths, no longer awed by the presence of Belisarius, began to exhibit symptoms of revolt. A body of Rugi, in the Ostrogothic service, had taken refuge in Pavia, and in the absence of any other sovereign, elected their general, Eraric, or *Eraric*. Uraias, king, in the room of Vitiges: After a short interval, Eraric resigned the crown to Hildebald, another chief, by whom he was ungratefully assassinated,

and the latter being, in his turn, put to
 A. D. 540. death by the adherents of the former, To-
Totilas. tilas was chosen by the Goths to supply the
 vacancy. The character of this general is
 mentioned by historians in terms of high
 commendation, and it is not amongst the
 least of his virtues that he is distinguished
 for his observance of treaties and his mercy
 towards those, whom the chances of war
 placed in his power. The success of
 Totilas, during his first campaign, was such
 as to exceed the most sanguine expectations
 of his followers: he besieged Naples, which
 surrendered by capitulation: defeated an
 army sent by Justinian to oppose him, in
 the neighbourhood of Florence, and en-
 camped against Rome. That unfortunate
 A. D. 544. city, once the mistress, but then the sport
 of nations, became subjected to all the
 horrors of famine: the Roman troops, fur-
 nished with supplies, held out for a con-
 siderable time, whilst numbers of the mi-
 serable inhabitants, unable to escape and
 distracted with the cries of their perishing
 families, destroyed themselves in the agony
 of despair, or attempted to satisfy the in-
 ordinate cravings of hunger by devouring
 the bodies of their fellow creatures. At
 length, the imperial army having exhausted
 its store of provision, decamped by night,
 and the Goths marched into the city over

the corpses of the dead and dying. The successes of Totilas induced Justinian to recall Belisarius from the Persian war and to send him again into Italy: on the arrival A. D. 546. of that general, he was informed that Totilas had quitted Rome and made an incursion into Apulia, on which he took possession of the city and fortified it as well as time and circumstances would allow. The A. D. 547. first intimation of the return of Totilas was conveyed to the Roman general by a desperate attack on the part of the Goths, but the bravery and exertions of Belisarius rendered the assault ineffectual, and though Totilas subsequently renewed his attempt at different periods with the flower of his army, he was compelled to acknowledge the superior abilities of his opponent in military science. The resolution of the Gothic general, however, was not daunted by temporary ill success, and he continued the siege with the utmost perseverance for the space of two years, during which fortune alternately favoured and deserted the contending parties. At length, Belisarius finding himself indifferently supported, if not absolutely neglected, by his court, and perceiving that the barbarians would ultimately carry their point, demanded permission to resign his command. This

request was unaccountably granted, and no sooner had the veteran taken leave of the shores of Italy, than Rome fell again into the possession of Totilas. The favourable conclusion of the war and the apathy or weakness of the emperor induced the Goths to engage in a maritime expedition; and after re-establishing their authority at Rome, they proceeded, under the command of Totilas, to ravage Sicily, Corsica, and Sardinia.

A. D. 549. A transient diversion was created, indeed, by the irruption of a body of the Franks, headed by Theodobert, king of Austrasia, who attacked and seized several towns on the northern frontiers of Italy, but this was of short continuance, as Totilas had the address to persuade the enemy to enter into

A. D. 550. a treaty of alliance, and thus became at liberty to pursue his schemes of aggrandizement in other directions. Historians have censured the Ostrogoths for the destruction of many of the splendid edifices of ancient Rome, but although the truth of the allegation cannot be accurately ascertained, it is more than probable that the injuries sustained by these specimens of art, were the work of the partizans of the Ursini and Colonna, better known by the names of Guelphs and Ghibelines, whose

deadly feuds disgraced Italy in the twelfth century.

After a calm of two years duration, Jus-A. D. 552¹ Justinian determined to renew his attempts on Italy and sent his favourite general, Narses, at the head of a vast force, to reduce it to subjection. Totilas made every possible effort to resist his opponent, and the hostile armies met in the vicinity of Rome to decide the fate of the western empire. But fortune frowned on the cause of the Wisigoths: a severe encounter ensued, in which Totilas, after displaying incredible acts of bravery, was slain, and the remainder of his troops retired to Pavia, where they elected Tejas, a Gothic general, for their *Tejas* king. During their retreat, an event happened, from which arose the virtual dissolution of the Roman senate, it never having been enabled, from that period, to meet as a deliberative assembly, or to exercise the authority it possessed in former times. The principal part of the senators had quitted Rome previous to the siege, and sought refuge in various places distant from the scene of action; on hearing that the imperial troops had entered the city in triumph, they directed their steps homeward, and by an unfortunate accident met the vanquished and irritated Goths on their

march towards Pavia, and were put indiscriminately to the sword.

- A. D. 553. Narses, unwilling to forego the advantage he had gained, advanced in pursuit of the enemy, and Tejas, who ventured to give him battle, shared the fate of his predecessor and was killed in the action. At this juncture, the Franks, under the command of Bucelinus, duke of the Alemanni, again made their appearance in Italy, spread themselves over the districts which had been the scene of war, and penetrating to the extremity of Calabria, perfected the work of devastation which the Goths had left unfinished. With the foresight of a prudent general, Narses permitted the barbarians to encumber themselves with spoil, and patiently awaited their return: then seizing a favourable opportunity, he fell on them with his whole army, as they bent their course towards the frontiers, and those who were unable to save themselves by the rapidity of their flight, became victims to the sword. As to the Goths, the conclusion of the war was such as might be reasonably anticipated: the remainder of their once formidable host, dispersed over the face of the country, was captured by the Romans: an inconsiderable portion of the fugitives obtained permission to reside in

Italy, but the greater part of the nation was carried to Constantinople and taken into the service of the emperor. The government of the west was then bestowed by Justinian on his general, as the merited reward of his services, with the title of Exarch of Ravenna, and Narses held his court in that city till the invasion of Italy by the Lombards. A D. 567.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
5708 SOUTH WOODLAND AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637
TEL: 773-936-3700
FAX: 773-936-3701
WWW: WWW.CHEM.UCHICAGO.EDU

THE VANDALS.



CHAP. III.

Their origin. Incursions into Italy. Settlement in Spain. Emigration into Africa. Downfall of the Vandal kingdom.

ALTHOUGH the origin of the Vandals has not been accurately ascertained, there is very little doubt that they were a branch of the Gothic nation, from whom they became separated by events, the particulars of which have not reached the present day. Like the Goths, they bore evident marks of Sarmatian extraction, though their residence, when they became known to historians, was amongst the Germans, on the western side of the Oder, in Mecklenburgh and Swedish Pomerania. From their vicinity to the Goths and the similarity of their habits, they were induced frequently to accompany them in their military expeditions; on that account they are often confounded with them, and, it is probable, though there is not any positive authority for the assertion, that multitudes of the

- Vandals were intermixed with the German and Gothic nations, which inundated the Roman empire in the third century. Certain it is, that so early as the reign of Aurelianus, these people had attained considerable strength and became formidable to the Romans, for they are mentioned by name as having invaded Italy in conjunction with other Sarmatian tribes, and the emperor, notwithstanding occasional success over them in the field, was ultimately compelled, as the purchase of peace, to abandon the province of Dacia to them.
- A. D. 274.** The division of this territory amongst the Goths and Vandals gave rise to numerous disputes between them, in which the neighbouring tribes of barbarians were frequently involved, and these controversies enabled the Romans to prosecute, with greater activity and without fear of interruption, the wars in which they were then engaged in Persia and Britain.
- A. D. 319.** In the reign of Constantine, the Goths, headed by their king Ariaric, were again at variance with the Romans, but having sustained several defeats, made peace with them, and Geberic, who succeeded as king of the Goths on the death of Ariaric, turned his arms against the Vandals, then governed by a king, named Visumar. A series of conflicts ensued, which occupied a con-

siderable period of time, but the fortune of the Goths prevailed, and the Vandals, to avoid the oppression of their enemies, threw themselves on the mercy of Constantine, by whom they were placed in the province of Pannonia.

During the joint reign of Honorius and A. D. 400. Arcadius, Radagaisus, a leader of the Germans, assembled a vast multitude of barbarians of all descriptions and led them into Italy for the purpose of plunder. In this expedition, he was attended by the Vandals, and finding, on his arrival, that the country had been invaded by Alaric, king of the Goths, he joined him as an auxiliary in his career of devastation. The confederates, however, were defeated with great slaughter by Stilico, the Roman general, and ultimately driven out of Italy, on which the Goths and Vandals directed their march towards the west, and fell on the dominions of the Franks. But the A. D. 406. latter gave them an unwelcome reception and repulsed them with immense loss: the Vandals alone leaving on the field of battle twenty thousand men, besides Godegisilus *Godegisilus.* or Godigisclus, their king. The residue then elected Gunderic their leader, and he *Gunderic.* conducted them into Spain, and took possession of the southern provinces of that country.

In this place it may be well to recapitulate the remarks scattered throughout the preceding pages relating to the state of Spain, in order to render more easy of comprehension the different periods of its invasion by the barbarous nations, the character and description of the invaders, and the districts which they severally occupied previous to the conquest of the country by the Visigoths. The Phoenicians were the first settlers in Spain; they landed on its coasts at the period of six centuries, or, according to others, one thousand years before the Christian æra, founded a colony at Cadiz, and by degrees spread themselves over the greater part of the peninsula. The original inhabitants were known by the several names of Cantabrians, Asturians, and Celtiberians, the latter of whom were descendants of the people of Celtic Gaul. After much bloodshed and repeated conflicts, the Carthagenians next succeeded in making themselves masters of the principal part of Spain, (B. C. 400) and when they had resided in it for the space of two hundred years from the completion of their conquest, they were expelled by the Romans, who subdued them one hundred and ninety years before the Christian æra, at the conclusion of two severe contests, one of which continued twenty-four, and the other seven-

teen years, generally distinguished by the name of the Punic wars.

The Romans divided the country into Bætica, Lusitania, and Tarracœnensis. Bætica was so called from the river Bætis, now the Guadalquivir, and comprehended all the space between Granada and the mouth of the Guadiana, properly speaking Upper and Lower Andalusia, and a part of New Castile. Lusitania extended from the Guadiana to the river Douro, and Tarracœnensis, by far the largest division, contained the remaining districts of Spain.

The Romans continued in possession of their conquests for the period of six hundred years, that is, till the joint reign of Honorius and Arcadius in the fourth century, when they were, in turn, driven out by the northern hordes, who passed in myriads through Gaul.

Of the cities in Spain, at the time of its occupation by the Romans, none were more celebrated than Carthægena: it is said to have been built by Teucer, on his return from the Trojan war, or more probably, by Asdrubal, the relation of Hannibal, and at the time of its conquest by C. Lelius and P. Scipio, the narrative of whose admirable continence adorns the pages of history, in the year 208 B. C. it was, according to Livy, the richest city in the

world, next to Rome. When the barbarian multitudes, in the fourth century, forced the barriers of the Pyrenees, the Vandals seized on the southern provinces, and occupied the district then named Vandalitia from its new inhabitants, but now better known by the corrupted title of Andalusia; the Alauni and Silingi, who had also found their way thither, took possession of the central districts and the south of Portugal, and the Suevi, of Gallicia.

A. D. 415. But the new settlers were not long permitted to enjoy their recently acquired habitations. In the following year, Wallia, king of the Wisigoths, having made peace with the Romans, left the Ostrogoths in Italy, and marching into Spain, attacked and defeated the Vandals, occupied a considerable portion of their territories, and fixed his residence not far from the frontiers, at Toulouse.

A. D. 420. In the course of a few years, the Wisigoths, who had increased in numbers and strength, began to press heavily on the Vandals, and the latter straitened for room by their continual encroachments, proceeded in their turn to drive out the Alauni and Silingi, whose territories they seized and occupied.

A. D. 421. In the following year they were attacked by the Romans, headed by their general,

Castinius, but having united their forces to those of the Suevi, who made common cause with them, they defeated the Romans and compelled them to retire, after which they remained in the undisturbed possession of their conquests.

In the reign of Valentinian 3d, Boniface, A. D. 428.

one of the Roman leaders, was instigated by Ætius, a general in the same service, to revolt against his sovereign, and having so done, he invited the Vandals to emigrate into Africa, with the view of drawing the attention of the emperor to that quarter, and thus creating a diversion in his own favour. At this time Gunderic died, and Genseric, a Vandal chief, well versed in the art of war, caused the widow and children of the deceased monarch to be put to death, and ascended the vacant throne. Anxious to withdraw the eyes of the people from this scene of bloodshed, Genseric gladly accepted the invitation of the Roman general, and having landed in Africa, commenced military operations by the capture and sack of Carthage. It cannot be denied that the Vandals were ferocious in war and addicted to plunder; yet there is every reason to believe that at home they were rigid in their morals, and regular in their lives. Assuming this to be the case, it is more than probable that the vices, which

not only were practised, but openly avowed by the degenerate Romans, induced the barbarians to act with unusual severity towards a nation, whose customs were so obnoxious to them. Another cause of enmity arose from their difference of opinion on religious topics: the Romans believed in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, but the Vandals were Arians, denying the divinity of the Son, and this variance was the cause of great persecution, during the reign of the barbarians in Africa.

A. D. 431. About this period, Boniface having been reconciled to the court, and regretting the destruction which he had occasioned amongst the Romans in Africa, embarked for that coast with a considerable force, and commenced hostilities against Genseric. But his expedition was unsuccessful, and the Vandals having defeated and driven him out of Africa, extended their conquests over the islands of Sardinia, Corsica, and Sicily, from the latter of which Rome was chiefly supplied with corn. These misfortunes spread terror amongst the inhabitants of Italy, and finding themselves unable to cope with their opponents in the field, they entered into a treaty of peace with them, and confirmed to the Vandals the territories which they had acquired by the sword.

A. D. 450. Genseric, the Vandal king, stands accused

at this time of another act of atrocious barbarity, which stamps disgrace on his name. Hunoric, his son, had married a daughter of Théodoric, king of the Wisigoths, and Genseric, alleging that she was conspiring against him, although there does not appear to be the slightest ground for the assertion, mutilated her countenance and sent her in that horrid state to her father. The indignation of Theodoric could only be equalled by his thirst for revenge; he set his army in motion, and having obtained promises of assistance from the Romans, with whom he was then in alliance, prepared to invade Africa. Genseric, alarmed at the union of the Goths and Romans in common cause against him, endeavoured to save himself by stratagem, and prevailed on Attila, king of the Huns, who then was ravaging Italy, to turn his arms against the southern provinces of Gaul. The Hun listened to his suggestion, and Theodoric, occupied in the defence of his own territories, was compelled to desist from his enterprize, and shortly afterwards lost his life in battle with Attila.

On the death of the emperor Valentinian, A. D. 454. Maximus Petronius, a Roman of illustrious family, ascended the throne, and compelled the empress Eudoxia to marry him, and she, in revenge for the insult, urged the

Vandals to land in Italy, with which request they readily complied, and having invested Rome, stormed and plundered it. Maximus fell in the conflict, after a reign of two months, and Avitus, magister militum, was placed on the throne by the united consent of the Goths and the invaders. Avitus joined his forces to those of Marcianus, his colleague in the empire, and the first act of their reign was to rid the country of their turbulent allies, whom they attacked, and having defeated them, offered terms of peace, and prevailed on them to return to Africa.

- A. D. 457. At this time, Ricimer, a Suevian, entered Italy with a considerable army, composed principally of Burgundians, dethroned Avitus, and caused Marjorianus to be elected emperor in his stead. He then turned his arms against the Vandals, and accidentally meeting them at sea, gave them a signal defeat. The haughty spirit of Genseric could not brook this disgrace, and he hastened to retaliate on Ricimer by fitting out another fleet, with which he ravaged the coasts of Italy. On this, Marjorianus levied an army, and marching into Spain, encamped at Carthagena, where he
- A. D. 460. collected a suitable number of vessels, with the intention of transporting his troops to Africa, and carrying the war into the heart

of the enemy's country, but Genseric, anticipating his plans, made a sudden attack on the fleet, whilst at anchor in the harbour, seized and carried it away, and thus put an end to the expedition. History does not afford any certain account of the transactions of the Vandals for some years after this period, but there is reason to believe that in the interval the Romans gained considerable advantages over them; for in the reign of the emperor Leo, Tripoli, an A. D. 479, important city on the coast of Africa, was captured by the Romans, who again established themselves in their former dominions. But the enterprising spirit of Genseric did not permit his opponents to remain undisturbed; he took an opportunity of surprising them in their camp, and set fire to their ships, so that being left without the means of retreat, they were obliged to offer terms of accommodation, and in the result to resign their conquests and return home.

The territories of the Vandals at this time extended from the Atlantic Ocean to Cyrene, a celebrated city of Libya, on the confines of Egypt, which was built by a Greek colony, about six centuries before the Christian æra, and gave its name to the surrounding country. The kingdom of Africa comprehended Mauritania, Numidia, and Africa Proper: it was originally

inhabited by the Libyans, who were dispossessed by the Carthaginians, and the latter by the Romans: after which it became the residence of the Vandals, under the circumstances already narrated.

A. D. 477. After a long and prosperous reign, Genseric terminated his mortal career, having had two sons, Genzo and Hunnoric. The former died in the lifetime of his father, and *Hunnoric* the latter ascended the throne, and secured the alliance of the Romans by marrying Eudocia, daughter of Valentinian 3d. The reign of Hunnoric is unadorned by military triumphs or feats of arms, but it is distinguished by that spirit of religious persecution and intemperate zeal, which so frequently disgraced the later ages of the world. On the conversion of the emperor Constantine to Christianity, in the beginning of the fourth century, that monarch took extraordinary pains to disseminate the doctrines which he had recently embraced, and many chiefs of the barbarous nations, who occasionally visited Constantinople during intervals of peace, became converts to the new religion, and their example was generally imitated by their followers. But it was the misfortune of the church in those days to be convulsed by vehement disputes on the subject of the Trinity, and the majority of the barbarian converts, though

probably unable to assign any particular reason for their dissent from orthodoxy, professed the doctrines of Arius. It could hardly be expected that the Vandals, who were of this persuasion, would display less intemperance than the clergy of the contending parties, who were the grand supporters of the controversy on all occasions, and consequently the reign of Hunnoric was marked by a violent persecution of the bishops and professors of the orthodox religion in Africa: many of whom suffered the pains of martyrdom.

This reign of terror ended on the death of Hunnoric, who was succeeded by Gundamund, the son of his elder brother Genzo. A. D. 484.
Gundamund Hunnoric was twice married: the first time, to a daughter of Theodoric, king of the Wisigoths, and afterwards to Eudocia, daughter of the emperor Valentinian the 3d. By these wives he had two sons: of whom, Hilderic, the elder, afterwards ascended the throne, but the other, whose name has not reached posterity, died, in all probability, during the lifetime of his parent.

The reign of Gundamund is not distinguished by any remarkable event: a circumstance which may be explained by recollecting that the Ostrogoths were masters of Italy: the Roman emperor suffi-

ciently occupied in maintaining his power in the east against the numerous hosts of barbarians by whom he was surrounded, and the Wisigoths and Vandals united by the ties of marriage.

A. D. 496. Gundamund was succeeded by his brother *Thrasimund* Thrasimund, another son of Genzo, who held the reins of government for the space of nearly thirty years, having taken the precaution to ensure the safety of his dominions, by obtaining the hand of Amalfrid, sister of Theodoric, the Ostrogoth. The only transaction of any importance in this reign, was an expedition by the Vandals against the Mauri, or inhabitants of Mauritania, but the enterprize did not succeed, and the king after a bloody battle, in which he sustained a signal defeat, was compelled to abandon the idea of extending his dominions in that quarter.

A. D. 523. On the death of Thrasimund, the succession appears to have reverted to the family *Hilderic* of Hunnoric, whose eldest son, Hilderic, ascended the throne without opposition. This sovereign possessed a mild and conciliatory disposition, manifested by a treaty of alliance he made with the emperor Justinian, and by his conduct towards the orthodox bishops and clergy, whom he restored to their former possessions and protected from the persecution of their Arian

enemies. But the peaceable character of Hilderic was not suited to those turbulent times, and the enlivening prospect of tranquillity was speedily obscured. Amalafid, the widow of Thrasimund, displeased at the protection afforded to the religious opposers of the Vandal faith, or more probably allured by the expectation of the crown, suddenly declared war against the king, and appeared in the field at the head of a numerous army. Hilderic also summoned his adherents, and a desperate encounter took place between the contending factions, in which Amalafid was totally defeated, and lost, at once, her hopes and her life. This event, however, did not terminate the war, for Gelimer, the son of Gelaris and grandson of Genzo, rallied the discomfited troops, renewed the contest, and having engaged the troops of Hilderic, which he had improvidently intrusted to the command of his nephew, Hoamer, a youth neither possessed of courage nor experienced in military tactics, defeated them with great loss. The king fell into the hands of the conqueror, who, regardless of the dictates of mercy or the ties of consanguinity, threw him into prison, and afterwards put him to death. This outrage excited the displeasure of the emperor Justinian, and he sent Belisarius, the celebrated Roman general,

A. D. 530.

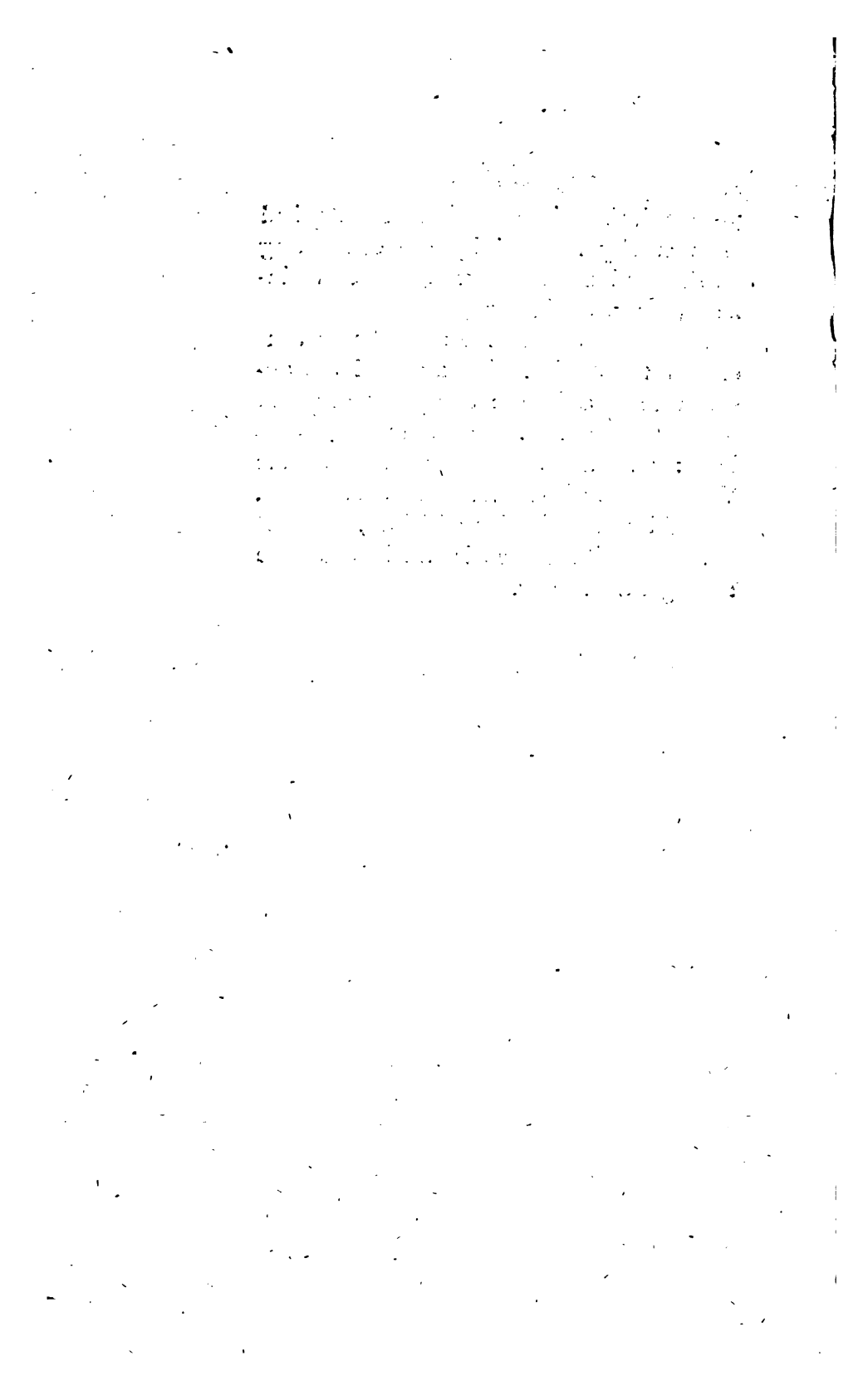
Gelimer.

into Africa with an army, for the two-fold purpose of avenging the death of his ally, and re-uniting the Vandal territories to the

- A. D. 533. Roman state. Belisarius accordingly landed in Africa, and after defeating Gelimer, who ineffectually endeavoured to oppose his progress, entered Carthage as a conqueror. Tzazo, a chief in the Vandal service and the only survivor of the royal line, then advanced with a considerable force to create a diversion in favour of his master. But victory deserted the banners of the usurper. Tzazo was defeated, his army annihilated, and Gelimer having been taken prisoner, was sent with his family to Constantinople, where they were led in triumph by Belisarius. After this, they were permitted to retire to an estate in the vicinity of that city, allotted to them by Justinian, and the greater number of the Vandals who
- A. D. 534. escaped the carnage, was carried away, by the order of the emperor, and distributed amongst the Roman cities in the east.
- A. D. 544. But the spirit of the nation, though broken, was not finally subdued, for the people afterwards revolted against Justinian, and in conjunction with the Moors and other inhabitants of Africa, carried on a bloody war against the Romans for some years. The fortune of the latter ultimately

prevailed, though not until the country had been cruelly ravaged by the contending parties, and nearly five millions of its inhabitants exterminated.

When this destructive contest was concluded, the whole region assumed the appearance of a desert: an appearance from which it has never recovered to the present hour: and the scattered remains of the Vandal race, who survived the catastrophe, retired into the interior of Africa, where it is supposed their race is still in existence amongst the Moors.



THE LOMBARDS.



CHAP. IV.

Their origin. Approach towards the Danube. Wars with the Heruli and Gepidæ. Establishment and final destruction of the Lombard kingdom in Italy.

THE Longobards, as they were termed, from the length of their beards, or Lombards, by which appellation they were subsequently distinguished, were a branch of the Vandals, and at the period of their first discovery by the Romans, resided in the middle march of Brandenburg, between the rivers Elbe and Havel. The distance of their abode from the imperial dominions satisfactorily explains the reason why history is silent for many centuries in regard to their movements, although they were known to the Romans so early as the reign of the emperor Augustus, by whom their country was invaded. Their course,

however, was the same as that of the adjacent tribes, towards the Danube, and in the fifth century, they are found on the banks of that river in a position near Vienna.

In the intermediate period the Longobards gradually extended their boundaries, and in their progress, attacked and gained several victories over the Heruli, who resided in the south of Poland, and also over other barbarous nations in that part of the continent. They afterwards descended towards the Danube, and the emperor Justinian prudently entered into a treaty with them, and by that means protected his dominions from their hostile incursions.

- A. D. 500. *Waccho.* At this time the Longobards were under the government of their king, Waccho, who formed an alliance with the Franks by the marriage of his daughter, Visigard, with Theudebert or Theudebert, king of Austrasia: at the same time her sister, Waldrada, was betrothed to Theodobald, his son, but he was afterwards killed in battle, and she then married Garibald, Duke of Bavaria.

On the death of Waccho, he was succeeded by his only son, Valtaris; who died soon after his accession, and Audoin, a Lombard chief, then ascended the throne,

and espoused Rosalinda, daughter of Her-
 manfrid, king of Thuringia. At this period, ^{Circa}
 the Gepidæ, a Sarmatian nation, took pos- ^{A. D. 560}
 session of Upper Hungary and Transyl-
 vania, which the Goths had vacated when
 they descended into Italy, and Justinian,
 alarmed at the influx of these new invaders;
 prevailed on the Lombards to attack them.
 Audoin immediately complied with his re-
 quest and intrusted the management of the
 war to his son Alboin, a warrior of high
 renown, who signalized himself in several
 encounters with the enemy.

On the decease of Audoin, Alboin suc- ^{A. D. 566.}
 ceeded to the regal power and prosecuted ^{Alboin.}
 the war against Cunimund, king of the
 Gepidæ, with continued success. At length
 the Gepidæ were nearly annihilated, and
 their existence, as a nation, terminated by
 the death of Cunimund, who fell in battle,
 and his daughter, Rosamunda became the
 prize of the conqueror, and, by dint of in-
 timidation, his queen. Elated at the for-
 tunate result of his military undertakings,
 Alboin directed his thoughts towards Italy,
 which was then governed by Narses, the
 Roman general, under the title of Exarch of
 Ravenna, and finding from the unsettled
 state of the country, that it promised an
 easy conquest, determined to invade it.

Narses had held the reins of government

in Italy fifteen years from the downfall of the Ostrogothic monarchy, but complaints having been made against him by the people, who accused him of avarice and extortion, the emperor withdrew his countenance from him, and nominated Longinus as his successor. On this, Narses is alleged to have invited the Lombards into Italy, if not as his allies, at least as enemies to the Roman court: but whether the assertion be true or incorrect, certain it is that Alboin A. D. 568. descended into the fertile plains of Italy, accompanied by an immense number of barbarians, amongst whom were twenty thousand Saxons. Unable to oppose this overwhelming force, the Italian cities opened their gates to the invaders, who gave their name to its principal province, Lombardy, and the whole country became the immediate spoil of the conqueror, with the exception of Pavia alone, which was fortified by the Romans, who defended it during the space of three years, and were at last subdued only by famine. But the Lombard king did not long enjoy the fruits of his success: in a moment of intemperance, whilst carousing with his chiefs, he called for the skull of Cunimund, which he had preserved, according to the barbarous usage of the times, as a trophy of his victory over the Gepidæ, and filling it with

wine, directed it to be carried to the queen with a request that she would participate in his revelry. Rosamunda restrained the expression of her indignation, but the flame of revenge was kindled in her heart, and when the king had retired to rest, she removed his armour, and silently admitting two of her confidential adherents, prevailed on them to put him to death. The deed A. D. 573. accomplished, she escaped with her treasures to Ravenna, and placed herself and her daughter under the care of Longinus, the Exarch, who readily granted her an asylum, and accompanied his protection with the offer of his hand. The jealousy, however, of one of the assassins, whom the queen had made companion of her flight, induced him to administer poison to her, and on her decease, the treasures and the daughter of Alboin were transported by Longinus to the imperial residence at Constantinople.

The Longobards then proceeded to the election of another king, and their unanimous choice fell on Clepho, a chief of the same nation, who did not, however, long survive his election, for he was assassinated by one of his followers, and as his son Antharis was under age, the different states of Italy were divided amongst the other chiefs, and governed by them as distinct

- A. D. 588. provinces for the space of ten years. At *Antharis* the expiration of that period, Antharis was permitted to ascend the throne without opposition, and he selected for his consort, Theolinda; or Theodolinda, daughter of Garibald, duke of Bavaria. The history of the Lombards during the next century, is almost devoid of interest: they made their permanent abode in the rich country they had acquired by force of arms, and became united, in a great measure, with its original inhabitants. Nor was any molestation offered to the settlers by the emperors of the east, for they were sufficiently occupied for a considerable number of years in repelling the attacks of the Persians and Tartar hordes, by whom alternately the safety of Constantinople was threatened. The only infraction of the public tranquillity, of which any traces are preserved, was the
- A. D. 588. invasion of Italy by the Franks, under the command of their king, Childebert, and the occasional sallies of the Roman Exarchs from their strong and only fortress of Ravenna. The incursions of the former were attributable to the solicitations of the Pontiff and citizens of Rome, who, finding the emperor unable to assist them in repelling the gradual encroachments of the Lombards, had recourse to the allurements of gain, and promised an enormous subsidy

to Childebert, on condition that he would relieve them from the pressure of the barbarians. The king of Austrasia readily accepted the splendid present, and in compliance with the terms on which it was given, dispatched a powerful force to attack the Lombards and bring them into subjection, but in consequence of a dissention arising amongst the several tribes, of whom the army was composed, the Franks retired from Italy without striking any decisive blow. A second expedition was immediately undertaken to remedy the failure of the former; the newly acquired possessions of the Lombards were overrun by the invaders, nor could any event have saved them from destruction, except a bloody victory obtained by Antharis and the assembled nation over the Franks and their allies. The inglorious result of the campaign, far from depressing the warlike spirit of the Austrasian monarch, tended rather to stimulate it to more vigorous exertion: he rallied his fugitive countrymen, made a hasty levy of additional troops, and led them to the scene of action. The penetration of the king of the Lombards enabled him to discover that a different mode of warfare must be adopted, when Childebert again took the field: he, therefore, withdrew his people into the cities and towns,

which he fortified with all possible diligence, and awaited, in security, the approach of his enemy. The Franks, with their usual impetuosity, overspread the face of the country, and wasted their strength in fruitless assaults on the strong holds of the Lombards, until a destructive pestilence, deriving its origin from the unwholesome marshes and fervid heat of Italy, swept them away in incredible numbers, and the scanty remains of their once formidable host retired across the Alps, venting their indignation, as they retreated, on such of the defenceless inhabitants of the plain, as were placed unhappily within the limits of their march. It may be here remarked, that during the space of a century after these events, the Roman Exarchs frequently attempted to create diversions in favour of the Roman Pontiff, whose subjects were oppressed and his dominions gradually circumscribed by the victorious Lombards. These efforts, however, were unavailing: a faint gleam of success occasionally shone on the imperial arms, but the forces of the empire were ultimately confined within the walls of Ravenna, and that city would have fallen into the hands of the barbarians, had they been versed in those branches of military science, which facilitate the attack of fortified places.

Antharis did not long enjoy the glory of A. D. 588. his successes: he was hurried away in the hour of triumph to the mansions of the dead, and Agilulf, a Lombard chieftain, espoused the widowed queen, and was raised to the throne by the unanimous voice of the nation. The new monarch was an Arian, but the urgent remonstrances of Theodolinda induced him to embrace the orthodox faith, and it was to the conversion of Agilulf that the Roman Pontiff was principally indebted for the preservation of the remains of papal authority. At the same time, the just tribute of esteem and admiration ought not to be withheld from Gregory, the celebrated bishop of Rome, surnamed the Great, who succeeded, at various periods, by the mild arts of persuasion and the influence derived from the sanctity of his life, in arresting the sword of the Lombards, when raised against the states of the church.

Agilulf was succeeded on the throne by his son, Adelwald, and his daughter, Gun- deberga, married Arialdus, who assumed the reins of government on the demise of Adelwald without issue. The next king appears to have been Rotharis, distinguished by the compilation of a code of laws for the better government of his subjects, amongst which, to the credit of the

head and heart of the barbarian monarch, is an edict prohibiting the punishment of any person for the imaginary crime of witchcraft. Rotharis was followed by his *Rodoald* son Rodoald; the latter by *Aribert* or *Aribert* Aribald, a chief of the same nation; and *Bertarid* Aribald by his son, Bertarid, who, in turn, *and* admitted his own son, Cunibert, to an equal participation in the honours of royalty.

A. D. 727. In the reign of Liutprand, last but one *Liutprand* of the Lombard kings, arose the famous controversy between the emperor Leo and the Pontiff, Gregory the Second, regarding the worship of images, which had become prevalent towards the close of the sixth century; the former having by an edict, prohibited their use in places of religious worship, whilst the latter encouraged his people to persevere in the adoration of them. To the discredit of the human race, theological disputes are invariably distinguished by the most virulent animosity: in this instance, the cities of Italy sided with the bishop of Rome: the Exarch of Ravenna, who espoused the cause of the emperor, fell a victim to the fury of the populace, and even the Longobards appeared to have been animated with a spark of holy zeal in favour of image worship. But the indignation of the emperor at the

murder of his representative, induced him to attempt the punishment of his rebellious people: a large armament was fitted out and directed towards the shores of Italy, with orders to inflict severe punishment on the authors of the crime: Ravenna was invested, and the capture of the city would have been inevitable had it not been saved by the desperate enthusiasm of its defenders, who sallied from its gates, defeated the invading troops, drove them to their ships with immense loss, and consummated the destruction of the imperial power in Italy. A. D. 730.

The ensuing period of twenty years exhibits few events, calculated to instruct or amuse, the mutual jealousies and disputes of the Romans and Lombards increasing in proportion as the latter, enervated by the luxury of Italy, declined in political strength. The refusal of Gregory to deliver up to the king of the Lombards Thrasimund, duke of Spoleto, who had incurred his displeasure and taken refuge at the court of the Pontiff, gave occasion to a desultory warfare, which exhausted the resources of the contending parties, without producing any permanent advantage to either side. A. D. 730.

In this state affairs continued until a short time previous to the death of Liutprand, who finding himself and his people

- unequal to the fatigues of perpetual warfare, solicited a respite from the work of carnage, and concluded a truce for twenty years with the Romans. Not long after
- A. D. 744. the cessation of hostilities, Liutprand died, *Hildebrand*. and was succeeded by Hildebrand, who is supposed by some to be his grandson, and by others, with greater probability, his son by Guntrudis, daughter of Theodebert, duke of Bavaria, but the Lombards, despising their youthful sovereign, took up
- A. D. 746. arms against him, compelled him to vacate the throne, and elected Rachis, duke of
- A. D. 749. Friuli, in his stead. The pleasures of *Rachis*. royalty, it appears, however, had not any charms for the new king: after a short reign of five years, he retired into a monastery, and the guidance of the state was
- Aistulphus*. assumed by his brother, Aistulphus, who confirmed the power of the nation by the
- A. D. 752. capture of the important fortress of Ravenna.
- A. D. 754. The subjugation of the papal dominions now seemed inevitable, but the discretion of the Pontiff averted the impending storm: he undertook a journey into France, and urged its renowned monarch, Pepin, the son of Charles Martel, to arm in defence of the church. The appeal was not made in vain: the French king entered Italy at the head of a numerous army, attacked Aistul-

thus, reduced him to submission, and compelled him to give an assurance that he would, for the future, respect the authority of the pope. But the perfidy of the Lombard king displayed itself immediately on the return of the Franks: he renewed the war against the pontiff, and only desisted from his schemes of aggrandizement and plunder on the re-appearance of Pepin, who irritated at his baseness, took such a measure of revenge, as effectually subdued the spirit and checked the progress of the Lombards.

For the space of twenty years after these events, Italy was distracted by a series of desultory conflicts, undeserving the name of battles, between the Lombards and the Romans, Pepin and Charlemagne, his son and successor, invariably aiding the popes, and the latter using every exertion to obtain the mastery over their unwearied foe. At length Desiderius, the last of the Lombard kings, was besieged in Pavia, his capital, by Charlemagne, taken prisoner, and deposed: his daughter, in whose person alone the royal line survived on the decease of her unhappy father, became the mistress of the conqueror, and the Lombards ceased to exist as an independent nation. Under the patronage of the kings of the Franks, the Roman Pontiffs regained

A. D. 774.
Desiderius.

possession of the greater part of Italy, which they held, for a time, as the subjects and at the pleasure of those monarchs, some of whom were also emperors of Germany, but during the decline of that empire and amidst the distractions of France in later reigns, they cast off the yoke of allegiance, assumed the supreme command of Italy, and insisted that the Pope was the earthly representative of St. Peter, and entitled, by divine right, to the possession of the papal dominions.

THE THURINGIANS.

CHAP. V.

Their origin. Expedition into Gaul. Alliance with the Franks and Ostrogoths. Conquest by the Franks.

THE Thuringians are supposed to be the descendants of the ancient Theruingi, a nation of Gothic extraction, who occupied that tract of country, which lies between the rivers Elbe and Weser, having the state of Hesse Cassel on one side, and Upper Saxony on the other. They are noticed by historians, for the first time, in A. D. 370, the reigns of Valentinian and Valens, at which period Athanaric, the leader of the Wisigoths, is also termed prince of the Theruingi, and this explains the reason of their national movements and political transactions being seldom recorded separately from those of the Gothic nation. The principal exception to this general

observation, is found in the middle of the fourth century, when they are particularly noticed as having accompanied Attila, king of the Huns, in his incursions into Gaul, and exercised horrid barbarities on the unfortunate inhabitants of the country, whom the chance of war delivered into their hands.

- A. D. 457. Soon after this expedition, the Thuringians are found under the government of a chief named *Basinus*. This sovereign was co-temporary with Childeric, king of the Franks, a circumstance he had ample reason to regret, for his queen, captivated with the personal attractions or military fame of that monarch, voluntarily deserted her husband and threw herself into his arms. The issue of this connexion was Clovis, the celebrated king of the Franks, and it is remarkable that the descendants of this profligate woman by her paramour, ultimately dispossessed her lawful children of their dominions. *Basinus* had three sons, *Balderic*, *Bertharius*, and *Hermanfrid*, the two former of whom died, it appears, without male issue, but *Bertharius* had a daughter, named *Radegundis*, who married *Clotarius* the first, king of the Franks. *Hermanfrid*, the only son who left an heir, espoused *Amalaberg*, niece of *Theodorio*, king of the *Ostrogoths*, by whom he had

Amalafid and Rosalinda : the former became a general in the service of the emperor Justinian, and Rosalinda married Audoin, king of the Longobards.

Hermanfrid succeeded to the throne on *Hermanfrid* the death of his father and brothers, but was deposed by Theodoric, the son of Clovis, and shortly afterwards terminated his existence in confinement. Amalaberg, his widow, driven from her home and destitute of support, retired into a nunnery, where she ended her days, and the territories of the deceased monarch were annexed to the kingdom of the Franks. *Circa* A. D. 511.

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THE BURGUNDIANS.



CHAP. VI.

Their descent. Wars with the Romans and Alemanni. Settlement in Gaul. Conquest by the Franks.

THE extent of the country originally occupied by the Burgundians, has not been defined accurately, but their abode was, beyond doubt, near the banks of the Elbe, in the vicinity of the Thuringians, and they could trace, by indisputable evidence, their descent from the Vandals. During the earlier ages, the political history of this nation is enveloped in much obscurity, on account of the distance of their residence from the imperial dominions, but as far as any light is thrown on the subject, their time appears to have been occupied for many years in contests with the neighbouring tribes, and their system of warfare was

generally conducted on the principle of aggression.

A. D. 277. The first military expedition of any importance, in which the Burgundians are found engaged, according to history, was a furious attack made on the provinces of Gaul, in conjunction with the Franks, during the reign of the emperor Probus. In this enterprize the confederates were altogether unsuccessful: Probus not only drove them out of the invaded districts, but pursued them with great slaughter across the Rhine, and, by way of retaliation, ravaged Germany as far as the banks of the Elbe.

A. D. 284. In the reign of Dioclesian, the Burgundians again approached the Rhine, formed an alliance with the Alemanni, and emboldened by the example of the Goths, who had attacked the eastern parts of the empire, poured forth their hostile multitudes over the plains of Gaul. But they were vigorously repulsed by the Roman troops, sustained a severe defeat, and were compelled, with reluctance, to retrace their steps. As they marched homewards, dissensions arose amongst their chiefs, the barbarians turned their arms against each other, and a series of destructive contests ensued, which continued, at intervals, more than fifty years.

In the middle of the fourth century, the German tribes became more populous and daring, made repeated incursions into the Gallic provinces, and destroyed many of the Roman fortresses built on the Rhine for the better preservation of the adjacent districts. On this, Julian, the imperial commander, marched against them with his army and routed them in several battles with immense loss. He also compelled them to reinstate the fortifications they had destroyed, and concluded the campaign by the invasion of Germany and the conquest of its barbarous inhabitants, as far as the territory of the Burgundians. A. D. 357.

In the reign of Valens and Valentinian, the Roman provinces were again attacked and wasted by the Alemanni and their confederates, and Valentinian finding it impossible to confine them within the bounds of good order, although frequently defeated, determined to set them at variance with the Burgundians, in the expectation of diverting their attention from the plunder of his dominions, and diminishing their physical strength by hastening their mutual destruction. With this view, he encouraged a quarrel existing between them relative to some salt-pits to which each nation laid claim, and the Burgundians, occupied and enfeebled by A. D. 364.

their dissensions with the Alemanni, ceased to harass the Romans for the space of more than half a century.

Circa But this interval of repose, however
 A. D. 420. gratifying to the emperor, at the time,
Gunthi- proved, in the result, to have been pur-
caricus. chased at an expensive rate, for the Bur-
 gundians who were, it should seem, under
 the government of Guntharius, the first of
 their kings mentioned by name in history,
 ultimately gained the ascendancy, and by
 their increase in numbers and improvement
 in military science, found themselves in a
 situation to take the field against the Ro-
 man armies, which they did afterwards
 with considerable advantage.

A. D. 440. In the succeeding reign of Gundicar, the
Gundicar. Burgundians, who had been advancing
 gradually for several years towards the
 south and west, pursued their course with
 increased rapidity, and though they were
 vigorously attacked and frequently defeated
 by the imperial troops, yet so entirely were
 the Romans occupied in attempting to
 repel the Goths, by whom the eastern pro-
 vinces of the empire had been invaded, that
 the Burgundians found opportunity at in-
 tervals to rally and persevere in their de-
 sign. Within a few years from this period,
 the improved state of their national re-
 sources enabled them to join the Visigoths

who were then penetrating into Spain with a powerful army, and whilst the latter were engaged in the siege of Narbonne; the Burgundians threw themselves on the Belgic provinces. Fortune, however, was unpropitious to their enterprise; they sustained a severe defeat from the Roman troops under the command of their general, Ætius, who had marched to the relief of Gaul, and were driven into the mountains of Savoy. This disaster gave a temporary damp to the ardour of the barbarians, but failed to produce any permanent effect on them: in a few years they made another attempt on the same districts, and succeeded in establishing themselves in the south of France, near the place in which they had been routed by the Romans, and which still bears their name. A. D. 456.

At this time, Burgundy was governed by Gunducus, who had succeeded Gramdicar, and who, after a peaceable reign, left the kingdom to his four sons, Chilperic, Godomar, Gundobald, and Godesigil. The two former of these princes retained the sovereignty for a short period only, and died without heirs, except that Chilperic left a daughter, named Clotildis, who married Clovis, the celebrated king of the Franks. Gundobald and Godesigil then became competitors for the throne, and A. D. 461. Gunducus.

the former, to whom his uncle, Rielmer, the conqueror of Italy, had, at his death, transferred his troops, obtained the advantage over his brother, on which the latter entreated the assistance of Clovis, who immediately marched to support his cause. The king of the Franks had recently embraced Christianity, and inflamed with religious ardour, anxiously endeavoured to spread in every direction the doctrines of the church, to which he had become a convert. The opportunity, therefore, of interfering in the affairs of Burgundy was too valuable to be neglected, for it not only enabled him to introduce his favourite tenets amongst the people, who were attached to the faith of Arius, but also opened to his view the prospect of the conquest of that country. Clovis accordingly attacked Gundobald at the head of a numerous army, and after ravaging his dominions and seizing his principal towns and cities, compelled him to sue for peace. Gundobald, however, had the good fortune to induce the king of the Franks to accept reasonable terms of accommodation, and the latter consented to withdraw his troops on payment of an annual tribute. But as soon as Gundobald was delivered from the pressure and apprehension of his enemy, he turned his arms against Godesigil,

and having defeated him, secured the possession of the crown, the object of his ambition, by putting his brother to death. Notwithstanding this unpardonable act of cruelty, Gundobald reigned many years, *Gundobald*, bearing the character, in other respects, of a mild and learned monarch. At his death he left two sons, Sigismund and Godomar, the former of whom married Ostrogotha, daughter of Theodoric, king A. D. 516. of the Ostrogoths, and succeeded his father *Sigismund* on the throne.

The commencement of his reign was *A. D. 516* prosperous, his daughter Suavigotha having married Theodoric or Theuderic, king of the Franks, and by that alliance secured to him the protection of her husband and his powerful relatives, and Sigeric, his son, having shewn every disposition to maintain the authority and obey the dictates of his father. Sigismund took an early opportunity of displaying his piety, for he rebuilt, at considerable expense, the monastery of St. Mauritius or Maurice, a Roman commander, who is alleged to have been massacred with the Theban legion by the emperor Maximian, for his adherence to the Christian faith. Unhappily, however, this promising state of things was of short duration, and the death of Ostrogotha was the prelude to a tragedy,

which ended in the destruction of those by whom it was devised. Sigismund married a second time, and his queen, by whom he had several children, being determined that her offspring should inherit the throne, used every artifice to remove Sigeric, who alone interposed between them and the crown. With this view, she infused unjust suspicions into the mind of the king as to the loyalty of his son, succeeded in rousing his fears, and at length prevailed on the infatuated parent to put him to death. But the crime speedily received its merited punishment; Chlodwig, another of the sons of Clovis, resenting the destruction of his relative, invaded the dominions of Sigismund, slew him in battle, and by the massacre of his wife and children, amply revenged the death of Sigeric.

Godomar: Godomar, brother of the deceased king, and surviving heir to the sovereignty, then ascended the throne: but his reign was of limited continuance: the Franks, for some cause which is not recorded in history, made an incursion into his dominions, attacked and took him prisoner, and threw him into a dungeon, where death relieved him from his troubles, and Burgundy became a component part of the dominions of the Franks.

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THE BAVARIANS.

CHAP. VII.

*Their wars with the Ostrogoths and Subo-
 Alliance with the Franks. Conquest of
 Bavaria by Charlemagne.*

THE history of the inhabitants of Ba-
 varia is involved in obscurity till the reign
 of the emperor Leo in the fifth century,
 when they are mentioned for the first time
 as a distinct nation. At that period, the
 Ostrogoths, having established themselves
 in Pannonia and made peace with the em-
 peror, discontinued their attacks on the
 Roman dominions, and turned their arms
 against the Suevi and Bavarians. Neither
 of the contending parties could produce an
 historian to perpetuate their exploits, and
 therefore the result only of the war can be
 ascertained, which appears to have been
 favourable to the latter, for at the com-

A. D. 511. commencement of the sixth century, the throne *Garibald.* was occupied by Garibald, a native of Bavaria, who bore the title of duke, and espoused Waldrada, daughter of Waccho, king of the Longobards. By this princess he had two children, Theodolinda, married to Antharis, king of the Longobards, and Gundald, afterwards duke of Asti in Italy.

Circa On the death of Garibald, without male
 A. D. 542. heirs, Thrassilo was placed on the throne
Thrassilo. of Bavaria by Childebert, son of Clovis, and then king of Paris and the adjacent districts, and he commenced his career by an expedition, in conjunction with the Franks, against a tribe of Suevi, who had fixed their abode in the northern parts of Spain, but the result of the contest is altogether unknown.

A. D. 609. Thrassilo had one son, who, on his father's decease, assumed the command of the *Garibald* nation, by the title of Garibald the Second, *the Second.* and reigned for the space of thirty years.

A. D. 640. This chieftain died without issue, and *Theodo the* was followed by Theodo the First: he governed the nation several years in tranquillity, unusual to a degree in that turbu-

A. D. 680. lent æra, and on his death, without children, *Theodo the* Theodo the Second ascended the *Second.* throne.

Theodo had three sons, Theodebert, Theodebald, and Grimoald, whom he as-

sociated with him at proper ages, in the government, and the joint reign of the father and his sons continued forty-two years. Of the latter, Theodebert alone left issue, namely, Huebert, Guntrudis, the spouse of Liutprand, king of the Lombards, and Sunehild, who married Charles Martel, son of Pepin of Herstall and afterwards king of France.

Subsequently to the death of Theodo the A. D. 725.
 second, and his three sons, Huebert became Huebert.
 leader of the people, but he was afterwards attacked by Charles Martel, defeated, and dispossessed of his throne, which was given to Odilo, who had married Chiltrud, daughter of the conqueror. The dearth of materials renders it impossible to explain, with any degree of certainty, the means by which the Bavarian sovereigns or dukes, who preceded Huebert, were enabled to retain the reins of government without interruption for a long series of years, whilst the other states of Europe were perpetually at war with the Romans or each other, but it may be surmised that the Ostrogoths, Wisigoths, and Lombards, of whom the principal apprehensions were to be entertained, were fully engaged in the conquest of Italy and Spain, and the Franks, by whom Bavaria might have been easily subdued at any time, either were united to the

heads of that nation by the ties of family compact and treaties of alliance, or were otherwise occupied by their own political dissensions.

Odilo. The reign of Odilo passed away quietly, and, at his death, the ducal crown descend-

Thrassilo the Second.
A. D. 748. ed to his son and successor Thrassilo the second. Soon after his accession, however, Thrassilo was deprived of his dominions by Charlemagne, son of Pepin, king of the Franks, who annexed them to his own.

of the Franks, who were the first to
 to be called into Gaul to help the
 and the Gauls did not resist them, and they
 - they then began to settle in Gaul, and
 to be called the Franks.

THE FRANKS.

THE history of the Franks is so inter-
 woven with that of the people of Gaul, that
 it is impossible to treat of the one, without
 referring at the same time to the other;
 added to which, the reader may find amuse-
 ment in tracing the various changes which
 happened in the states of Gaul from the
 period of their conquest by the Romans,
 until their final union by the Franks into

CHAP. VIII.

*Their origin. Incursions into Gaul. Wars
 with the Romans. Establishment in
 Gaul. Victories over the Visigoths,
 Bavarians, Burgundians, and Thuring-
 tians. They assist the Popes and con-
 quer the Lombards. Defeat the Moors
 in Spain. Their laws and customs.
 Charlemagne becomes King of France
 and Emperor of Germany.*

THE history of the Franks is so inter-
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 ment in tracing the various changes which
 happened in the states of Gaul from the
 period of their conquest by the Romans,
 until their final union by the Franks into

- an independent monarchy, under the title of the kingdom of France. In the reign of
- B. C. 578.** Tarquinius Priscus, the fifth king of Rome, at the distance of five hundred and seventy-eight years before the Christian æra, lived Ambigatus, the first Gallic chieftain mentioned in history. His sons, Bellovesus and Sigovesus, were sent by their father into Germany, as adventurers, with a train of followers, on which the latter settled in the vicinity of the Hercynian forest, a vast wood at that time extending across the centre of Germany, and the former, tempted by the allurements of Italy, crossed the Alps and founded the city of Milan. The infant colony remained unmolested by the Romans and other nations in Italy for the space of three centuries, and during that period, its numbers increased rapidly by the ordinary course of population, and the accession of new settlers, attracted by the genial climate or the expectation of future plunder.
- B. C. 380.** In the lifetime of Camillus, the celebrated Roman general, a vast assemblage of Gauls emigrated from the banks of the Seine, under the command of their leader, Brennus, burst into Italy, and being joined by a powerful reinforcement of the Milanese, made their way to the gates of Rome. The barbarians plundered and

burnt the imperial city, put the senators to death, and were about to crown their triumph by the seizure of the capitol, when the Roman troops, headed by Camillus, suddenly arrived, at the scene of destruction, fell on the enemy, whom they destroyed in myriads, and drove the survivors beyond the Alps. The Gauls engaged in this expedition, were principally the Senones, a people of Transalpine Gaul, near Sens, on the river Seine, not far from Orleans: they made frequent incursions into Italy, and at length established themselves on the eastern coasts of it, where they are supposed to have founded the cities of Fano, Rimini, *Singaglia*, so called from the people, *Senones Galli*, and Pesaro. [They were finally attacked and exterminated by Dolabella, the Roman general, two hundred and eighty-three years before the Christian era.]

At the expiration of a century, an expedition was made by the Gauls, under another chief also named Brennus, into Greece, with the intention of plundering the famous temple of Apollo at Delphi, and the invading army was augmented, as usual, by the addition of multitudes of Germans. That noble edifice was built in a semicircular form, elevated above the plain which expands from its base, and crowned by the terrific crags of

Parnassus. When the Gauls had arrived at the extremity of the narrow defile which leads to the shrine of the son of Jupiter and Latona, the temple burst on their astonished view in all its majesty: its solitude inspired them with religious awe, and their heated imaginations pictured to their sight Apollo and Minerva, armed with heavenly weapons, and hovering in the front of their terrestrial abode. Before the barbarians had time to recover from their surprise, they were attacked by invisible enemies, the impending rocks appeared to tremble, huge fragments suddenly overwhelmed their affrighted hosts, and in the general anxiety to escape, multitudes were trodden to death in the fatal pass. The flower of the Gallic army perished on this occasion: Brennus, impelled by horror and remorse, terminated his existence by his own hand, and though the modern historian will readily ascribe the failure of the expedition to its true cause, a stratagem concerted by the inhabitants of the country to destroy their enemies without incurring personal risk, the less enlightened mind of the barbarian chief could only attribute the destruction of his followers to the immediate presence of the offended Deity. The Gauls who were preserved from the fate of their comrades, forced their way towards the shores

of the Black Sea, and at length established themselves in Gallicia, or Gallo-Grecia, which now forms part of the province of Anatolia, in Turkey in Asia.

Rather more than two centuries before B. C. 224. the Christian era, the Gauls made an inroad into Italy, but were attacked and routed by Marcellus, the Roman general; their king Viridomarus was killed in the action, and they were compelled to retreat, and solicit a suspension of hostilities.

Nearly a century afterwards, the Cimbri, B. C. 109. inhabitants of Denmark, and the Teutones, who are supposed to have dwelt in the islands of Zealand and Funen, entered Gaul in incredible numbers, and after some B. C. 105. time made their way towards the Mediterranean, and encountered a vast army sent against them by the Romans, under two of their consuls, whom they defeated with great loss, nearly eighty thousand of the imperial troops being slain. The barbarians then divided their tribes into two B. C. 102. divisions, one of which pursued the course and 101. of the Rhone, and the other invaded Italy, anticipating, in imagination, the plunder of Rome. But C. Marius, the celebrated consul, having been detached at the head of another army, gave battle to the enemy at Aix, near the mouths of the Rhone, and put them to flight, after which he returned

into Italy, attacked the residue of the barbarians, gave them a signal defeat, and drove them out of the imperial dominions.

A few years after these events, a bloody war ensued between the Sequani, a people of Gaul, who then resided near Autun in Burgundy, and the Edui, another Gallic nation, whose residence was near Besançon, on the river Doubs, in the district now known by the name of Franche Comptè, under the command of their king Divitiacus. The dispute continued several years, and the Sequani being worsted, were compelled to solicit the aid of Ariovistus, one of the most powerful amongst the German princes, which was readily granted, and the fortune of war changed rapidly in their favour. In this state of affairs, Julius Cæsar made his appearance in Gaul, and finding that the Edui were unable to resist the united attacks of the Germans and Sequani, threw the weight of the Roman arms into the scale, which immediately preponderated in favour of the Edui. The wars in Gaul continued many years, but had not the address of Cæsar enabled him to foment dissensions between the native chiefs, and occasioned them to turn their arms against each other, the numerical strength of the barbarians would have been sufficient alone:

to destroy the Roman power. Amongst the different nations with whom Cæsar had to contend, were the Sequani, supported by Ariovistus and his Germans, the Atrebatæ, who occupied the modern district of Artois, the Nervii, whose residence was in the province of Hainault, and the Eburonæ, inhabitants of Liege and the adjacent country, under the command of Ambiorix. These nations who were, at one time, at variance, and at another, united by treaty, according to the fluctuating disposition of their chiefs, made head against the arms of Rome, whilst the Helvetii, or natives of Switzerland, the Suevi, then resident between the Vistula and the Elbe, the Belgæ, who occupied that tract which lies between the Upper Rhine and the ocean, and the Celtæ, to whom belonged the country between the Seine and the Loire, severally contributed their share of exertion towards the destruction of the common enemy. The fortune, however, or rather the disciplined valour of the Roman troops prevailed over the unskilful attacks of the barbarians, and the whole province of Gaul, was ultimately reduced to a state of submission, in which it continued during the period of Cæsar's life. On the commencement of the civil war between that general and Pompey, in which the subject of contention was the

empire of Rome, numbers of the German and Gallic chiefs were invited to serve under the banners of their conqueror: a measure productive of twofold advantage: it added materially to the strength of Cæsar's army, and, at the same time, enabled him to detain the principal men of each tribe and nation, virtually as hostages, but professedly as associates, in his camp.

- B. C. 44 After the death of Cæsar, Augustus assumed the imperial dignity, and in accordance with the best interests of the state, endeavoured, as far as the Gauls were in question, to conciliate the good-will of the barbarians.

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The success of his efforts is demonstrated by the fact, that one irruption only was made into Gaul by the Germans during his reign, and although Lollius, the general who was sent to repel them, sustained a defeat, yet the other armies of the empire speedily retrieved the honour of the nation by repeated victories over the barbarians.

- A. D. 37. Caligula, a monarch infamous for his cowardice and ostentation, undertook an expedition into Germany, and visited the north-western provinces of Gaul, but the advance of his troops was merely a splendid procession, and the campaign, if that name can be consistently attached to it, ended without bloodshed, the only memorial of

his journey being La Tour d'Or, near Roulogne, which he is said to have built. For the space of two centuries from this period, the Roman empire groaned under the yoke of a succession of despotic sovereigns, most of whom disgraced humanity by their crimes. The several reigns of these tyrants were generally of short continuance, and afforded a melancholy specimen of the depravity of mankind: raised to the imperial dignity by the power of the army, whose favour they had conciliated by ample bribes, or by the reluctant voice of the people, whom they had terrified into compliance, they terminated their career by violent deaths, and received the punishment of their vices and cruelty at the hands of their subjects. But Gaul remained in peace during the troubles of the empire, with the exception of a few immaterial disturbances which were speedily quelled: the Rhine, and the chain of fortified posts situated on its banks, awed the Germans and resisted their attacks: tranquillity was maintained in the interior of the province by the legions which were dispersed in convenient stations, and many of the Roman commanders, who aspired to the supreme power, were indebted for their success to the assistance of the protectors of Gaul.

A. D. 238. At this time, the Franks, renowned in after-ages as the lords of Europe, and the only successful opponents of the followers of Mahomet, first appeared on the stage of history. They are supposed to have been inhabitants of that province of Holland to the north of the *Zuyder Zee*, now known by the name of Friesland, and when their numbers had materially increased, they became incorporated with the Chamavi, a race of barbarians residing between the Lower Rhine and the Weser, near Munster, with the Bructeri, inhabitants of Overysse, and the Sicambri, who occupied Guelderland. These united tribes were at length distinguished by the general name of Franks, which some suppose to signify *Freemen*, in the same manner as the outcasts or stragglers from the German nations passed under the common denomination of Alemanni, or *All-Men*.

A. D. 257. In the reign of Gallienus, Posthumus, the Roman general, who commanded in Gaul, caused himself to be proclaimed emperor in the west, and commenced a furious war on the Germans, but he was killed and succeeded by Lælianus, probably the next in command. The latter was soon afterwards put to death by his soldiers in a tumult, and Victorinus took the lead

in public affairs: he, however, at no great distance of time, met a similar fate, on which, his mother Victoria or Victorina, united her influence with that of Tetricus, on whom the charge of the Roman troops devolved, and the confederates jointly assumed the sovereign power in Gaul. On the accession of Aurelian, he led an army A. D. 272. into the revolted provinces, and attacked Tetricus, and reduced him to submission. The emperor also commenced hostilities against several of the German tribes, who had invaded Gaul during these disturbances, defeated them with severe loss, and drove them across the Rhine: then turning his arms against the Franks, who had also availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the unsettled state of the Roman affairs, to penetrate into Spain, he compelled them to retire into the western parts of Germany, where they took refuge amongst the Burgundians. The extent of that spirit of enterprise for which the Franks have been famed at all times, may be conjectured from the circumstance that even at this early period of history, they are found at Tarragona, a city on the shores of the Mediterranean. Some writers are of opinion that, being a maritime people, numbers of them were carried by the receding tide from their own coasts towards the south,

and arrived at that place by a circuitous voyage through the straits of Gibraltar, whilst others, with greater probability, imagine that some of their tribes followed the course of the Rhine, traversed the south of France, and made their way through the heart of Spain.

A. D. 277. In the reign of Probus, the Germans, aided by the Franks and Burgundians, made new inroads into Gaul, which occasioned the emperor to set his army in motion against them: a bloody war ensued, in which the barbarians were defeated with incredible slaughter, and driven into the fastnesses of Germany. These, however, were insufficient to protect them from the fury of the conqueror: the fugitives were pursued with unremitting diligence, and multitudes of the Franks made prisoners, and carried into the Roman provinces bordering on the Euxine or Black Sea. Numbers of them subsequently escaped from captivity, seized all the vessels they could collect, and after ravaging the shores of Greece, Sicily, and Africa, directed their course towards the north, and landed on the western coast of Holland. From this event it was, that the Franks were supposed, in early times, to have derived their origin from Greece, or the vicinity of the Palus Mæotis, or sea of Azof.

The contests for power, which took place A. D. 294. previously to the accession of Diocletian, encouraged the Burgundians and Alemanni to hazard another incursion into Gaul; but the attempt was unsuccessful; the emperor and his colleague Maximian attacked and defeated them in several encounters, and A. D. 298. finally reduced them to unqualified submission. The Franks had at this time, attained considerable proficiency in the art of navigation, which may be observed from the following incident. Carausius, a chief of the Menapii, a nation residing in the north of Dutch Brabant, entered into an engagement with the Romans to clear the seas from the Saxon pirates, but having incurred the displeasure of his employers by retaining the booty for his own use, he retired into Britain and assumed the regal power on the coast of Kent. After a time, he was murdered, and Allectus, his successor, took up arms against the Romans and solicited the aid of the Franks, who fitted out a numerous fleet and disembarked on the Isle of Wight, which they secured by an extensive chain of fortifications, whilst another party made its way to London.

Constantius, on whom the command of A. D. 292, Gaul had then devolved, determined to check the spirit of aggression, which the

Franks perpetually displayed; he therefore built a considerable number of vessels, and landing on the island, compelled the Franks to surrender at discretion. He next directed his course towards London, gave battle to the enemy, who had taken possession of it, and put them to the rout, after which he proceeded to depose Allectus, and reunited Britain to the empire. So great was the carnage amongst the enemy, that a stream of water, which then ran through the metropolis, and near which the battle raged with the greatest fury, was choaked by the bodies of the Galli or Walli, who were slain, and from that circumstance received the name of Wallbrook. Nor did Constantius remain satisfied with this measure of retaliation: on his return to the continent, he carried his arms into Friesland and the adjacent countries: defeated the Franks in several engagements, and having taken great numbers of prisoners, sent them to Rome, from whence they were dispersed throughout the states of Italy, as slaves.

A. D. 313. The effects of this severity were such, that, with the exception of a slight commotion in the reign of Constantine, the first Christian emperor, which was immediately quelled, the Franks did not ven-

ture, or had not strength, to take the field against the Romans for the space of nearly half a century.

On the death of Constantine, however, A. D. 340. they again ventured to make an incursion into Gaul, but were repulsed by the emperor Constans, and tranquillity restored by means of a treaty of peace. This cessation of hostilities continued for the space of sixteen years; after which Constantius, the A. D. 356. reigning emperor, being engaged in a war with the Persians, the Franks joined their forces to those of the Alemanni, who were then resident in the vicinity of the Rhine, near Stutgard, and made a formidable attack on Gaul. The effect of this inroad probably would have been the loss of the Gallic provinces, had not Constantius prudently taken Julian, the nephew of Constantine and one of his generals, as his associate in the empire, and secured his fidelity by uniting him to his sister Helena, in marriage. The first efforts of Julian to preserve Gaul from the ravages of the barbarians were unsuccessful; he was pressed by them on all sides, and the defeat of Barbatio, a Roman general, who had advanced from Italy at the head of thirty thousand men, to create a diversion in his favour, gave additional encouragement to the hopes of the enemy. This

victory was followed by numerous engagements, which terminated with varied success, till at length Julian, having concentrated all his forces in the vicinity of Strasburg, was surrounded by the barbarians under the command of Chnodamar, leader of the Alemanni. A desperate battle then ensued, in which victory ultimately declared for the Romans: Chnodamar was taken prisoner and carried to Rome, where he ended his days, and Julian being reinforced by Barbatio, who had rallied his scattered troops, penetrated into Germany. The campaign concluded by the reduction of the Alemanni and their allies, who were compelled to give hostages for their future obedience, and to rebuild the Roman fortresses on the Rhine. Having thus delivered Gaul from the scourge of the enemy, and made ample provision for its defence against the barbarians, Julian advanced into Holland, defeated the Sali, near the River Yssel, and then placed his

- A. D. 357. army in winter quarters at Paris. These victories were the means of peace being preserved in Gaul till the joint reign of
- A. D. 364. Valentinian and Valens, when the Alemanni having in some measure recovered from their defeat, again took up arms and passed the Rhine. Their undisciplined forces, however, were unable to contend

with the Roman legions: they were defeated with great slaughter by Jovinus, general of the cavalry, and driven back into their native forests, where they remained as usual concealed from the eye of the historian, until time and leisure had re-created their exhausted ranks. Their next attempt on Gaul was made at the expiration of some years from this period, and with increased numbers: but they were again vanquished, and Valentinian, the more effectually to discourage their audacity, pursued them into Swabia, and wasted the country with fire and sword: after which, he repaired and improved the fortifications by which the frontiers of Gaul were protected and the barbarians held at bay. The Franks are not mentioned by name, as interfering in the contests between the Alemanni and the Romans, but there is very little doubt that they formed a considerable part of the army of these barbarians, and consequently attended them in their expedition.

For the space of five years from this period, the Romans continued in the undisturbed possession of Gaul, an event chiefly attributable to the ingenuity of Valentinian, who being informed that a dispute had arisen between the Alemanni and Burgundians relative to some salt-pits to

which each laid claim, artfully fomented their disputes, and by engaging them in domestic warfare, diverted their attention from the Roman provinces.

A. D. 379. In the reign of Gratian, the Franks appear to have been in alliance with the imperial court, and when the emperor marched from Gaul at the head of an army to attack the Goths, who were besieging Constantinople, and the Saxons, by whom at the same period, Italy was ravaged; he was assisted by Bauto and Arbogastes, two generals of the Franks, who joined him with their followers in the character of allies.

On the termination of the Gothic war, Gratian again assumed the supreme command in Gaul, but his reign was of short duration. Maximus, to whom the government of Britain had been intrusted, renounced his allegiance, invaded Gaul, and in the neighbourhood of Paris gave battle to Gratian, who was deserted by his soldiers, and put to death by the victor, together with Mellobaudes, chief of the Franks and the intimate associate of the emperor.

A. D. 383. Maximus then assumed the ensigns of royalty, and marched towards Rome with the intention of dethroning Valentinian the 2d, who reigned in Italy as emperor of the west: but Theodosius, the colleague of

Valentinian, disappointed his ambitious views, by advancing from Constantinople at the head of an army, and having united his forces to those of his colleague, gave battle to Maximus. The hostile armies met near Aquileia, and a furious contest took place, which terminated in the death and defeat of the usurper, and left Valentinian in the undisturbed possession of the throne. But the emperor did not long survive his triumph: at no very distant period he was assassinated by Arbogastes, the Frank general, who had entered into his service, and who then placed Eugenius, a rhetorician, on the throne. This unprovoked act of barbarity induced Theodosius again to take up arms for the purpose of avenging the death of his colleague, and an engagement ensued, in which the usurper was slain, and Arbogastes perceiving it in vain to expect that mercy at the hands of the victor which he had denied to his former sovereign, anticipated the intentions of Theodosius and put an end to his own existence.

Towards the close of the fourth century, A. D. 395. the Christian faith became generally diffused over Gaul and Germany: religious houses were erected in various parts of those countries, and as speedily tenanted by such of the natives as preferred a life

of calm seclusion to the turmoils of interminable war.

- A. D. 405. Until this period, the inhabitants of Gaul had been affected but slightly by the commotions of Italy: but they now experienced a dreadful visitation from the Goths, headed by Alaric, the Germans by Radagaisus, and a multitude of Vandals, driven by Stilico, the Roman general, out of Italy, which they had recently invaded. This promiscuous assemblage of barbarians forced their way into Gaul, ravaged the south western part of it without mercy, destroyed its principal cities, and converted the country into a desert as far as the Pyrenees. They were however attacked and defeated by the Franks with immense slaughter, and those of the Vandals who escaped the general carnage, took refuge in the provinces of Spain. To add to the misfortunes of the Romans, Constantine, then governor in Britain, renounced his allegiance, assumed the regal title in that island, landed in Gaul, of which he took possession, and after seizing a portion of the Spanish territory, established his seat of government at Arles, on the Rhone.
- A. D. 408. Owing to the political weakness of Honorius, emperor of the west, who had sufficient difficulty in maintaining himself

on the throne, this usurpation continued several years, but at length Constantius, to whom the command of the Roman army had been intrusted, attacked Constantine at Arles, and having routed his troops, A. D. 414. caused him to be put to death. This revolution afforded to the Franks and Armorici, a nation of Celtic Gaul, a favourable opportunity of asserting their independence, and they accordingly established themselves in the maritime provinces of Normandy and Bretagne. About fifty years subsequently to this event, vast numbers of the Britons who were driven out of England by the Saxons, settled in these districts, which then received the name of Britany. There is a tradition that the first king of the Franks was elected at this period, and that the object of the national choice was Pharamond, whose memorable exploits are amply detailed in the pages of romance; but it has been ascertained that the Franks were governed by Chiefs or Dukes (*Duces*), till the reign of Clovis, and this circumstance affords sufficient ground to doubt the accuracy of the assertion.

The same æra also gave birth to the Salic laws, which are supposed to have been introduced into France by the Salii, a tribe of Franks, originally residing near

the river Yssel, who at this time crossed the Rhine and were the first branch of the nation, which submitted to the restraint of civil ordinances after their establishment in France. These laws were well adapted to the barbarous age in which they were promulged, the fundamental principle of them being that if a Frank, on his arrival in the country of an enemy, seized any particular portion of land, it became his freehold, and consequently hereditary and divisible at will. There are some, however, who dissent from this opinion, and insist that all lands taken in war, were divided by lot between the hostile chief and his followers, that they were thence called Salic lands, "*Terra Salica*," and that, from a similar custom amongst other barbarous nations, arose the expressions, "*Sortes Burgundicæ*," and "*Vandalicæ*." But the only real discrepance of opinion on this subject is confined to an immaterial point, the original mode in which the land was allotted or obtained; each party coinciding in opinion as to the legal rights of the possessor over it, when acquired.

A. D. 440. There is an imperfect account extant of the reign of Clodio, a king of the Franks, supposed to have lived at this time, according to which he held his court near Brussels, and extended his dominions by

force of arms, as far as Cambray. He also attacked that city, but sustained a severe defeat from the Roman army, which advanced to its relief, headed by Ætius, the imperial commander. Tradition likewise ^{A. D. 450.} relates the particulars of a contest for the ^{Meroveus.} throne, alleged to have existed nearly at the same period, between the two sons of Clodio, of whom Meroveus was the successful competitor: he wrested the crown from the hands of his brother, and became an ally of the Romans and founder of the Merovingian dynasty. These statements, however, are unsupported by authority, and consequently too vague to warrant absolute belief, although it is not improbable there may be some traces of reality in them.

Within a few years, the influx of new ^{A. D. 457.} settlers, the commotions which they excited, and their opposition to the Roman government, induced Marjorianus to enter Gaul at the head of a large army, in order to compel the barbarians to recognise the imperial authority. On his arrival the several tribes hastened to profess their obedience, and the emperor then led his forces into Spain, with the intention of passing into Africa, and commencing hostilities against the Vandals.

After the decease of Meroveus, his son

Childeric succeeded to the throne, and retained the uninterrupted possession of the dominions of his father during the space of twenty-five years. The principal event of any moment in his reign was the voluntary secession of the consort of Basinus, king of Thuringia, from the court of her lord, the desertion of her legitimate offspring, and her adulterous intercourse with the king of the Franks. From their union sprang Clovis, the renowned sovereign of the Franks, and his sisters, Lanthildis and Audefleda; the latter of whom afterwards became the queen of Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths and Italy.

- A. D. 482. Clovis began his reign on the decease of
Clovis. his father, extended his dominions in every quarter by force of arms, and in the space of thirty years conquered part of Germany and the whole of modern France. The brilliant exploits of this monarch have immortalized his name, and the industry of those who, in subsequent ages, laboured in the field of etymology, in the expectation of a reward at the hands of royalty, discovered that Clovis is the contraction of Chlodovechus, and that the latter name signifies Ludovicus or Lewis. In the early part of his career, the king of the Franks signalized himself by repelling with success the attacks of Syagrius, the Roman

general, who had been ordered to advance and check his progress, and the campaign terminated by the death of that officer and the total defeat of the imperial army. This impediment in the path of victory removed, the five ensuing years were actively employed by Clovis in the reduction of Soissons, a town famed for its extensive manufacture of shields and armour, and of Rheims, in the ancient cathedral of which the kings of France were, in after ages, frequently crowned : in a successful expedition against the Thuringians and other neighbouring nations, in the course of which he extended his territories from the Seine to the Loire : and lastly in the conquest of the Alemanni, at that time the possessors of Switzerland. It is difficult to penetrate the obscurity in which the history of this period is enveloped, but it may be collected that the subjugation of that ancient and powerful nation was not accomplished without considerable expenditure of lives ; the Alemanni attacked the Franks with the fury of men actuated by despair, and disdained to pay homage to their foe, until their strength became exhausted by repeated defeats, and the last of their kings had yielded up his life on the field of battle. Their country was then annexed to the dominions of Clovis,

and they were governed for many years by *duces*, or dukes, appointed by him, and subject to removal at his will.

A. D. 495. These scenes of bloodshed at length gave way to more serene and agreeable prospects; the king of the Franks formed an alliance with Clotildis, daughter of Chilperic, duke of Burgundy, and his marriage was speedily followed by his conversion to the Christian faith, an event accomplished by the mild persuasion of his queen: he was baptized in the cathedral of Rheims, his subjects hastened to imitate his example, and the flatterers of the age bestowed on him the title of "Founder of the Franconian Church."

It is related of Clovis, that in explaining to him the doctrines of the gospel, his spiritual director read aloud the narrative of the crucifixion, on which the king started from his seat, and laying his hand on his sword, exclaimed with the enthusiasm of a warrior, "Would that I had been there with my Franks to defend him!" The faith of the new convert, it may be readily imagined, soon became visible in his works, and the petty states of France and Germany which adhered to the tenets of Arius, were made sensible of the disadvantages of dissenting from the religious opinions of the king of the Franks. It

happened that Gundeucus of Burgundy had lately died, and his surviving sons, Gundobald and Godesigil, were actively engaged in a contest for the succession, A. D. 500. in which the fortune of war so far prevailed against the latter, as to render it impossible for him to continue hostilities against his brother without foreign aid. He therefore solicited the alliance and support of Clovis, who readily acceded to his request, as it afforded him a favourable opportunity of interfering in the affairs of Burgundy and spreading the Christian faith in that country. The king of the Franks entered the territories of the contending princes with a numerous army, attacked and defeated Gundobald in several battles, took possession of Lyons and others of the principal towns, and reduced his opponent to such extremity, that he was compelled to implore a suspension of hostilities, and purchase the retreat of the Franks by promising to pay them annually a large subsidy.

Ardour in the Christian cause also induced Clovis to invade the territories of Alaric, king of the Wisigoths, a faithful follower of Arius and consequently an object of religious hatred in the sight of the Franks. Alaric assembled his people and marched at the head of a considerable

force to attack his opponent: the disputants met in the vicinity of Poitiers, and a furious battle ensued, in which the Wisigothic monarch fell by the hand of Clovis. The victor then besieged the city of Bourdeaux, which was compelled to surrender at discretion, seized the province of Auvergne, and established a colony of Franks in Aquitain. His next project was the conquest of Spain, and the scheme unquestionably would have been attended with success, had not Theodoric king of the Ostrogoths marched out of Italy with a numerous army and arrested the progress of the Franks. At the time when the battle of Poitiers took place, the Ostrogoths were on their way to reinforce the troops of Alaric, and had their junction with the Wisigoths been effected previously to the engagement, the result, in all probability, would have been widely different; but the impetuosity of the latter hurried them prematurely into action, and was the principal cause of their defeat. The Franks and Ostrogoths joined battle in the neighbourhood of Arles on the Rhone, and after a bloody conflict, Clovis was compelled to yield to the superior force and desperate bravery of his opponent, whom he left in possession of the field. Theodoric prudently availed himself of the opportunity

afforded by the defeat of the enemy, to restore peace between the two nations; he proposed to conclude a treaty of mutual alliance with Clovis, and in order to evince the sincerity of his overtures, offered his hand to the princess Audefleda. His conditions were readily accepted by the dispirited Franks, the nuptials of the sister of Clovis were solemnized with the magnificence peculiar to the barbarous ages, and the friendship of the rival nations was cemented by the double ties of political compact and family union. The enterprising genius of Clovis speedily recovered from the depression occasioned by his defeat; he collected such of his troops as had survived the battle, reinforced his army by new levies, and turning his arms towards the north-eastern countries, ravaged Franconia, and peopled it with his followers, who gave their name to that district and to its capital, Frankfort on the Maine. By these and similar successes Clovis gradually wrested the province of A. D. 510, Gaul from the grasp of the Roman emperor, who remained a silent spectator of his progress, and finding it in vain to oppose his victorious career by force of arms, resolved to try the effects of conciliatory measures. The dignity of Roman Consul was therefore offered to the king of the Franks, and

as willingly accepted by him, and he was solemnly invested with the insignia of the consular office, the mantle and the sword, in the church of St. Martin at Tours. After a long and prosperous reign, Clovis A, D. 511. died at Paris, leaving four sons, Theodoric, Chlodimir, Childebert, and Clotarius, to inherit his dominions and pursue his plans of conquest: he also had a daughter, named Clotildis, who afterwards became the consort of Amalarick, king of the Wisigoths and grandson of Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths and Italy.

On the partition of the territories of the deceased monarch, Theodoric selected for his inheritance the greater part of Belgica, prima and secunda, and his court was held alternately at Rheims and Metz: the residence of Chlodimir was at Orleans: that of Childebert at Paris, and Clotarius espoused Radegundis, daughter of Bertharius, a Thuringian prince, and took up his abode at Soissons. The north-eastern parts of France were at that time distinguished by the title of Austrasia, and the western, as far as the Loire, by the appellation of Neustria. In order to prevent confusion in dates and names, it is necessary to review separately the transactions of each of these monarchs from the death of Clovis, till the middle of the sixth century, when the whole kingdom

became subject to Clotarius, in consequence of the decease of his brothers and their descendants.

Immediately on the accession of Theodoric to his portion of the realm, a body of Danes sailed up the River Maes in quest of plunder, and laid the adjacent country waste: but they were attacked by Theodoric, and driven back to their ships with great loss, and this salutary lesson seems to have prevented them for many years from making descents on the coast of France. The king next directed his attention to the conquest of Thuringia, then under the government of Hermanfrid, and sent his son Theodobert, or Theudebert, at the head of an army, to invade it. The youthful prince executed his commission with zeal and fidelity, deposed Hermanfrid, who was unable to offer any effectual resistance to the Franks, and annexed his dominions to those of his royal father. On the death of Theodoric, the people unanimously elected Theodobert to be his successor, and according to the imperfect records of the times, he rendered himself by his military exploits, worthy of the names of warrior and king. This period of history is marked also by the deposition of Sigismund of Burgundy, and the conquest of that country and its incorporation with the possessions

A. D. 511.

Theodoric.

A. D. 534.

Theodobert.

of the Franks: events which proceeded from the following cause. The family of Sigismund was composed of a son and daughter; Sigeric, the former, resided at the court of his father, and Suavigotha, the latter, became the consort of Theodoric. Sigeric was unjustly accused by his step-mother of conspiring to dethrone his parent, and condemned to suffer death, and the sentence was carried into immediate execution. The Franks, of course, resented this act of cruelty towards the brother of their queen, and invaded the territories of Sigismund, whom they deposed, and after permitting Godomar, the next in succession, to occupy the throne for a few years,

A. D. 535. united his territories to their own.

A. D. 537. Nearly at the same period, it happened that Justinian, the Roman emperor, was at war with Vitiges, leader of the Ostrogoths, and having despatched Belisarius into Italy with a numerous army, he invited the Franks to make an incursion into that country, with the view of distracting the attention of the enemy by placing them between two hostile divisions. Theodobert immediately obeyed the summons, and leading his troops across the Alps, ravaged the fertile plains of Lombardy with fire and sword. But the heated climate of Italy, and an inordinate indulgence in sensuality

and intoxication subdued the constitutions of the hardy Franks: a violent dysentery broke out in their camp, which hurried multitudes to the grave, and Theodobert, reluctantly compelled to retrace his steps, withdrew the shattered remains of his army from the grasp of death.

Some years after this event, the king of A. D. 549. the Franks was again invited by Justinian to take part in the war, which continued to rage between the Romans and Totilas, the Ostrogoth, who had assumed the command of the nation after the decease of Vitiges. Theodobert accordingly made a another incursion into Italy and captured several of the frontier towns, his followers pursuing their former system and carrying destruction wherever they marched. At length the Ostrogothic general, by dint of urgent entreaty, or probably the application of more solid argument, in the form of a liberal donation, succeeded in purchasing their retreat, and the Franks tardily retired over the Alps. It is evident that the minds of the contending parties became impressed with an equal horror of Frank alliance or enmity, for the aid of Theodobert was not again solicited by either of them, although the war continued with unremitting violence for some years in the western empire. The Franks,

however, had imbibed a taste for the luxury and wealth of Italy, which could be satiated only by enjoyment: a numerous body of the subjects of Theodobert, under his command, or that of Bucelinus, duke of the Alemanni, his general, traversed the plains of Lombardy, and advanced towards the south as far as the province of Calabria. Narses, who succeeded Belisarius as general of the imperial troops, found it impracticable to stem the torrent, and therefore deemed it advisable to permit the Franks to load themselves with spoil, and waylay them on their return, when fatigued, incumbered with booty and unprepared for resistance. The scheme fully answered the expectations of the Roman commander; the enemy were suddenly attacked near Capua, during their disorderly march towards home, their leader Bucelinus fell in the action, and those who survived the battle, owed their safety to the rapidity of their flight. This disaster was followed by the death of Theodobert, who left his kingdom to his son and successor, Theodobald, but the latter enjoyed his patrimony for two years only, at the termination of which period he died without issue, and his dominions were occupied by his uncle, Clotarius. Theodobert was married to Visigard, daughter of Waccho,

Theodobald

A. D. 554.

king of the Lombards, and Waldrada, another daughter of the same monarch, was betrothed to Theodobald, but the death of the latter prevented the consummation of the marriage, and she afterwards became the consort of Garibald, duke of Bavaria.

Chlodomir, the second son of Clovis, A. D. 511.
Chlodomir. appears to have confined his attention principally to the internal regulation of his own dominions, nor is he found engaged in war, except as an auxiliary in the deposition of Sigismund of Burgundy, or when provoked to hostility by acts of aggression on the part of the neighbouring states.

On the death of Chlodomir, without A. D. 534.
 issue, Guntheuga, his widow, married Clotarius, and the latter took possession of his brother's domains.

Of Childebert, the third son of Clovis, A. D. 511.
Childebert. but slight notice is taken in history: it is ascertained, however, that he was of a warlike disposition, and enabled, by his A. D. 545.
 political strength, to dictate laws to cotemporary princes. He placed Thrassilo on the throne of Bavaria, after the decease of Garibald, assisted Clotarius in the conquest of Gascony, and afterwards accompanied him in an expedition into Spain, in A. D. 749.
 the course of which the confederate princes penetrated as far as Saragossa.

A. D. 558. Childebert died without issue, and the government of all the dominions of Clovis *Clotarius*. devolved on his son, Clotarius, sole king of the Franks.

A. D. 561. On the death of this monarch, his domains were divided amongst his four sons, whom he had by Radegundis, daughter of Bertharius of Thuringia, namely, Claribert, who became king of Paris and the adjacent country; Guntram, of Orleans; Chilperic, of Soissons, and Sigebert, of Austrasia.

A. D. 561. The reign of Claribert was unattended *Claribert*. by any important event: he retained possession of the districts allotted to him by his father, and died at the expiration of

A. D. 572. eleven years from the date of his accession: leaving an only daughter, Bertha, who married Ethelbert, king of Kent, and converted him to Christianity.

A. D. 561. Guntram, the second son, ruled over his *Guntram*. portion of the paternal inheritance for the space of thirty-two years, without interruption, except on those occasions when he was required to interfere as mediator between the children of his brothers, Sigebert and Chilperic, during their domestic dissensions, which presently will be detailed. It is not known whether Guntram

A. D. 593. was married, but it is certain that he died without leaving any immediate heir to his dominions.

Sigebert, the fourth son of Clotarius, A. D. 561. was attacked soon after his accession by *Sigebert and Chilperic.* several wandering tribes of the Abari, a nation of Hunnic extraction, which established itself in Lower Hungary towards the close of the second century, and was compelled to purchase their retreat by the payment of a considerable sum of money. The remainder of his reign was occupied in a bloody war with his brother Chilperic, and the adventures of these unfortunate monarchs are so intimately connected, that they cannot be related with convenience under separate heads. Sigebert had espoused Brunehild, daughter of Athanagild, king of the Wisigoths, by whom he had issue a daughter, Clodovimtha, and a son named Childebert. Chilperic was married at three several periods to as many wives; first, to Audovera, by whom he had three sons, Theodobert, Meroveus, and Clovis; secondly, to Galesuintha, another daughter of Athanagild and sister of Brunehild, by whom he had a daughter, named Ingundis, (afterwards consort of Hermanegild, son of Leovigild, king of the Wisigoths, and, on his decease, of Reccaredus, his brother); and lastly, to Fredegundis, by whom he had a son, named Clotarius. During the lifetime of his second queen, Chilperic became A. D. 572.

enamoured of Fredegundis, and his passion so far carried him beyond the bounds of reason and humanity, that he caused Gailesuinth to be put to death, and elevated her rival to the throne. This barbarous action induced Sigebert to take up arms against his brother, and a destructive war ensued, in the course of which the murderer and his guilty consort were driven from their country, and became exiles in a foreign land.

At no very distant interval of time, however, Sigebert was assassinated, and in all probability, by the directions of his unnatural brother: Brunehild, his widow, fled for protection to Meroveus, son of Chilperic, whom she afterwards married, and Childebert, the son of Sigebert, was protected by Gundobald, a chief who had appeared in arms during these disturbances, and possessed himself of a considerable part of France. No sooner was Chilperic re-established in his dominions than he endeavoured to obtain possession of the person of his nephew, by making offers of reconciliation to him, but the latter was too cautious to repose confidence in the protestations of his uncle, and placed himself under the care of his relative, Guntram, king of Orleans. Whilst the attention of Chilperic was attracted towards the territories of

Sigebert, Fredegundis was employed in clearing the way of her own son, Clotarius, who, for the purpose of avoiding confusion in names, shall be distinguished by the title of Clotarius the 2d, to the throne of her husband. With this view, she caused Meroveus, Theodobert, and Clovis, the sons of Chilperic by his first wife, Audovera, to be successively put to death, and Ingundis, his daughter by Gailesuinth, would probably have shared the fate of her unhappy parent, had she not quitted the palace of her father previously to this triple murder, and become the consort of Hermanegild, the Wisigoth. It is not agreed whether Ingundis was the daughter of Chilperic and Gailesuinth, or of Sigebert and Brunechild, nor is the inquiry important, but the former inference is unquestionably the more correct. If the princess had been the daughter of Sigebert, she could not have had any pretension to the throne of Chilperic, nor would her death, in that point of view, have promoted the plans of Fredegundis. It may be said, indeed, and it was the fact, that women were excluded at that time, by the laws of the Franks, from the government of the people, and yet Ingundis might have become the consort of some neighbouring potentate who would

have laid claim to the throne on the decease of the male branches of her family.

The only remaining obstacle to the accession of Clotarius was Chilperic, but that impediment was speedily removed by his assassination, after which his son ascended the vacant throne. At first sight it may be considered unjust to lay this crime at the feet of Fredegundis, as it seems improbable in the extreme, that she should offer her husband as a sacrifice to the ambition of her child; on the other hand, it is worthy of remark, that the heart of Chilperic, however hardened in iniquity, could not be insensible to the massacre of his offspring, nor could he fail to anticipate, in their destruction, the prospect of his own. These ideas, and perhaps the casual expression of them, tended to convince his infamous queen that her life was held by the uncertain tenure of an irritated monarch's will, and induced her to adopt the only measure which could save her from a premature and ignominious death. On the decease of Chilperic, Childebert claimed and obtained possession of the territories formerly held by Sigebert, his father, and at the instance of his relative, Guntram, generously permitted Clotarius to reign over the dominions he had recently acquired. His warlike spirit, however, did

A. D. 584.

A. D. 570.

not allow him to remain a quiet spectator of the affairs of other nations: in the space of eight years he marched into Italy and made a formidable though unsuccessful attack on the Lombards, waged a destructive war with the Guarai, a German nation then situated between the Rhine and the Elbe, defeated Gundobald, who had declared himself independent during the civil wars, and put him to death.

On the demise of Childebert, his two sons, A. D. 596. Theodobert and Theodoric, partitioned his dominions between them, which consisted it may be presumed, of those originally enjoyed by Sigebert, his father, and the greater portion of the territories of Charibert and Guntram, his deceased uncles. Had Theodobert and Theodoric improved by the sad example of their ancestors, they might have reigned long and happily: but ambition kindled the flame of discord in their breasts, and they madly engaged in a furious war, which ended in the death of Theodobert. Theodoric did not long A. D. 610. survive his brother, and at his decease divided his kingdom amongst his four sons, Sigebert, Childebert, Corbus, and A. D. 611. Meroveus. These princes commenced their joint reign by making war upon Clotarius, a plan adopted without reflection and attended by disgrace, for in the result they

were defeated by their opponent, who contrived in the space of a few years effectually to disperse them by exile or death, and in order to obliterate all traces of their family, ordered queen Brunehild; who had till then survived the troubles of the times, to be also murdered. After the perpetration of this extensive massacre, Clotarius became sole king of the Franks, and at his decease, bequeathed his dominions to Dagobert and Charibert his sons, who reigned together until the death of the latter, on which Dagobert associated Sigebert his son with him in the government of the kingdom.

At this period several tribes of Slavi, better known by the appellation of Slavonians, invaded France, and being superior in numbers, if not in the art of war, took up their abode on the eastern frontier. It will be remembered that the Bulgarians, a race of Hunnic extraction, began to occupy the country which bears their name, in the reign of the emperor Justinian, and the Slavonians, a numerous race descended from the same source, accompanied them in their expedition and spread themselves, by degrees, over Bosnia, Servia, Wallachia, and Croatia. History has recorded the names of two of their most eminent leaders, Zeechus and Lec-

thus, the former of whom is said to have founded the kingdom of Bohemia, and the latter that of Poland, whilst other chiefs, equally warlike but less powerful, were contented to reside under the nominal government of the kings of the Franks, near the banks of the Rhine.

Mention is also made of a violent persecution by Dagobert of the Jews, who began at this time to establish themselves in France, and whose wealth and religion rendered them for many centuries, and especially in the early ages, objects equally of hatred and oppression. This assertion is founded on the admitted fact, that in the first crusade to the Holy Land, vast numbers of the Hebrew race were found in the neighbourhood of the Rhine, and plundered and massacred by the pilgrims on their route to Palestine. On the decease of Dagobert, his son Sigebert A. D. 638. continued to administer the affairs of state without interruption for the space of several years, but at his death, Clovis the second, another son of Dagobert, ascended the throne, to the exclusion of Dagobert the second, son of Sigebert, and the young prince sought shelter from his uncle amongst the kings or chiefs of Ireland. Six A. D. 650. years after this event, Clovis the second, died leaving his kingdom to his three sons,

Clothar the third, Childerick, and Theodoric: the former died about fourtseent years after his accession: his brother Childerick did not long survive him; and Theodoric reigned alone.

- On receipt of this intelligence, Dagobert the second, returned from Ireland, and took possession of Austrasia: but he was opposed by Theodoric, and after a contest of some duration, defeated and slain. On the death of Dagobert, Pepin of Herstatt, Maire de Palais, or superintendent of the royal household, caused himself to be proclaimed king of Austrasia, and repulsed Theodoric, by whom he was attacked. The remainder of the reign of that king was passed in tranquillity: he died at the distance of thirteen years from the period in question, and his son, Clovis the third, ascended the throne. On the decease of Clovis, he was succeeded by his brother Childerick the third, and the latter monarch by his son Dagobert the third.
- A. D. 678.
- A. D. 691.
- A. D. 696.

At this time, the inhabitants of Gascoy, who had probably become independent during the civil wars, were subdued by the Franks, and their country became a component part of the French dominions. Towards the north, Pepin attacked and subdued the Frisians, extended his territories beyond Utrecht, and ratified a treaty of

alliance with his new subjects by the marriage of his son Grimbold with Teutsinda, a Frisian princess. The supremacy of the Franks also produced a beneficial effect on the surrounding nations, for Christianity, which became the national religion, after the conversion of Clovis, began to penetrate into Swabia and the bishopric of Wurtzburg; the heathen inhabitants of the former of these provinces abjured the worship of Odm, god of war, and those of the latter ceased to adore their imaginary protectress, Diana, or the Moon. In A. D. 714, a few years after these transactions, Grimbold was killed, probably in some dispute with the Frisians: Dagobert the third also died about the same period, and was followed by Pepin, who left three sons surviving; (Drogo, by Plectrudis his first queen, and Charles Martel, or the Hammer, thus surnamed from the violence of his blows in battle, and Childebrand, by his second wife, Alpais.) The deaths of these three princes occasioned considerable disturbance in the states of France: at length, Daniel, the son of Childeric, seized the crown to the exclusion of Theodoric, the infant son of Dagobert, and exchanged his name for that of Chilperic. Immediately on his accession, the new king determined to unite the whole of the realm into one

sovereignty, and as the sons of Pepin were the only opponents whom he had reason to dread, he entered into a treaty of alliance with Eudes, duke of Aquitain, the most powerful chieftain in his day, and the confederates turned their arms, in the first instance, against Charles Martel. But the expedition entirely failed: the invincible courage of the hero, and the fear of his powerful arm, inspired his own troops with enthusiasm, and filled the enemy with

- A. D. 720. dismay. Chilperic and his ally were compelled to sue for peace, and on the decease of the former, Charles Martel placed Clotarius, son of Dagobert the second, on the throne. Whilst, however, this celebrated warrior contented himself nominally with the second rank in the nation, he became, by his exploits and authority, the actual sovereign of France. The internal regulations of the state were amended and improved: its limits were extended beyond the adjacent provinces of Bavaria and Saxony, which submitted to his arms: the Roman Pontiff did not disdain to supplicate his aid against the barbarous tribes of Lombards, by which the Papal dominions were ravaged: the Saracen armies which had advanced from Spain into France, were defeated before the walls of Thoulouse, and Elzemagh, their leader,

boved beneath the sword of the son of Pepin. At the distance of eleven centuries, the achievements of the general of the Franks are little known and less appreciated, but common justice demands the observation that had he not arrested the progress of the infidel myriads, by which Asia, Africa, and Spain were overwhelmed, the religious edifices of Europe might have resounded with the lessons of the Koran instead of those of the Gospel.

The province of Languedoc was in the hands of the Saracens, and governed by Manuse, the Moor: Eudes, duke of Aquitaine, trembling for the safety of his hereditary dominions, solicited the alliance of Manuse, and purchased his friendship by delivering his daughter to the arms of the infidel. The confederates united their forces and penetrated into Spain, but were defeated by Abdelzamin, the successor of Elzemagh, who killed Manuse in the field of battle, and subsequently advanced with his Saracens as far as the walls of Tours. In this critical state of things, and when consternation was at its height, Charles Martel appeared at the head of his Franks as the champion of the Christian cause; the hostile armies rushed with mutual ardour to the fight, and a tremendous conflict ensued, which continued throughout

A. D. 732.

the day, and concluded at ~~set-set~~ with the death of Abdelzatin, and the destruction of the followers of Mahomet. The Saracens continued to occupy Spain until the middle of the fourteenth century, but their national strength was weakened by their domestic dissensions, and France, by the happy termination of the war, was preserved from the danger of any future attack.

- A. D. 741. Charles Martel had married Sunchild, daughter of Theobert, duke of Bavaria, and at his decease, his empire was partitioned between his three sons, Carolomannus, Pepin, and Grifo; his daughter Chilrud having married Odilo, duke of Bavaria. Carolomannus and Pepin commenced their career by the imprisonment of their brother Grifo, on which queen Sunchild, apprehensive of a similar fate, retired into a convent. The brothers then placed Childeric the 3d, son of Chilperic the 2d, on the throne, and occupied the six following years in active and successful campaigns against the dukes of Bavaria, Swabia, and Aquitain, whom they compelled to submit to their authority, and promise obedience. In the midst of victory,
- A. D. 747. Carolomannus retired into a monastery, on which Grifo was liberated by Pepin, and the first use he made of his freedom was to

encourage an invad of the Saxons against his deliverer: The scheme, however, did not succeed: the invaders were defeated, and Grifo compelled to acknowledge his offence at the feet of his indignant brother. The claimants to the crown of France were now few in number, and powerless: the opportunity was favourable to the ambitious views of the warrior: Childeric the 3d was deposed and retired with his son Theodoric, in order to escape a more severe fate, into a cloister: the Merovingian dynasty ceased to exist, and the crown of France was firmly placed on the head of Pepin. A. D. 747.

The reign of this monarch was accompanied by several remarkable changes in the manners and customs of the Franks. Till his time it was the practice to elevate the king upon a shield, and exhibit him to the people at his election, and the sovereign usually bore a lance instead of a sceptre; but in this reign, inauguration by the hands of the clergy was introduced, and the future kings of the Franks were anointed with oil and crowned, as preliminary measures to their accession.

In the times of the earlier monarchs, lands which became the property of the sovereign by seizure or allotment, were usually bestowed on particular chiefs, under one or other of the denominations,

Beneficia or *Terræ Salicæ*: the former signified a domain granted to the subject for life, or during pleasure only, from whence may be deduced the modern term *Benefice*: the latter was land originally allotted to the king and held by the grantee, under an obligation to attend him in his wars, but it did not descend to the heir. This distribution of property is said to have derived its origin from Clovis, who adopted the plan of requiring the services of his followers by the more substantial donation of lands and houses, in lieu of horses and armour, which had been, until his reign, the customary rewards of valour.

In order to gain the affections of the people, Pepin declared all the crown grants to be irrevocable, subject only to the performance of suit and service to the sovereign. The nobles, thus possessed of lands in perpetuity, doled them out to their inferiors on similar terms, and laid the foundation of the feudal system. That this assertion is correct, may be inferred from the circumstance that vassalage cannot be traced to any period antecedent to the time of Pepin. In the course of succeeding reigns, when the affairs of the state were administered by the feeble hands of a minor, or when the attention of the sovereign was distracted by civil commotions,

the occupiers of the royal demesnes retained possession of them without performing the conditions of the original grant, and transmitted them to their heirs in the male line without interruption from the king, so that these tenures ultimately became absolute and hereditary. The form of government in the time of Clovis was of a mixed description, for although the king was supreme, he promised, on his accession, to respect the rights of the people, and his acts were subject to the control of a general assembly of the nation, denominated the *Campus Martius*, or field of March, and held annually in that month. Pepin, however, altered the time of meeting from March to the month of May, and he had also a standing council of chiefs, known by the names of *Leudes* and *Antrustions*, that is, *faithful* and *in their Lord's confidence*, whom he consulted on state affairs during the intervals between the annual assemblies in the field or camp of March.

The principal nobles were the dukes of Bavaria, Aquitain, Swabia, and Thuringia, and the strength of the kingdom consisted in the Austrasian Franks, by far the most intrepid of the nation, and the infantry, called *Salii*, who probably were levied in the vicinity of the river Yssel.

In reference to the chief men amongst the Franks, it may be as well to enumerate the officers of the court and their peculiar titles and duties. First, in point of rank, were the **Maires de Palais**, or Superintendents of the palace, a class of persons known also by the synonymous appellations of **Major Domus** and **Seneschal**, and in England by the name of **High Steward**: They were originally appointed to govern the household during the nonage of the reigning monarch, and in after times, by a skilful use of the authority with which they were invested, they ultimately converted an elective into a hereditary office. (When Dagobert the third was in his minority, Pepin was his **Maire de Palais**: he had one daughter, **Begga**, who became the wife of **Ansegisil**, son of **Arnulph**, Pepin's brother, and the issue of their marriage was **Pepin of Herstall**.) It was also amongst the duties of the **Maire de Palais** to receive the rents of his sovereign, and settle the disputes of the household: he was, in fact, deputy judge of the royal demesnes, and in process of time, became chief judge of the whole kingdom.

Next to the **Maire de Palais** was the **Cupbearer** or **Butler**, and as all barbarous nations were much addicted to banquets

and carousals, it was deemed a post of great honour. The third office was that of Chamberlain, whose duty it was to superintend the locking up of the household effects of the king, and when the crown rents were paid in coin, he became treasurer of the king's finances. The fourth officer was the Comes Stabuli or Constable, who had the care of the king's horses, and when cavalry came into use, he conducted the king's troops, obtained jurisdiction to decide disputes arising in the field, and performed other acts of a military nature. The Marshal or Smith, better known by the title of Mareschal, was probably Deputy-Constable. The fifth officer was the king's Secretary, and as the clergy alone could write in those days, he was of necessity an ecclesiastick. When signatures were introduced, he kept the king's grants, from whence may be deduced the English title of Lord High-Keeper, and took notes of law-suits heard before the king. He was afterwards called Cancellarius or Chancellor, from Cancellæ, the chair or place allotted to persons appointed to take notes of causes under the Roman government. These offices in course of time became hereditary amongst the barbarous nations, with the exception of that of chancellor,

whose possessions being in the church, gave him an estate for life only, and from them branched out numerous stations of inferior importance, which it is unnecessary to enumerate. In Germany, after the addition to it of Italy and part of France, the emperor increased the number of his officers to seven, and their power gradually augmented in the same proportion in which that of the sovereign declined. At length, the imperial dignity became elective, and they then assumed the right of proposing, and ultimately of electing the emperor, which is the case in Germany at the present day.

The laws of the Franks also are worthy of attention: they consisted of two regular codes, which had been handed down from earlier times, reformed by Clovis, and adapted to the improved condition of the people. Of these laws, the *Salic* prevailed from the Carbonarian forest to the Loire, and the *Ripuarian*, from thence to the Rhine. Amongst the peculiarities of these ancient institutions, were the provisions of the Salic law by which females were excluded from the succession, and all the sons permitted to share equally in the paternal inheritance. In cases of accusation, the complainant was obliged to seek redress

before the tribunal, to the jurisdiction of which the defendant was subject: probably on the principle that the latter ought to be deemed innocent until proof of his guilt had been adduced and established. The original mode of exculpation seems to have been by the testimony of credible witnesses as at present, but as this course of procedure frequently gave rise to perjury, and the rude warriors of that age were not conversant with the strict rules of evidence, trials by battle, and by the ordeal of fire or water, were gradually introduced as more accurate tests of the merits of the cause. In the prosecution of legal claims, certain forms of pleading were adopted, and when testimony was to be given, the deponent took the usual oath, at the same time placing his hand on his sword: the inhabitants of conquered nations were permitted to retain their own laws, as nearly as circumstances would permit the exercise of them; and every Frank had a right to demand judgment at the hands of his equals. The mode of trial in civil cases was to this effect: Seven assessors were convened from persons of equal rank with the party accused, to which number the Lord of the fief, in which the cause of action arose, added five more at pleasure, and by

these twelve persons the verdict was found, but this custom was abolished when the feudal system was fully established. Each fief had a separate tribunal, the reason of which was probably that the military chiefs were the only persons possessed of sufficient power to enforce obedience, and, therefore, alone competent to administer justice amongst their dependents; but an appeal was permitted from their decisions to the King and Leudes in the Camp of March.

As to their domestic institutions, it was the custom of the Franks, in common with other German nations, to purchase their wives, but when they became more civilized and contracted marriage by solemn compact, the intended husband and wife mutually exchanged pledges of matrimonial faith. These donations consisted on the one side, of a quantity of cattle, and on the other, of some kind of armour, in addition to which the husband was expected, on the day after marriage, to bestow another present of value on his bride, usually termed the morning gift.

With regard to the language of the Franks, it appears that their ordinary dialect was the German, but the higher orders generally conversed in the Latin tongue, which also found its way into their judicial proceedings. At length the Franks in

Neustria and the ancient provincials became inseparably intermixed, and from the union of their several modes of speech proceeded the modern French.

Amongst the leading amusements of the day were tournaments or mock combats; a species of entertainment so peculiarly adapted to the taste of the age, that even the Saracens in Spain vied with their Christian enemies in the gallantry and magnificence which they displayed in them. When nations are situated equally between the extremes of luxury and of barbarism, then it is that they are best inclined to render love a noble passion: in the former state they are sensual, and in the latter brutal. In those days a military education was absolutely requisite, were it only for the purpose of individual preservation, and when it is remembered that the greatest rewards were uniformly bestowed on the most intrepid soldier, it cannot excite surprise that men should have been anxious to excel, in order to gain the estimation of their peers and especially that of the female sex. Even those who were neither attached to any particular object of affection, nor actuated by the hope of worldly commendation, traversed the states of Europe in the character of public avengers, and

redressed abuses which at that time were remedied chiefly by the sword. That personal strength and courage were the order of the day, may be readily proved by numerous authorities, and amongst other instances is an anecdote of Pepin, who, in the enthusiasm of the moment, descended into an amphitheatre, in which a lion and a bull were contending, for the amusement of the court, and attacked and destroyed the savage combatants.

In common also with the German nations, the Franks took delight in the pleasures of the chase, to which they added the diversion of music, a science in which they were moderately versed. The principal instrument in use amongst them was a species of harp or cithern, and it seems they were acquainted with the organ as early as the reign of Pepin, an instrument of that description having been presented to him by Constantine the fifth, emperor of the east.

But to return from this digression to the more immediate object of these pages, the transactions of the kings of the Franks. The concluding years of the reign of Pepin were distinguished by a successful expedition, at the instance of the Pope, against the Lombards, who had seized the exarchate of Ravenna. He recovered this

district from the hands of the barbarians and restored it to the Pontiff, after which he returned to his own dominions, and there ended his days.

Pepin was succeeded in his throne and A. D. 768, title by his son Charlemagne, of glorious memory, who not only retained possession of the dominions of his deceased parent, but enlarged them by extensive conquests. The renewed contentions between the Lombards and the Holy See, in which the successor of St. Peter was generally worsted, induced the latter again to solicit the aid of the Franks, and in compliance with his request, Charlemagne entered Italy at the head of a numerous army, put an end to the reign of the Lombards, restored A. D. 774, Leo the 3d, the Roman pontiff, to the enjoyment of his dominions, and in requital for these services, was crowned by him and dignified with the title of Emperor of the A. D. 800, Romans. Subsequently to these events Charlemagne turned his arms against Spain, made several incursions into that country (in one of which he lost his nephew, the celebrated Roland, at the battle of Roncevalles) and finally annexed a large proportion of it to the kingdom of the Franks.

His attention was next engaged by the

Saxons; whom he conquered; and converted to the Christian faith, after which he dispersed multitudes of them in different parts of Flanders and Switzerland, on which occasion it was remarked, in allusion to the natural ferocity of the nations at that period, that the king, by incorporating the Saxons with the Flemings, had made two demons out of one. In the reign of this monarch, various alterations were made in the internal government of the Franks: the national convention was summoned twice instead of once in the year, which had previously been the custom: it met in the autumn, to take into consideration the measures proper to be adopted in the ensuing summer, and in the month of May, to provide means for carrying them into effect. The latter assembly was the most important, and consisted of the nobles and prelates, and twelve deputies from each province, who represented the population of the districts, by which they were returned. A material change also took place in the military regulations of the Franks. As long as light armour continued to be worn, their kings were deemed to have arrived at manhood at the age of fifteen, but in the reign of Charlemagne, armour made of steel, was substituted, and the majority of

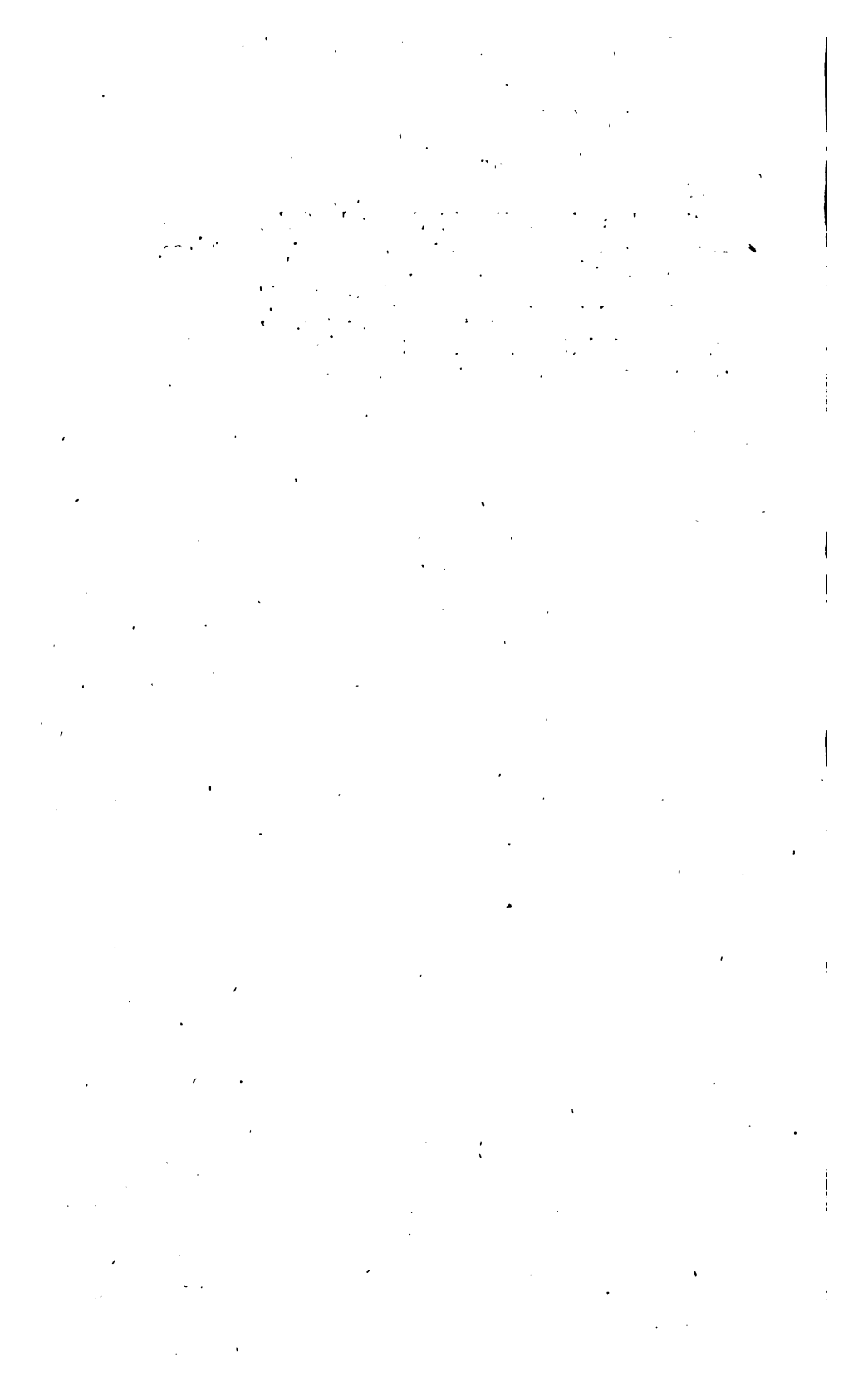
the sovereign was deferred till the age of twenty-one, under the impression that it required more mature strength to enable him to bear the increased burden. This period is also memorable for the institution of Gendarmes, persons of the rank of gentlemen, whose province it was to guard the person of the king; they were clad in a suit of complete armour, and mounted on horseback, and followed severally by five or six attendants. It was also the first era of French literature: the learned languages and the works of ancient authors were introduced, and studied by the higher orders of the Franks, and the nation in general began to imbibe a taste for the arts and sciences.

The titles of Charlemagne were, Emperor of the Romans and of Germany, and king of France and Spain; to these may be added the honorary appellations of Patron of the Arts and Friend of Humanity. He instituted public schools, repaired and beautified the city of Florence, threw a bridge over the Rhine at Mentz, founded the cities of Dresden and Ham-
burgh, stationed fleets at the mouths of the A. D. 808
navigable rivers to repel the incursions of the Saxons, mitigated the ferocity of single combats by substituting clubs for military

- weapons, and despatched officers, at stated periods, to administer justice throughout his dominions. In his time also the privileges of the church were defined and enlarged: the ecclesiastical orders were exempted from the performance of military service, and the system of tithes was introduced and established for their support. Nor was the fame of this monarch confined within the limits of the continent of Europe: it travelled into Asia; and history makes mention of an embassy sent to him by the famous Caliph Haroun Al Raschid with sumptuous presents, amongst which was a tent of prodigious magnitude, containing all the apartments requisite to form a complete dwelling, and decorated with columns inlaid with gold and silver and a throne ornamented with precious stones. The Caliph also presented him with a water clock made of brass, of wonderful mechanism, which shewed the hours by the fall of balls of metal on the bell, and by the figures of knights, who opened and then closed a stated quantity of doors according to the number of the hour.

On the death of Charlemagne, his son Lewis succeeded to the throne, his other sons, Charles and Pepin, having died during the lifetime of their father. The crown

continued in his family till the end of the tenth century, when Charles of Lorraine, A. D. 988. the last descendant of Charlemagne, was deposed and imprisoned by Hugh Capet, who ascended the throne, and Charles perished in the dungeons of Orleans.



THE BRITONS.



CHAP. IX.

Origin of the Britons. Invasion and conquest of Britain by the Romans. The Emperor Valentinian withdraws the Roman troops. Vortigern invites the Saxons into Britain. The seven kingdoms of the Heptarchy. Egbert becomes king of all England.

THERE are two distinct accounts of Britain; the one traditional, the other authentic. According to the former, Brutus, the great grandson of Æneas, whose piety is the subject of historical admiration, and his misfortunes, of regret, became a wanderer in Greece several years after the destruction of Troy, and having at length taken refuge in the mountainous parts of that country, invited the descendants of the Trojan prisoners to cast off the yoke

of servitude. In the course of time, a formidable troop assembled round his banner, set the Greeks at defiance, harassed them with repeated attacks, and laid the adjacent districts under contribution. Inspired by the hope of restoring the name and glory of his nation, Brutus availed himself of a favourable opportunity to seize the Grecian fleet, and having embarked with his followers, traversed the Mediterranean, passed the straits of Gibraltar, pursued his course towards the north, and landed in Gaul. On his arrival, he is said to have founded the city of Tours, but being attacked by Goffarius, king of Gaul, a battle ensued, in which he sustained a defeat. He then quitted the inhospitable shores of France, sailed with his comrades towards the coast of Britain, landed at **B. C. 1100.** Totness in Devonshire, about eleven hundred years before the Christian æra, and assumed the government of the people. After the lapse of several centuries, Mulmucius, a descendant of Brutus, became king of Britain, and at his decease left two sons, Belinus and Brennus, the former of whom ascended the throne to the exclusion of his brother. The latter deeming it unsafe to remain at home, committed himself and his adherents to the mercy of the ocean,

and having disembarked on the opposite shore, penetrated into the interior of the country, and espoused the daughter of Seginus, chief or duke of the Allobroges. The rival brothers afterwards found means to reconcile their differences, and Belinus, at the solicitation of Brennus, led a formidable army into Gaul and assisted his brother, who had already commenced hostilities against the people of the country. When the invaders had achieved the conquest of France and a considerable part of Germany, Belinus returned to his own dominions, and Brennus and his followers, destitute of any settled residence, marched into Italy and were routed by Camillus at the gates of Rome.

The other account, and of which alone any authentic record exists, is that given by Cæsar, who landed in Britain fifty-five B. C. 55. years before the Christian æra, and reduced it to submission by force of arms. The advocates of the prior statement support their opinion by the alleged fact that at the time of the Roman invasion, the inhabitants were not a rude and savage race, as described by Cæsar, but well disciplined and under good government, and they likewise pretend that the Roman general destroyed the Druidical annals in which the

transactions of the nation were preserved, in order to prevent the detection of his own falsehood. Another argument in their favour is derived from the fact, that in the frequent encounters between the two nations, the Britons invariably attacked the Romans in war chariots armed with scythes, and this circumstance is mentioned as an evident proof that the former were of Grecian or Trojan extraction, and consequently far advanced in civilization.

Without entering the field of controversy, or answering minute particulars, it may be sufficient to remark that the supporters of this proposition have to contend with several objections. In the first place the commentaries of Cæsar were published during the age in which he lived, and had they been grossly inaccurate, the military men who accompanied him in his expedition, and of whom many were inimical to him, would have exposed the incorrectness of them, if not during his life, at least after his premature death, when the consequences of his displeasure were no longer to be apprehended: The next objection is, that Cæsar had a strong inducement to represent the inhabitants of Britain as an enlightened and polished race, and undoubtedly such would have been his description

of them, had their real condition warranted the assertion, for the more powerful the nation, the greater would have been his glory in the conquest of it. Again, it is very questionable whether the Druids were sufficiently advanced in science to comprehend the art of writing: the traditions which they recounted to the people, appear to have descended from one generation to another by oral testimony alone, and in the absence of satisfactory evidence to the contrary, it may be reasonably inferred that they did not possess any written chronicles of the national affairs. The better opinion seems to be that the British isles were peopled from the continent, and the accuracy of it is supported by Tacitus, who states that the inhabitants bore a manifest likeness to the Gauls in their language and religious customs. At the time of the Roman invasion, the Britons were divided into separate tribes, each of which was governed by an independent chief; they lived on the milk and flesh of their cattle, were strangers to commerce, and disregarded agriculture. Their religion bore analogy to that of the Germans in the worship of the planets, the occasional immolation of human victims, and the unfeigned confidence they placed in the prognostications

of their priests. Some of them also worshipped Jupiter and other heathen deities, and professed to believe in the transmigration of souls. Their weapons were swords, daggers, shields, chiefly made of wicker work, and short spears, and, with the exception of their chariots, they appear to have been unacquainted even with the rudiments of military science.

The northern regions of the island were scantily inhabited by the Picts, so called from Pictich, a plunderer, and the Scots, from Scuite, a wanderer: the tribes of the former occupying the Low, and those of the latter the High, lands of Caledonia. Authors, who attempt to trace the origin of the Britons to other sources than the Gallic nations, assert that the Scots were of Spanish descent, and that their ancestors having found their way to the coasts of Ireland, emigrated in course of time, into the mountainous parts of Scotland. Of the Picts they allege, that they were of Scythian extraction, and passed, by some means at present unexplained, from the confines of Europe and Asia into Ireland, and thence into the sister kingdom: an hypothesis, raised on the slender foundation of a supposed resemblance between the Picts who adorned their bodies with colours of various,

hues, and the Agathyrsi, a northern nation who indulged in a similar custom. The easier, and perhaps the more reasonable mode of solving the difficulty is, to suggest that detached parties of the barbarians by whom Gaul was originally occupied, crossed the ocean and landed on the eastern coasts of England: that the descendants of these adventurers, by degrees established themselves in the northern parts of the country, and ultimately overran and peopled Ireland.

In regard to the etymology of the names, *Britain* and *Albion*, it is superfluous, and it would be nearly useless, to occupy time in the discussion, especially when it is considered that the learned have discovered no less than eighteen derivations for the one, and seven for the other, all equally specious and unsatisfactory. The popular opinion seems to be that the island received its name of Britain from the word *Brith*, which signifies "painted," (in allusion to the practice of its inhabitants to paint their bodies,) or perhaps the colour which they used, "azure blue," and that it was also termed *Albion*, on account of its cliffs, from Grecian or Phœnician terms, signifying "white."

The several tribes, amongst whom Britain was partitioned at the time of the

Roman invasion, and the situations which they respectively occupied, were these—The Cantii inhabited the county of Kent; the Regni, Sussex and Surry; the Durotriges, Dorsetshire; the Dunmonii, Cornwall and Devonshire; the Belgæ, Somersetshire, Wiltshire, and Hampshire; the Atrebatii, Berkshire; the Dobuni, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire; the Catticuchlani, Warwickshire, Bedfordshire, and Buckinghamshire; the Trinobantes, Essex, Hertfordshire, and Middlesex; the Icenii, Suffolk, Norfolk, Huntingdonshire, and Cambridge-shire: the Coritani, Lincolnshire, Rutlandshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, and Nottinghamshire; the Cornavii, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Cheshire, and Shropshire; the Brigantes, Yorkshire, Durham, Lancashire, Cumberland, and Westmoreland; the Ottadini, Northumberland, and a considerable part of Scotland; the Silures, Herefordshire, Radnorshire, Brecknockshire, Monmouthshire, and Glamorganshire; the Ordovices, Montgomeryshire, Merionethshire, Caernarvonshire, Flintshire, and Denbighshire; and the Dimetæ, Caermarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Cardiganshire. When the Romans had annexed Britain to the empire, as a province, they subdivided it into five districts, the particular boundaries and

descriptions of which it is not requisite to notice in detail.

During the period of one hundred years **B. C. 55.** after the invasion of the country by Cæsar, **A. D. 50.** the Britons remained unmolested, an event which may be attributed to the civil wars, by which the attention of the Romans was diverted to other objects, and also to the annual mission of deputies with tribute to Rome, in token of submission.

According to Strabo, the exports from Britain to the continent of Europe were, copper, tin, lime, corn, cattle, hides, dogs, pearls, and baskets; hides and tin had been in request with the Phœnicians for a considerable time as articles of merchandise, and the baskets were of sufficient value to attract the attention of the Roman authors, probably on account of some peculiarity in their construction.

In the reign of the emperor Claudius, **A. D. 30.** hostilities commenced between the commander of the imperial forces in Britain, and Caractacus, prince of the Silures, or people of South Wales, and after a series of encounters, which uniformly terminated in favour of the Romans, Caractacus was compelled to quit the field and flee for refuge to Cartismandua, queen of the Brigantes. The misfortunes of the British leader, however, could not procure for him

the exercise of common hospitality: he was betrayed by those with whom he sought a temporary asylum, delivered into the hands of the enemy, and carried to Rome with his family and principal adherents. In consequence of the removal of this formidable chief, the Romans were enabled to prosecute their successes without material opposition on the part of the Britons, and the greater portion of the island submitted to their arms.

A. D. 59. Nine years after these events, Boadicea, queen of the Icenii, was insulted, and her daughters dishonoured by a Roman officer, on which the Britons took up arms against their conquerors, and in pursuance of a preconcerted plan, put to death, at the same time, seventy thousand Romans, who were dispersed in the various cities of Britain. Paulinus, the general then in command of the army, hastened to avenge the massacre of his countrymen, and a furious battle ensued between the Icenii and the Romans, in which the troops of the queen were defeated with immense loss, and she destroyed herself by means of poison, to escape the hands of her foe.

The reduction of Britain proceeded gradually during the reigns of the emperors Claudius and Nero, and was finally accomplished in the time of Domitian, by

Julius Agricola, the Roman governor; he A. D. 88.
 then advanced into the southern parts of Scotland, and separated them from the other districts of that country by a wall of turf, extending from the Clyde to the Frith of Forth; he also sailed round Ireland, and on his return visited the Orkney Islands, and took possession of them on behalf of the Romans.

To awe the Britons and keep them in subjection, the Romans built one hundred and fifty military stations, and distributed their forces in them. Numbers of persons also quitted Italy and preferred to reside in England; the legionary soldiers, whose term of service had expired, followed their example, and the laws and institutions of the Romans by degrees were introduced and adopted by the Britons. Their chiefs also paid occasional visits to Italy, and on their return brought with them the dress and manners of the imperial court, which in a short space of time became prevalent throughout the island. In order to defray the expenses attendant on the military occupation of the country, the Romans levied taxes of several descriptions: the principal of which were an annual quit rent, consisting of a tenth of the fruits or produce of the soil, an impost on pasture land, known by the name of scriptura, and

proportioned, in amount, to the quantity of cattle maintained on it, a poll-tax, and a duty on funerals. These impositions are said to have produced an annual revenue equal to two millions of money, a vast sum if regard be had to its value at that period, the uncultivated state of the island in general, and the comparatively inconsiderable number of its inhabitants. In return, the Britons were indebted to the Romans for protection against external enemies, for the establishment of schools and academies, the erection of magnificent edifices, and the introduction of the arts and sciences. The Gauls also contributed to the improvement of the Britons, by instructing them in the art of oratory, and the British pleaders frequently visited the neighbouring continent to receive lessons in elocution.

A. D. 121. In the course of forty years, the wild inhabitants of Scotland increased in strength and numbers to such an extent, that the Romans were compelled to retire before them, and resign to their mercy a considerable part of their possessions in the north. It happened that the emperor Adrian, to gratify a laudable curiosity, or to ascertain the state of the country, had at that time undertaken a journey into England, and finding on his arrival the im-

possibility of retaining the government of the extreme districts of Caledonia, he caused a wall of turf to be raised from the Solway Frith to the Tyne, in order to limit the encroachments of the barbarians.

Several years afterwards, the emperor A. D. 210. Severus also paid a visit to his British territories, and as the existing wall, either from decay or the perishable nature of its materials, had ceased to answer the purpose for which it was designed, he erected a rampart of stone nearly parallel to it, which he fortified with towers placed at given distances, so that the troops by whom it was defended, were enabled to communicate readily with each other in case of sudden attack.

In the reign of Dioclesian, the exercise of the imperial authority was suspended for a time by the revolt of Carausius, a Menapian officer in the Roman service, who had been intrusted with the command on the eastern coast of Britain, and com- A. D. 284 missioned to protect it from the ravages of the piratical Saxons. The Menapian tempted by the alluring prospect of regal power, and unmindful of his vow of allegiance, took advantage of the opportunity which chance had placed within his reach, and boldly proclaimed himself head of an independent kingdom. His career,

however, was interrupted by one of his generals, named Allectus, who caused him to be assassinated, and the government which he had established in Kent and the Isle of Thanet, passed into the hands of his murderer, with whom it remained for the space of three years. At the expiration of that period, Constantius was nominated by Dioclesian to the command of the army in Britain, and this general, landing on the shores of the revolted districts with a body of chosen troops, attacked and defeated the
A. D. 292. usurper, directed him to be put to death, and restored the province to the empire.

When Christianity had been embraced
A. D. 306. by Constantine the Great, and its tenets disseminated throughout the states of the empire, the light of the gospel penetrated into Britain, and the English clergy, patronised and protected by the Romans, assumed a degree of importance till then unknown in the national history. There were twenty-eight bishops in the island; an amount corresponding with the number of its principal cities; their power was extended and upheld by the daily addition of new converts; their right to interfere in the ecclesiastical affairs of the continent was universally admitted; and at that early
A. D. 314. period, the commencement of the fourth century, they sent representatives to the

council, which met at Arles, to discuss the doctrines recently promulgated by Arius and Donatus.

There were also three archbishops, of York, Wales, and London, to whom the bishops were subordinate in the same manner as at the present day, and the necessity of an additional primate to superintend the Cambrian diocese, may be conjectured from the circumstance that the remote monastery of Bangor, and the religious houses attached to it, alone contained the apparently incredible number of two thousand monks. A. D. 354.

Subsequently to the defeat of Allectus, A. D. 364. the Romans remained in the undisturbed possession of their British dominions, for many years, with the exception of occasional descents by the Saxons on the maritime counties, but the marauders were immediately attacked and destroyed by Theodosius, the Roman general, to whose charge that particular duty had been intrusted by his court.

Towards the conclusion of the fourth A. D. 381. century, Maximus, the Roman governor in Britain, married a native woman of high rank, and having proclaimed himself emperor of the west, fitted out a large squadron and landed in Gaul, attended by multitudes of the Britons. His enterprise, however, though successful at the outset, terminated in defeat: after obtaining the

promise of support from the people of Gaul, he attempted to march into Italy and force his way to Rome; but was intercepted and

A. D. 387. slain by Theodosius, emperor in the east, and the Britons, who escaped the sword of the imperial army, retreated into that part of Armorica, an extensive district on the western coast of France, which is known by the name of Bretagne.

A. D. 421. In the reign of Valentinian the third, the declining state of the empire compelled the Romans to withdraw their military force from Britain, and the principal part of the foreign settlers, anticipating the scenes of confusion which threatened to succeed the departure of the troops, resigned their possessions and embarked for the continent with their families and effects. Nor were their apprehensions destitute of foundation; no sooner had the Romans quitted the island, than the Picts and Scots who had been restrained for a considerable period by the arm of superior power alone, rushed with the fury of a torrent on the fairest districts of the island, and the calamities of the miserable inhabitants were heightened by contentions between the native princes. Even had the British chiefs been true to their own interests, and made common cause against the barbarians, it is extremely doubtful if their efforts would

have been attended with success: after the entire reduction of their country by the Romans, the people, with the exception of a comparatively small number who took refuge in Scotland, gradually became reconciled to the loss of their liberty, and at length willingly accepted, in exchange for it, the luxuries introduced by their conquerors.

Enervated by sensuality, unaccustomed to war, and depressed by servitude, the degenerate Britons were unable to withstand the assaults of the rude inhabitants of the north, and they had the mortification to perceive, in the ranks of their invaders, multitudes of the descendants of their countrymen, who, during the progress of the Roman arms, had preferred a life of danger and freedom to a state of security and bondage, and were then returning to seize the reward of their voluntary privations, at the expense of their less fortunate brethren.

At length, Vortigern, chief of the Silures, A. D. 449. and the most eminent among the British princes, was unanimously chosen leader of the nation, and the conduct of the war intrusted to his entire direction. For a time, he succeeded in repelling the attacks of the enemy, but his resources became exhausted, and in the absence of every other prospect of support, he resolved on

the dangerous expedient of soliciting the aid of the Saxons. That powerful nation, although its numerous tribes passed under the general denomination of Saxons, consisted of three distinct branches, the Jutes, Angles, and Saxons, properly so called, and the derivation of these names has given rise to much controversy amongst the learned.

Some authors imagine that the Jutes were descendants of the Getæ, a tribe of Goths resident on the borders of the Black Sea, and that they emigrated from the eastern extremity of the Danube to that part of Denmark which is indebted to them for the name of Jutland. Others consider this account fabulous, and without assigning any particular part of the globe as their original residence, are contented to assert that they were of German extraction and derived their title from Geta, the chief under whose command they were, at the time when they began to occupy the peninsula.

The Saxons, properly so called, are said to have been originally inhabitants of the province of Armenia, in Asia, a conjecture founded on the circumstance that the Sacæ were a nation in the vicinity of that country, and that Sacasones, or Saxones, signified children of the Sacæ; their name, however, is more probably taken from a word in

their own language, which is used to denote a short sword, a weapon peculiar to their nation, and preserved to this day in the arms of Saxony, which contain two swords of this description crossed. The collective body of the Saxon nation was comparatively insignificant; their tribes inhabited the small duchies of Sleswick and Holstein, and obtained a precarious subsistence by ranging the seas and plundering the coasts of Gaul and Britain. It is impossible, however, that these narrow domains could have produced the myriads known by the name of Saxons, who at that period of nautical ignorance, perished in the dangerous and uncertain navigation of the German ocean, or joined the barbarians of the north in their incursions into Italy, or kept the coasts of France and Holland in a state of perpetual alarm by their depredations, and it is therefore obvious that their fleets were manned and their armies reinforced by vast numbers of the Suevi, who emigrated from the forests of Germany, floated to the mouth of the Elbe on rafts or in trees hollowed by the action of fire, joined the Saxons in their excursions, and assumed their name.

The Angles are stated by some authors to have derived their title from Engo, son of Woden or Odinus, (a celebrated priest

and warrior in the north, whose residence was in Sweden or Denmark, and whose person was deified after his decease,) or from his posterity, who were termed Inglings; whilst others assert with equal confidence, that they received their appellation from Angulus, a corner of land, in reference to their local position, which was between Hamburg and the gulf of Lubec.

With the view to render the main history of these several nations more intelligible, it is necessary to refer to the early accounts of Denmark, or, as it was then termed by the Romans, who boast the merit of being its first discoverers, Chersonesus Cimbrica. It was inhabited by the Cimbri, a rude and ferocious race, intrepid in battle, and merciless in victory: according to an old writer, their women followed them in time of war bare-footed, clad in white garments and girt with brassen belts, and when prisoners were taken, they cut their throats over a caldron, and according to the mode in which the blood distilled, prophesied victory or defeat.

When the shores of the Baltic were replete with inhabitants, the redundant population was compelled to seek new abodes, and multitudes of the Cimbri, following the course of the navigable rivers, penetrated into the heart of Germany, established

themselves in Upper Saxony, and became known by the general appellation of Suevi. From thence, as from a common centre, proceeded the numerous tribes which aided and reinforced the Saxons in their maritime expeditions, crossed the Rhine and impeded the victorious career of Cæsar in Gaul, descended towards the south and ravaged Italy in conjunction with the Lombards, or following the course of the Rhine, broke down the barriers of the Pyrenees and founded an independent kingdom in Spain.

With persons, who deny the scriptures to be an authentic record of the events detailed in them, it is in vain to argue, but those who acknowledge their veracity, will find in the book of Genesis, an easy solution of the difficulties generally felt in deducing the origin of European nations. It is stated by the Jewish legislator, that after the deluge, the ark in which Noah and his family were contained, settled on the mountains of Armenia, the sons of the patriarch selected different portions of the earth for their residence, and the descendants of Japhet occupied the isles of the Gentiles, by which are intended the European shores of the Mediterranean, and probably the borders of the Black Sea. The posterity of the primeval inhabitants of Europe gradually diverged, in course of

time, towards the northern and western regions of that continent, and ultimately peopled Britain and the adjacent islands. It may be mentioned also, in aid of this suggestion, that a race of men has been discovered recently on the coast of America; whose language bears marked affinity to the Welsh dialect, and affords strong presumption that their ancestors were emigrants from the shores of Gaul or Britain. If, therefore, this hypothesis be true, it reconciles the discrepance of opinion between these who admit and those who deny, that Asia and the south eastern extremity of Europe were the birth-places of the ancestors of every nation in this quarter of the globe.

But to return from this digression to the more immediate object of these pages; the

A. D. 449. Saxons readily accepted the invitation of Vortigern, landed in great force under the command of Hengist and Horsa, sons of Woden or Odinus, and encamped in the Isle of Thanet. In order to conciliate the affections of his new auxiliaries and ensure their permanent assistance, Vortigern offered his hand to Rhonice or Rowena, daughter of Hengist, and placed her on the throne of Britain. But this measure, however prudent, was not sufficient to control the rapacity of the Saxons: in a short space

of time they quitted the pursuit of the Picts and Scots, whom, on their first landing, they had defeated and driven back into the north, turned their arms against the astonished Britons, and seized, at pleasure, the choicest of their possessions. The arbitrary conduct of the barbarians naturally provoked resistance, war broke out between the contending parties, and a series of bloody conflicts ensued, which concluded with the deposition of Vortigern and the death of Horsa, his chief opponent, who fell in battle. Numbers of the Britons fled to the coast of Bretagne to escape the sword of the enemy, others took refuge in Wales, and in the space of one hundred and seventy years the whole of Engiand became subject to the Saxons.

The conquest of the country, however, was not achieved without considerable loss on the part of the invaders; many of the British chiefs fought gallantly in defence of their liberties, and amongst others Arthur Prince of the Silures, or people of South Wales, encountered the enemy with success in twelve bloody battles, and effectually checked their progress on the frontiers of his dominions. Tradition, indeed, has magnified his exploits beyond the bounds of reason, assigned to him a chosen set of companions in arms, known

by the title of Knights of the Round Table, and attributed his victories to the immediate assistance of the celebrated enchanter, Merlin.

Vortigern has been severely censured for placing confidence in the Saxon chiefs and exposing his dominions to the ravages of their lawless followers, but his conduct is not without parallel either in earlier or later times. Anterior to this period, the ranks of the imperial armies were filled with Vandals, Goths, and Lombards; in the middle ages, the German mercenaries became licensed traffickers in human life and sold their services to the highest bidder, and in modern times, the inhabitants of Switzerland have not considered their reputation tarnished by accepting the pay of France.

When the Saxons had completed their conquest, they divided that part of the island now known by the name of England, A. D. 456. into seven kingdoms, entitled the Heptarchy; these were governed by a similar number of independent princes, and were distinguished by the names of Mercia, Northumberland, Wessex, Sussex, Kent, Essex, and East Anglia. On account of the dearth of historical materials, it is impossible to detail the public transactions of the several states, and, in fact, little

more is known than the names of the particular counties, comprehended within their limits.

MERCIA, the principal kingdom of the Heptarchy, consisted of Huntingdonshire, Rutlandshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Cheshire, Salop, Gloucestershire, part of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, and Bedfordshire. Its capital was Leicester, and its new settlers principally Angles.

NORTHUMBERLAND was also occupied by the Angles, and comprised two divisions, Bernicia and Deira, and these collectively contained Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cumberland, Westmorland, Durham, Northumberland, and part of Scotland, as far as Edinburgh. Its capitals were Bamburg and Edinburgh.

KENT, the third in number, was occupied by the Jutes, and its capital was Canterbury.

The kingdom of the **SOUTH SAXONS** contained the counties of Sussex and Surry, and its capital was Chichester: that of the **WEST SAXONS**, Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, and Hants, and its capital was Winchester; and that of the **EAST SAXONS**,

Essex, Middlesex, and part of Hertfordshire, and its capital was London.

EAST ANGLIA comprehended **Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, and the Isle of Ely, and its capital was Dunwich.**

It is the general opinion that the Saxons extirpated the race of ancient Britons, with the exception of those who fled into Britany, or took shelter in the mountains of Wales, but there is sufficient reason to doubt the truth of the assertion.

It is well known to have been the usage of the northern nations, on the acquisition of territory by conquest, to assign a small portion of it to the original inhabitants, and compel them to cultivate the rest, as slaves, for the benefit of the new proprietor. Amongst the numerous hordes of barbarians, by whom the empire of the west was inundated in the reign of Arcadius and Honorius, were multitudes of Saxons, and as the Roman writers of the day, who were sufficiently inveterate against the oppressors of their country, do not charge them with any deviation from the ordinary rules of German polity, the inference is that they pursued the same line of conduct as their companions in arms. Unless, therefore, a satisfactory reason can be assigned for the adoption by the Saxons of a contrary system, it is but fair to suppose that they

acted on the general principles in vogue with the barbarous nations, and merely reduced the Britons, with the exception of those who fled or fell in battle, to a state of vassalage or slavery.

This opinion receives additional support from two circumstances; that the English language is a compound of the British, Latin, and Saxon tongues, which would not be the case if the Britons had been annihilated, for in that event their language would have become obsolete; in the next place, the lands occupied by the Saxons after the conquest of Britain, were cultivated by a class of persons termed Villeins, who were unquestionably the original inhabitants reduced to the condition of slaves.

In reference to this subject, it appears that in the time of the Saxons, estates were of two kinds, allodial and feudal: the former descended to the heir in the male line, unincumbered by any restriction, but the latter were held at the will of the lord, on such terms of military or other service as he thought fit to impose. There was not any distinction, in principle, between the king and his chiefs as to the tenure of land, for he shared with them the territory acquired by the laws of war, except only that he received a larger portion in consideration of his superior rank. The districts

allotted to the sovereign were usually granted by him to his kinsmen or favourites, on military tenure, and these chiefs, in turn, sub-divided their allodial, or independent possessions, and the feudal property, which they held under the king, amongst their dependants, on similar conditions.

There were two descriptions of persons employed in the tillage of the soil; the *Villeins*, who were bondsmen, and laboured for the exclusive benefit of their superior, and the *Vassals*, who were freemen, and; being in general attached to their lord by the ties of consanguinity, were permitted to occupy small parcels of his estates and enjoy the produce during his pleasure.

In later times, when the people became sensible of the advantages of commerce, and engaged in the mutual exchange of the necessaries or luxuries of life, the lord permitted his dependants to hold fairs and markets, guarded them from hostile attack when they met for the purpose of bartering or selling their goods, afforded them the use of warehouses, weights, and measures, and levied tolls and duties on them, as the price of his indulgence and protection.

The principal instances in which the islanders had occasion to deplore the invasion of the Saxons, were the destruction of Christian worship and the introduction of

idolatry. The new settlers dedicated the religious edifices of the Britons to the service of Thor and Woden, and the utmost favour granted to the natives, was permission to offer up their prayers under the same roof with their heathen conquerors. As a difference of opinion exists as to the characters and attributes of the favourite deities of the Saxons, it may be as well to state that Woden or Odin, as he is generally entitled, was the leader of the Saxons at the period of their original establishment in the north, and his residence is supposed to have been in Sweden or Denmark. To the bravery of the warrior, he added the sanctity of the priest, persuaded his followers that he was gifted with the knowledge of future events, and after his decease was worshipped by his countrymen, under the fictitious title of God of War. On the death of Woden, Thor, his son, assumed the command of the nation, and when he had paid the debt of nature, was also deified by his illiterate followers, who, to perpetuate the memory of their favourite heroes, assigned their names to the fourth and fifth days of the week, Woden's day and Thor's day. Some writers, indeed, insist that Woden and Odin are distinct persons, and others assert that by Thor and Woden, the Saxons intended to represent Jupiter and

Mercury, but these conjectures are not founded on any satisfactory authority.

The light of Christianity thus extinguished, the people of Britain remained in a state of mental darkness till the end of the
A. D. 580. sixth century, when Ethelbert, king of Kent, having espoused Bertha, daughter of Clari- bert, king of the Franks, was persuaded by her to abjure the errors of paganism, and acknowledge the truth of the gospel dispensation. To aid her pious endeavours, Gregory, the Roman Pontiff, despatched Augustin, an ecclesiastic, distinguished equally by the firmness of his character and the sanctity of his life, on a mission to the court of the Saxon king, with directions to confirm the hopes of the royal convert, and exhort his subjects to imitate his ex-
A. D. 597. ample. Augustin accordingly landed on the coast of Kent, and commenced the duties of his office under the patronage of Ethelbert; his eloquence delighted and astonished his heathen auditors: they listened with alternate emotions of hope and fear to his explanation of the glorious scheme of redemption, and his animated description of the rewards and punishments of a future state, and in the space of a few years, the preacher had the satisfaction to witness the successful completion of his task in the admission of the orthodox faith

into the several kingdoms of the Heptarchy. When Christianity was permanently established in Britain, the different orders of clergy, which had perished in the general wreck occasioned by the inundation of the Saxons, were revived, with a few alterations adapted to the times. Augustin was raised to the dignity of Archbishop, and selected for his residence Canterbury, the scene of his first labours in the cause of the church, and the primacy, which had been attached to the see of London until the destruction of episcopacy by the Saxons, was removed to the new diocese. The rank of archbishop was also restored to the possessor of the see of York, who was, however, declared inferior in rank to the Primate and subject to his control, but the archbishopric of Wales was irrevocably lost by the separation of that country from England.

The mode of discussing the affairs of the state was nearly the same with the Saxons as the Franks, a coincidence the less remarkable, because each nation was of German extraction, and consequently inclined to adopt similar habits and forms of government. Previously to the execution of any political measure, the propriety of it was debated and decided in a general council of the nation, termed the Wittenagemote,

(a word derived from *wite*, a man of *valour*, or, according to others, of *wisdom*.) which assembled twice in the year; in the spring, after the seed was sown, and in the autumn, before the harvest began; the former of these meetings was held for the purpose of arranging the hostile expeditions intended to be undertaken during the ensuing summer, and the latter for the division of the spoil. But as England, on account of its insulated situation, was less exposed to the horrors of war and the allurements of pillage than the continental states, which were perpetually at variance with each other, these particular seasons were in course of time, disregarded, and when the whole country fell under the dominion of an individual, the king convened the national assembly at the three principal festivals, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Christmas. He had also a discretionary power to call extraordinary meetings, when any particular event arose which required the collective votes of the people, and the necessary exercise of this prerogative during the civil wars, by which the country was distracted in the reigns of the Norman successors of William, the Conqueror, occasioned the regular times of meeting to fall into disuse, and, at length, the Wittenagemote assem-

bled, as Parliament at present; only on the summons of the king.

From the arrangement of military movements and the distribution of plunder, the powers of the Wittenagemote were extended gradually to the declaration of hostilities, the levy of taxes, the regulation of the coinage, the compilation of laws, and the decision of legal questions referred from the inferior tribunals, and in the year 755, a remarkable instance of its authority is adduced in the expulsion of Sigebert, king of the West Saxons, from his dominions, and the election of another chief in his stead. This great assembly was composed originally of the general mass of the people, but in proportion to the progress of civilization, the Saxons renounced their savage modes of life, became attached to agricultural pursuits, and united in forming villages and towns for the better protection of the community, in the event of domestic oppression or foreign attack. By degrees the fatigue, danger, and expense of a distant journey deterred many persons from joining in the deliberations of the Wittenagemote at the usual seasons, and in course of time the principal, if not the only, attendants on it were the great lords, whose strength and affluence enabled them to surmount the obstacles which occasioned the

absence of their inferiors. Hence the cause of the national assembly being attended only by bishops, abbots, chiefs, ealdermen or eldermen, (from whence the modern title of aldermen), and nobles, although it professed to be, in fact and in principle, a general assemblage of all ranks and classes in the nation.

In later times, the nobility even, who were of secondary rank, declined to attend, either on account of their inability to defray the expenses of these frequent journies, or the evident inutility of their opposition to any measures which they disapproved. Then it was that the power of the great military chiefs became paramount to that of the sovereign: they concerted their plans in secret, proposed them in the national convention, and carried them into execution in defiance of the king.

Nor was it easy in those days to find a remedy which could effectually obviate the increasing evil: according to the established institutions of the country, the political measures of the sovereign were liable to discussion and revision in the council of the nation, and his want of power to carry them into effect without the concurrence and support of the nobles, compelled him reluctantly to assemble the Wittenagemote in times of public emergency. In the last of

its revolutions may be discovered a marked analogy between that body and the national assembly, by which it was succeeded, and which became known by the title "Parliament," a name derived from the Normans, whose language was adopted formerly in judicial proceedings. There is, however, this important distinction to be observed; in the early ages the monarch was despotic, but at present his plans are controlled by the equal voices of the nobility and the people: in the middle ages, the people were not represented, and the king was kept in awe by a powerful and imperious aristocracy, but now the influence of the nobles in the scale of government is counterbalanced by the sovereign and the people: in the present age of improvement, the ascendancy probably would be entirely in favour of the people, were it not for the discretionary power vested in the King and Lords to dissent from the proceedings of the Commons.

As to the kings of the Heptarchy, it is impossible, at this distance of time, and in the absence of all authentic information on the subject, to trace their private history or develop their political transactions; it is known only that they were generally engaged in mutual contests for power, or in repelling the occasional attacks of the

Danes, by whom the country was subsequently occupied, and that, after the lapse of two hundred years, computed from its final reduction (A.D. 620), the government A. D. 820. of the several kingdoms of the Heptarchy became vested, by cession or conquest, in Egbert, the Saxon.

FINIS.





