

BOOK II.

THE ARGUMENT.

DECLENSION of Roman virtue after the destruction of Carthage; wars with Viriathus and Numantia, I. Acts and death of Tiberius Gracchus, II., III. Aristonicus defeated; Numantia overthrown; character and death of Publius Scipio, IV. Acts of Aulus Brutus in Spain, V. Proceedings and death of Caius Gracchus, VI. Cruelty of Opimius, VII. Narbo Martius founded. Cato condemned for extortion; triumphs of the Metelli and Minutius, VIII. Eminent Roman orators and writers, IX. Severity of the censors; family of the Domitii, X. The Jugurthine war; the acts of Marius, XI., XII. Ill-fortune and death of Drusus, XIII., XIV. The colony of Carthage; the Italian war, XV., XVI. The civic franchise granted to the Italians; character of Sylla, XVII. War with Mithridates commenced; acts of Sulpicius, XVIII. Civil war between Marius and Sylla, XIX. The consul Pompeius murdered by the soldiers; proceedings of Cinna, XX. Cinna succeeds in recalling Marius, XXI. Marius's proscription, XXII. Marius's death; success of Sylla against Mithridates, XXIII. Deaths of Fimbria, Lucilius, and Cinna, XXIV. Further proceedings of Sylla, XXV., XXVI. Fate of Pontius Telesinus, and of the younger Marius, XXVII. Sylla's dictatorship and proscription, XXVIII. Character of Pompey, afterwards called the Great, XXIX. Death of Sertorius; triumphs of Metellus and Pompey; war with Spartacus, XXX. Pompey suppresses the pirates, XXXI., XXXII. Pompey receives the command of the Mithridatic war; acts of Lucullus, XXXIII. Conquest of Crete; conspiracy of Catiline, XXXIV. Character of Cato; deaths of Catiline and the other conspirators, XXXV. Augustus Cæsar born; learned men of that age, XXXVI. Tigranes surrenders to Pompey, XXXVII. Names of Roman provinces, and by whom conquered, XXXVIII., XXXIX. Pompey conquers Mithridates, and triumphs, XL. Descent, character, and actions of Julius Cæsar, XLI.—XLIII. First Triumvirate; consulship of Cæsar, XLIV. Of Clodius, Cicero, and Cato, XLV. Cæsar's acts in Gaul; Crassus killed in Parthia, XLVI. Further proceedings of Cæsar; Clodius slain by Milo, XLVII. Civil war between Cæsar and Pompey, XLVIII.—LII. Death of Pompey, LIII. Cæsar's actions in Egypt, Africa, and Spain, LIV., LV. Cæsar's triumphs and death, LVI., LVII. Proceedings of Brutus and Cicero, LVIII. Opening of Cæsar's will; family and character of Augustus, LIX. Dissensions and war between Cæsar and Antony, LX., LXI. Provinces decreed to Brutus and Cassius by the senate; Cæsar slighted, LXII. Antony joins the army of Lepidus, LXIII. Death of Decimus Brutus; banishment of Cicero, LXIV. The second Triumvirate, LXV. Another proscription; death of Cicero, LXVI. Conduct of the Romans at the time of the proscription, LXVII. Of Cælius and Milo: of the clemency of Cæsar, LXVIII. Of Dolabella, Vatinius, and the Pædian law, LXIX. Proceedings of Brutus and Cassius; they are slain in the battle of Philippi, LXX. Consequences of the battle, LXXI., LXXII. Of Sextus Pompeius,

LXXIII. Of Antony, Cæsar, and Livia, LXXIV., LXXV. Of Caius Velleius and Fulvia, peace between Cæsar and Antony, LXXVI. Peace with Sextus Pompeius, LXXVII. Antony marries Octavia, Cæsar's sister; Labienus overthrown, LXXVIII. War resumed with Sextus Pompeius; Cæsar marries Livia, LXXIX. Degradation of Lepidus, LXXX. Cæsar suppresses a mutiny in the army, LXXXI. Antony invades Parthia, LXXXII. Of Plancus, LXXXIII. Battle of Actium, and what immediately followed it, LXXXIV.—LXXXVI. Death of Antony, LXXXVII. Conspiracy, death, and character of Lepidus, LXXXVIII. Cæsar's triumphs and plans of government, LXXXIX. Reduction of Spain and Dalmatia, XC. Roman ensigns recovered from the Parthians, XCI. Of Sentius Saturninus, XCII. Of Marcellus and Agrippa XCIII. Expeditions of Tiberius and Drusus; death of Drusus, XCIV.—XCVII. The Thracian war, XCVIII. Tiberius retires to Rhodes, XCIX. Hostilities resumed in Parthia and Germany; excesses of Julia, C. Caius Cæsar in Parthia; his death, CI., CII. Tiberius and Agrippa adopted by Augustus, CIII., CIV. Acts of Tiberius in Germany, CV.—CIX. Insurrection in Dalmatia, CX. Proceedings of Tiberius against the Dalmatians and Pannonians; both are subdued, CXI.—CXV. Of some who were distinguished in this war, CXVI. Loss of the legions in Germany under Varus, CXVII. Of Arminius; death of Varus, CXVIII., CXIX. Tiberius conducts the German war; his triumphs, CXX.—CXXII. Death of Augustus, CXXIII. Tiberius succeeds him, CXXIV. Mutiny in Germany and Illyricum suppressed, CXXV. Government of Tiberius, CXXVI. Of Sejanus, CXXVII., CXXVIII. Observations on Tiberius, CXXIX., CXXX. Prayer for the prosperity of Rome, CXXXI.

I. The former Scipio had opened for the Romans the way to power; the latter¹ opened that to luxury. For when their dread of Carthage was at an end, and their rival in empire was removed, the nation, deserting the cause of virtue, went over, not gradually, but with precipitation, to that of vice; the old rules of conduct were renounced, and new introduced; and the people turned themselves from activity to slumber, from arms to pleasure, from business to idleness. Then it was that Scipio built porticos on the Capitol; that Metellus erected those before mentioned²; and that Cnæus Octavius raised that pre-eminently delightful one in the Circus; and private luxury soon followed public magnificence.

There soon succeeded a lamentable and disgraceful war in Spain, conducted by Viriathus, a captain of banditti; which,

¹ I. The former Scipio—the latter] The former was Scipio Africanus Major, the conqueror of Hannibal; the latter Scipio Africanus Minor, who destroyed Carthage and Numantia, and who is mentioned above, i., 15.

² Before mentioned] See i., 2.

though it proceeded with various changes of fortune, was oftener adverse than favourable to the Romans. And Viriathus, rather through the treachery than valour of Servilius Cæpio, being killed, a still more violent war with Numantia burst forth. This city never had under arms more than ten thousand of its inhabitants, yet, whether from the obstinacy of their spirit, the inexperience of our generals, or the caprice of fortune, it compelled both Pompeius, a man of great reputation, (the first of the name who held the consulship,) to sign a treaty of peace on most dishonourable terms, and the consul Mancinus Hostilius to make another not less mean and disgraceful. Interest secured Pompey from punishment; but the modesty of Mancinus, by shrinking from no penalty¹, led to his being surrendered by heralds to the enemy, stripped of his robes, and with his hands tied behind his back. But the Numantines, acting like the people of Caudium in former times, refused to receive him, saying that a public violation of faith was not to be expiated by the blood of an individual.

II. This surrender of Mancinus excited violent dissensions in the state. For Tiberius Gracchus, (son of a most illustrious and eminent citizen, and grandson, on his mother's side, of Publius Africanus,) who had been quæstor at the time, and by whose encouragement that treaty had been concluded, was both grievously offended at the annulling of it, and entertained apprehensions for himself of a similar sentence or punishment; from which causes, though in his other conduct a man of the strictest integrity, endowed with the highest abilities, and pure and upright in his intentions, in short, adorned with every virtue of which man when perfected both by nature and cultivation is susceptible, he, on being appointed tribune of the people in the consulate of Publius Mutius Scævola and Lucius Calpurnius, a hundred and sixty-two years ago, deserted the worthy party, and by promising the rights of citizens to all the inhabitants of Italy, and proposing at the same time agrarian laws, threw all things, while all men were eager to secure a footing in the

¹ Shrinking from no penalty, &c.] *Non recusando perduxit huc, &c.* The text is here so obscure that Ruhnken says, "Ego nihil hic intelligo," and supposes that some words are lost. On Caudium, see Florus, i., 16.

state¹, into the utmost confusion, and brought the Commonwealth into imminent danger, of which it was for some time doubtful what would be the event. Octavius, one of his colleagues, who stood up in defence of the public good, he compelled to resign his office, and procured the election of himself, his father-in-law Appius, who had been consul, and his brother Gracchus, then very young, as commissioners to distribute lands, and settle colonies.

III. On this, Publius Scipio Nasica, grandson of him who had been pronounced by the senate the best man in the state, son of him who in his censorship had built the porticos to the Capitol, and great grandson of Cnæus Scipio, a man of very illustrious character, uncle of Publius Africanus; this Scipio, I say, though not invested with any military or public office, and though he was cousin to Tiberius Gracchus, yet, preferring his country to family connexion, and considering whatever injured the public as hurtful to each individual, (for which merits he was afterwards, in his absence, created chief pontiff; the first instance of the kind,) wrapped the lappet of his gown round his left arm, and mounted to the upper part of the Capitol; where, standing on the summit of the steps, he called on all that desired the safety of the Commonwealth to follow him. Immediately the chief of the nobility, the senate, the greater and better part of the equestrian body, and such plebeians as were unallured by the pernicious views of the Gracchi, rushed together against Gracchus, who, with some bands of his partisans, was standing in the court, haranguing a concourse of people from almost every part of Italy. Betaking himself to flight, he was struck, as he was running down the descent from the Capitol, with a piece of a broken bench, and thus prematurely closed a life which he might have passed with

¹ II. All men were eager to secure a footing in the state] *Omnibus statum concupiscentibus*. Such is the way in which Krause and Orellius understand this phrase. Lipsius said that there was no sense in it, and conjectured *omnibus* (sc. legibus istis agrariis) *statum concutientibus*, which Gruter and Heinsius approved, and Ruhnken admitted into his text. But *concupiscentibus* seems to have been too hastily condemned by these critics. "Statum habere." says Krause, "est vel civitatem, vel bona certa, agros scilicet, habere, et sic esse aliquid in republicâ." So, he adds, the proscribed are sc'd, c. 72, *nullum statum habere*.

the greatest honour. This was the commencement of civil bloodshed, and of impunity to the sword, in Rome. Henceforward right was oppressed by strength; the more powerful were the more highly esteemed; disputes between citizens, which were formerly settled on amicable terms, were decided by the sword; and wars were undertaken, not for honourable reasons, but from prospects of gain. Nor can this excite our wonder; for examples do not stop where they begin; but, if allowed to spread through a channel ever so narrow, make way for themselves to any extent; and, when men have once deviated from the right path, they are hurried headlong into wrong; and no one thinks that dishonourable to himself which is gainful to another.

IV. During the course of these transactions in Italy, Aristonicus, who, on the death of king Attalus, by whom Asia had been bequeathed to the people of Rome, (as Bithynia was afterwards bequeathed to them by Nicomedes,) pretending to be sprung from the royal family, had seized the government by force of arms, was conquered, and led in triumph by Marcus Perperna, and afterwards put to death by Manius Aquilius, for having, at the commencement of hostilities, killed the proconsul Crassus Mucianus, a man eminent for his knowledge of the law, as he was on his journey out of the country.

After so many defeats experienced at Numantia, Publius Scipio Africanus Æmilianus, the destroyer of Carthage, being elected a second time consul, and sent into Spain, supported in that country the character for conduct and success that he had acquired in Africa, and within a year and three months after his arrival levelled Numantia, after surrounding and shaking it with batteries, to the ground. Nor did any man of any nation, before his time, consecrate his name to perpetual remembrance by a more remarkable destruction of cities; for, by the overthrow of Carthage and Numantia, he freed us from the dread of the one, and from the dishonour that we suffered from the other. It was this Scipio, who, being asked by Carbo, a tribune, what he thought of the killing of Tiberius Gracchus, replied, that if he had any thought of usurping the government, he was justly slain; and, when the whole assembly cried out against him, he exclaimed, "After having so often heard, without fear the

shouts of armed enemies, how can I be alarmed at the cries of such as you, to whom Italy is but a stepmother¹?"

Returning, from a short absence, into the city, in the consulate of Manius Aquilius and Caius Sempronius, a hundred and fifty-eight years ago, after his two consulships and two triumphs, and after having removed two objects of terror to his country, he was found one morning dead in his bed, and marks of strangulation were observed on his neck. Yet concerning the death of so great a man no inquiry was made; and the body of him by whose services Rome had raised her head above the world, was carried to its burial-place with the head veiled². Whether he died a natural death, as most people think, or came to his end, as some have asserted, by treachery, he certainly passed a life of such honour that it is eclipsed by none before his time except that of his grandfather. He died at about fifty-four years of age. If any one questions this, let him look back to Scipio's first consulship, to which he was elected at the age of thirty-six, and doubt no more.

V. Before the destruction of Numantia, the military efforts of Decimus Brutus in Spain had been remarkable; so that, having made his way through all the nations of that country, subdued vast multitudes of men, and a great number of cities, and visited places of which the names had scarcely been heard, he merited the surname of Gallæus. A few years before him, military obedience, under Quintus Macedonicus, was enforced in that country with such severity that, while he was besieging a city named Contrebia, he ordered five legionary cohorts, which had been repulsed in an attack on a very steep place, to mount it again immediately. Though all the soldiers made their wills in preparation for action, as if going to certain destruction, the obstinate general was not deterred from his purpose, and saw his men return with victory, whom he had sent out in expecta-

¹ IV. To whom Italy is but a stepmother] *Quorum noverca est Italia*. The idle and dissolute crowd that wandered about the city, many of whom were not natives of the country, were not considered or valued by Italy as her children, but regarded by her with the disdain of a stepmother. The origin of the expression, as Wesseling pointed out, is in Plato's Menæxenus. Comp. Val. Max., vi., 2, 3.

² With the head veiled] *Velato capite*. "Obvoluto capite elatus est, ne livore appareret" Aural. Vict. 58. This seems to have been customary.

tion of death. So great was the effect of shame blended with fear, and of hope springing from despair. He gained much credit for courage and strictness; but Fabius Æmilianus showed in Spain the most noble example of discipline.

VI. After an interval of ten years, the same rage which had animated Tiberius Gracchus, seized his brother Caius, who, resembling him in all his virtues as well as in his want of judgment, was in abilities and eloquence far his superior; and who, though he might, without the least anxiety of mind, have become the very first man in the state, yet, prompted by a desire either of revenging his brother's death, or of preparing a way for himself to regal power, he entered on a tribuneship of similar character to that of his brother, forming projects, however, much more extensive and influential. He designed to extend the civic franchise to all the Italians, as far almost as the Alps; to divide the lands, and to prohibit every citizen from possessing more than five hundred acres; a restriction which had once been enjoined by the Licinian law. He likewise wished to lay new taxes on imported goods, to fill the provinces with new colonies, to transfer the privilege of being judges¹ from the senators to the knights, and to distribute corn to the populace; in short, he was resolved to leave nothing quiet and undisturbed, nothing in the condition in which he found it. He even procured himself to be re-elected tribune. But the consul Lucius Opimius, who in his prætorship had demolished Fregellæ, attacked him with an armed force, and put him to death, and together with him Fulvius Flaccus, a man who had been consul, and had triumphed, but was equally inclined to noxious measures; and whom Caius Gracchus had nominated a commissioner in the room of his brother Tiberius, and associated with himself to be a sharer in his king-like power. One particular in Opimius's conduct is mentioned deserving of reprobation, namely, that he offered a reward for the head, not merely of Gracchus, but of any turbulent Roman citizen, promising its weight in gold. Flaccus, while he was collecting a party in arms on the Aventine, with intent to make resistance, was killed, together

¹ VI. To transfer the privilege of being judges, &c.] See Pseudo-Sallust, first Epistle to Cæsar, c. 3, 8.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:
Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature
which can be purchased on our Website :
www.Brainfly.net

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :
Brainfly Inc.
5100 Garfield Ave. #46
Sacramento CA 95841-3839

TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website (www.Brainfly.net) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

webcomments@brainfly.net