TOPOGRAPHY OF ROME,

&c.

GABI.

"GABI," says Dionysius, "a city of the Latins, and an Alban colony, was one hundred stadia from Rome, on the Via Prænestina. In the present day," he continues, "only a part of the place is inhabited, namely, that which is near the great road. A judgment, however, may be formed of its former size and grandeur, from the ruins of buildings in various parts of the city, and the circuit of the walls, which in a great measure still remain."

Gabii was about half-way between Rome and Prænestæ, and the road, as far as Gabii, was sometimes called the Via Gabina; but upon the
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decay of Gabii the whole seems to have been called the Prænestina. The Tables give the road thus:

Româ, Viá Prænestinâ.

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The history of Gabii is peculiar. Servius says it was one of the cities of the Prisci Latini, constructed by the kings of Alba. Plutarch, Stephanus, Strabo and Diocles of Peparethus, cited by Festus, all agree that Romulus and Remus were sent to Gabii to learn Greek, and to receive such an education, as was thought at the time liberal. Dionysius (lib. ii.) says, that “in the time of Romulus the Greek language flourished more than the Latin, because the Greeks were the first establishers of the cities, and Romulus himself employed Greek characters,”—or rather, perhaps, Grecian learning. Strabo shows that both Tibur and Gabii were of Grecian origin, which they may have been—whether Gabii was founded by the colony of Evander, or by the Pelasgi. According to Solinus, Gabii was built by the Siculi, con-
ducted by two brothers of that people, Galatios and Bios—names which are evidently Greek.

Whether the plural word Ga-bii was derived from the united names of these two brothers, Galatios and Bios—or whether plural appellatives signified a town and citadel, or implied that the city was formed, like Athens, by an union of two or more villages, are questions that might deserve discussion.

There must have been something in the circumstances of Gabii, which distinguished it from the other towns of the Campagna; certainly Tarquin the Proud, in the midst of his conquests, treated it with more respect. Whether motives of consanguinity, or the fortifications of Gabii, or reverence inspired by the superior civilization of the inhabitants, or regard for the place where Romulus had been educated, dictated this forbearance, it is difficult to learn: but the pretended flight of the Prince Sextus Tarquinius, and his submission to the tedious expedient of a long course of deceit, in order to effect the extirpation of the nobles of Gabii, would seem to show that the city possessed such
extraordinary means of defence, that it was difficult to gain possession of it by more ordinary means.

The gates being opened to Tarquin by his son, Gabii fell without a struggle, and, as has been said, the people were treated by the conqueror with unexpected humanity. In the age of Dionysius, the shield of wood, covered with the hide of a bull slain on the occasion, upon which were inscribed the conditions of the peace concluded between Tarquin and the Gabini, still remained suspended in the temple of Dius Fidius, at Rome.

When the Gauls quitted Rome in their flight from Camillus, they were overtaken and defeated near Pupinia, at the eighth mile, on the Via Gabina. (Liv. v. 49, compared with xxvi. 9.) Diodorus (lib. xiv.) mentions a place called Ουεασκιον, which, he says, they attacked, and where they were again routed. Cluver thinks this place was Gabii, but possibly it was rather some castle on the river now called Osa.

Gabii was so reduced in succeeding times, that Horace, Lucan, and Propertius, have all cited it as proverbially poor and deserted:
though being on the road to Prænestæ, (which still retained a degree of celebrity, from its temple of Fortune,) the lower part of Gabii still continued to be inhabited; a forum also existed near it, upon the Via Prænestina, which, from the statues found in and near the lake of Gabii, by the Borghese family, seems to have been of some consequence. The temple of Juno, the tutelary divinity of Gabii, and the remains of a building, which from its shape, seems to have been a theatre, are near the road, between it and the lake.

The present Via Gabina quits the Labicana near the Porta Maggiore. After leaving the Villa Polidori on the left, the road descends to the brook of the Acqua Bollicante, one of the early boundaries of the Roman state in this direction. (Vide Festi.) Not far beyond, on the left, is the place called Tor di Schiavi, and the circular ruin of the Villa Gordiani. Sepulchres are seen on each side of the way. After leaving the road to Lunghezza on the left, is a place called Casa Rossa; another brook is then crossed, and some more sepulchres are seen; after which the road passes, on a high flat to the
left, a house and tower, called from the marble heads pilfered from the ruined sepulchres, Torre di Tre Teste. Beyond this, on the left, is the Tor Sapienza. On the descent, at mile VI., the ancient pavement of the road remains; and at this point the ruins of an ancient aqueduct are observable. After passing a hollow and bridge, about the seventh mile, and another high flat, a deep valley, with its rivulet, is crossed by an ancient bridge, (the Pons ad Nonum,) still called Pontenono, or Pontenona: it is about eight miles from the Porta Maggiore, but was nine from the ancient gate. Not only do the seven arches of the ancient bridge remain perfect, but the pavement, and even a part of the parapet, still exist, and serve to show what it was when entire. The remains are picturesque and well worth seeing.

After this the road crosses a bare and desolate country; and at the ninth modern mile descends gently to the Osteria dell’ Osa, a small inn not far from the river. The Osa is crossed by two bridges of wood. The stream is small, though its waters are increased by those of the lake of Gabii, which runs into it by artificial canals,
and also by those of a large marshy plain, extending almost to the Via Labicana.

The water of the lake has been very much lowered by this canal, and more draining is yet in contemplation, though there are already many square miles of uncultivated ground in the vicinity.

On crossing the Osa the carriage-road turns to the left, and skirts the outside of the crater of Gabii, in the line toward Tivoli. The path to Gabii continues to the right, and after a trifling, but exceedingly rough descent, it reaches the inner side of the lip of the crater. Here is another Osteria; and an ancient road may be traced, crossing a canal near a tomb, and running along the top of the curve of the little eminence which encircles the lake, in a curiously-cut and well-wrought channel in the tufa rocks.

At the point where the road quits the ridge of the crater, is a large green tumulus on the right; but this is, perhaps, nothing more than a heap of earth thrown up from a cut made to drain the lake, at some distant period.

Having quitted the lake the Via Gabina passes
under the temple of Juno; and between this and the road are the ruins of a theatre, the few remaining seats of which are blocks of peperino, and have an air of remote antiquity. A theatre of this kind existing in an ancient Italian city, may perhaps be safely considered as a mark of early civilization, and of Greek origin; and the fact that Tusculum, (a town claiming a Greek descent,) Falerii, (notoriously Argive,) and Gabii, all possessed such buildings, seems to confirm this opinion.

The temple (the cell of which remains almost entire, but rent in certain parts apparently by lightning,) is built of rectangular blocks, and, like the theatre, of peperino. It has the same aspect as that of Diana at Aricia; (vide that article;) that is, the wall of the posticum is prolonged beyond the cella, to the width of the portico on each side:

"Columnis adjectis dextrâ ac sinistrâ ad humeros pronâî."  
Vitruvius.

The number of columns could scarcely be less than six in front; those of the flanks have not been decided. Judging from the frag-
ments which, in the year 1823, were lying on the spot, the order must have been Ionic. The columns of the temple were fluted, and of peperino, like the rest of the building; but it might perhaps be hazardous to assign them to a very remote period. The pavement is a mosaic of large white tessææ, which has resisted the ravages of time and of the rough treatment to which it has been exposed from peasants and cattle. The front was turned toward the south, fifteen degrees west, and the architectural effect (the temple overlooking the theatre) must have been good.

The remains of a spacious peribolos may still be observed; from the north end of which, the lake in front, and the city on the hill to the right, must have afforded a beautiful prospect.

The modern representative of the citadel of Gabii is Castiglione; and on the volcanic rocks, in its immediate neighbourhood, were the walls—of which enough remains to prove that they were of tufo, and in parallelograms. The city and citadel occupied the eastern side of the lake, and seem to have been well placed; being on the highest part of the ridge of the crater of a
volcano, in the plain—as Alba Longa was on that of Mount Albano.

Gabii was twelve miles from the Rome of Servius Tullius; it is therefore about eleven from the modern gate. If it occupied the whole space from Castiglione to the road, which seems certain, it must have been an extensive place. According to Strabo, (lib. v.) the Romans had quarries, either at Gabii or in its territory.

The Via Gabina, after passing the temple of Juno, leaves Gabii on the left, and runs by the church of Santa Prima. It then traverses an uninteresting country to Cavamonte, about four miles and a-half from Gabii, and two below Zagarolo. Upon the road the ancient pavement is observable in various parts; on the right are the remains of an ancient aqueduct in reticulated masonry, and there are also some tumuli, or sepulchres. The road likewise crosses two streams, running to the Gabinian Pantano on the right; and one running to the Anio, which it crosses by the bridge called Ponte del Fico: on the right is a fountain called Palavicini. Beyond this is Ponte Cicala, and still further the ruin of an ancient fountain, or a semicircular