

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### Classics

From the Renaissance to the nineteenth century, Latin and Greek were compulsory subjects in almost all European universities, and most early modern scholars published their research and conducted international correspondence in Latin. Latin had continued in use in Western Europe long after the fall of the Roman empire as the lingua franca of the educated classes and of law, diplomacy, religion and university teaching. The flight of Greek scholars to the West after the fall of Constantinople in 1453 gave impetus to the study of ancient Greek literature and the Greek New Testament. Eventually, just as nineteenth-century reforms of university curricula were beginning to erode this ascendancy, developments in textual criticism and linguistic analysis, and new ways of studying ancient societies, especially archaeology, led to renewed enthusiasm for the Classics. This collection offers works of criticism, interpretation and synthesis by the outstanding scholars of the nineteenth century.

### **The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire**

The pre-eminent historian of his day, Edward Gibbon (1737–94) produced his *magnum opus* in six volumes between 1776 and 1788. Reissued here is the authoritative seven-volume edition prepared by J.B. Bury (1861–1927) between 1896 and 1900. Immediately and widely acclaimed, Gibbon's work remains justly famous for its magisterial account of Roman imperialism and Christianity from the first century CE through to the fall of Constantinople and beyond. Innovative in its use of primary sources and notable for its tone of religious scepticism, this epic narrative stands as a masterpiece of English literature and historical scholarship. Volume 1 commences with the early emperors and a survey of the empire's extent and expansion. Examining Roman culture, law, government, slavery and agriculture, Gibbon guides the reader through three centuries to Constantine's emergence as sole emperor in 324.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

VOLUME 1

EDWARD GIBBON  
EDITED BY J.B. BURY



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108050715](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108050715)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1896

This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-05071-5 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

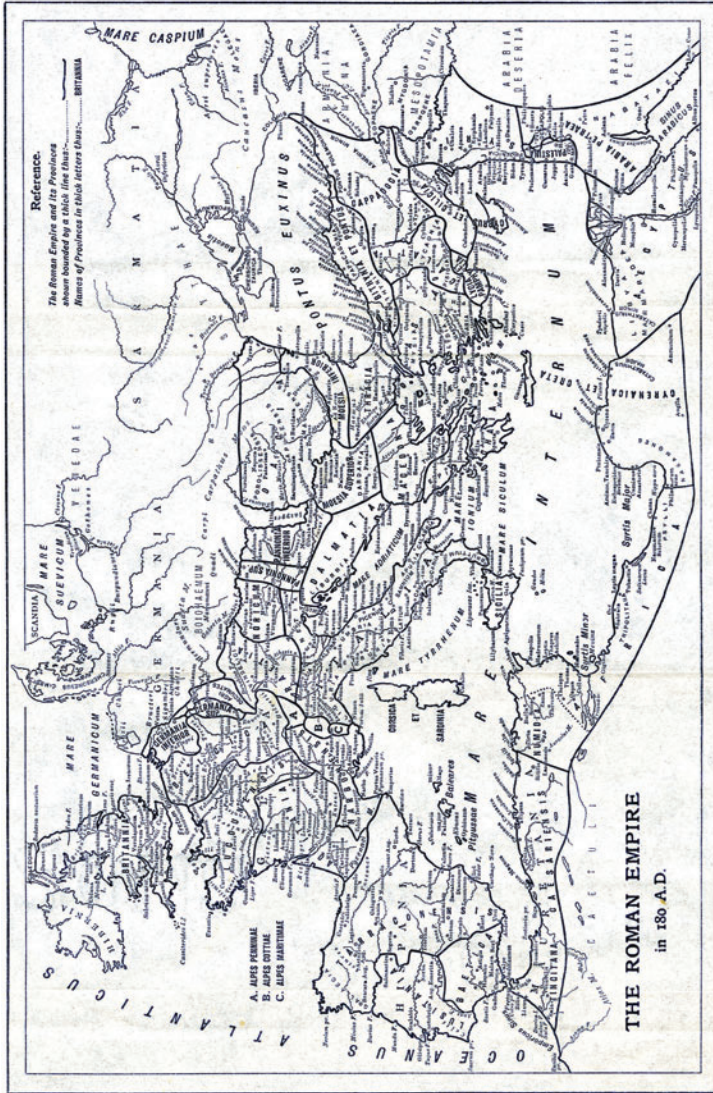
**THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE  
ROMAN EMPIRE  
VOL. I.**

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Walter &amp; Borlind.

The material originally positioned here is too large for reproduction in this reissue. A PDF can be downloaded from the web address given on page iv of this book, by clicking on 'Resources Available'.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE HISTORY  
OF THE  
DECLINE AND FALL OF THE  
ROMAN EMPIRE

BY  
EDWARD GIBBON

EDITED IN SEVEN VOLUMES

WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, APPENDICES, AND INDEX

BY

J. B. BURY, M.A.

HON LITT.D. OF DURHAM

FELLOW AND TUTOR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY IN DUBLIN UNIVERSITY

IN SEVEN VOLUMES

VOL. I.

METHUEN & CO.

36 ESSEX STREET, W.C.

LONDON

1896

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE OF THE AUTHOR

It is not my intention to detain the reader by expatiating on the variety, or the importance of the subject, which I have undertaken to treat; since the merit of the choice would serve to render the weakness of the execution still more apparent, and still less excusable. But, as I have presumed to lay before the Public a *first* volume only<sup>1</sup> of the History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, it will perhaps be expected that I should explain, in a few words, the nature and limits of my general plan.

The memorable series of revolutions, which, in the course of about thirteen centuries, gradually undermined, and at length destroyed, the solid fabric of human greatness, may, with some propriety, be divided into the three following periods:

I. The first of these periods may be traced from the age of Trajan and the Antonines, when the Roman monarchy, having attained its full strength and maturity, began to verge towards its decline; and will extend to the subversion of the Western Empire, by the barbarians of Germany and Scythia, the rude ancestors of the most polished nations of modern Europe. This extraordinary revolution, which subjected Rome to the power of a Gothic conqueror, was completed about the beginning of the sixth century.

<sup>1</sup> The first volume of the quarto, which is now contained in the two first volumes of the octavo, edition.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

## PREFACE

II. The second period of the Decline and Fall of Rome, may be supposed to commence with the reign of Justinian, who by his laws, as well as by his victories, restored a transient splendour to the Eastern Empire. It will comprehend the invasion of Italy by the Lombards; the conquest of the Asiatic and African provinces by the Arabs, who embraced the religion of Mahomet; the revolt of the Roman people against the feeble princes of Constantinople; and the elevation of Charlemagne, who, in the year 800, established the second, or German Empire of the West.

III. The last and longest of these periods includes about six centuries and a half; from the revival of the Western Empire till the taking of Constantinople by the Turks and the extinction of a degenerate race of princes, who continued to assume the titles of Cæsar and Augustus, after their dominions were contracted to the limits of a single city; in which the language, as well as manners, of the ancient Romans had been long since forgotten. The writer who should undertake to relate the events of this period would find himself obliged to enter into the general history of the Crusades, as far as they contributed to the ruin of the Greek Empire; and he would scarcely be able to restrain his curiosity from making some enquiry into the state of the city of Rome during the darkness and confusion of the middle ages.

As I have ventured, perhaps too hastily, to commit to the press a work, which, in every sense of the word, deserves the epithet of imperfect, I consider myself as contracting an engagement to finish, most probably in a second volume,<sup>1</sup> the

<sup>1</sup> The Author, as it frequently happens, took an inadequate measure of his growing work. The remainder of the first period has filled *two* volumes in quarto, being the third, fourth, fifth and sixth volumes of the octavo edition.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE

vii

first of these memorable periods; and to deliver to the Public the complete History of the Decline and Fall of Rome, from the age of the Antonines to the subversion of the Western Empire. With regard to the subsequent periods, though I may entertain some hopes, I dare not presume to give any assurances. The execution of the extensive plan which I have described would connect the ancient and modern history of the World; but it would require many years of health, of leisure, and of perseverance.

BENTINCK STREET,  
*February 1, 1776.*

*P.S.*—The entire History, which is now published, of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire in the West abundantly discharges my engagements with the Public. Perhaps their favourable opinion may encourage me to prosecute a work, which, however laborious it may seem, is the most agreeable occupation of my leisure hours.

BENTINCK STREET,  
*March 1, 1781.*

An Author easily persuades himself that the public opinion is still favourable to his labours; and I have now embraced the serious resolution of proceeding to the last period of my original design, and of the Roman Empire, the taking of Constantinople by the Turks, in the year one thousand four hundred and fifty-three. The most patient reader, who computes that three ponderous volumes<sup>1</sup> have been already employed on the events of four centuries, may, perhaps, be alarmed at the long prospect of nine hundred years. But it is not my intention to expatiate with the

<sup>1</sup>[Containing chaps. i. to xxxviii.]

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

viii

## PREFACE

same minuteness on the whole series of the Byzantine history. At our entrance into this period, the reign of Justinian and the conquests of the Mahometans will deserve and detain our attention, and the last age of Constantinople (the Crusades and the Turks) is connected with the revolutions of Modern Europe. From the seventh to the eleventh century, the obscure interval will be supplied by a concise narrative of such facts as may still appear either interesting or important.

BENTINCK STREET,

*March 1, 1782.*

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE NOTES<sup>1</sup>

DILIGENCE and accuracy are the only merits which an historical writer may ascribe to himself; if any merit indeed can be assumed from the performance of an indispensable duty. I may therefore be allowed to say that I have carefully examined all the original materials that could illustrate the subject which I had undertaken to treat. Should I ever complete the extensive design which has been sketched out in the preface, I might perhaps conclude it with a critical account of the authors consulted during the progress of the whole work; and, however such an attempt might incur the censure of ostentation, I am persuaded that it would be susceptible of entertainment as well as information.

At present I shall content myself with a single observation. The Biographers, who, under the reigns of Diocletian and Constantine, composed or rather compiled, the lives of the emperors, from Hadrian to the sons of Carus, are usually mentioned under the names of *Ælius* Spartianus, *Julius* Capitolinus, *Ælius* Lampridius, *Vulcatius* Gallicanus, *Trebellius* Pollio, and *Flavius* Vopiscus. But there is so much perplexity in the titles of the MSS., and so many disputes have arisen among the critics (see *Fabricius Biblioth. Latin.* l. iii. c. 6) concerning their number, their names and their respective property, that for the most part I have quoted them without distinction, under the general and well-known title of the *AUGUSTAN HISTORY*.

<sup>1</sup>[Which in the first quarto edition of vol. i. were printed at the end of the volume.]

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE FIRST OCTAVO  
EDITION

THE History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire is now delivered to the public in a more convenient form. Some alterations and improvements had presented themselves to my mind, but I was unwilling to injure or offend the purchasers of the preceding editions. The accuracy of the corrector of the press has been already tried and approved; and perhaps I may stand excused if, amidst the avocations of a busy writer, I have preferred the pleasures of composition and study to the minute diligence of revising a former publication.

BENTINCK STREET,  
*April 20, 1783.*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)PREFACE TO THE FOURTH VOLUME OF THE  
QUARTO EDITION

I now discharge my promise, and complete my design, of writing the History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, both in the West and the East. The whole period extends from the age of Trajan and the Antonines to the taking of Constantinople by Mahomet the Second; and includes a review of the Crusades and the state of Rome during the middle ages. Since the publication of the first volume, twelve years have elapsed; twelve years, according to my wish, “of health, of leisure and of perseverance”. I may now congratulate my deliverance from a long and laborious service, and my satisfaction will be pure and perfect, if the public favour should be extended to the conclusion of my work.

It was my first intention to have collected under one view the numerous authors, of every age and language, from whom I have derived the materials of this history; and I am still convinced that the apparent ostentation would be more than compensated by real use. If I have renounced this idea, if I have declined an undertaking which had obtained the approbation of a master-artist,<sup>1</sup> my excuse may be found in the extreme difficulty of assigning a proper measure to such a catalogue. A naked list of names and editions would not be satisfactory either to myself or my readers: the characters of the principal Authors of the Roman and Byzantine History have been occasionally connected with the events which they

See Dr. Robertson's Preface to his History of America.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

## PREFACE

describe; a more copious and critical enquiry might indeed deserve, but it would demand, an elaborate volume, which might swell by degrees into a general library of historical writers. For the present I shall content myself with renewing my serious protestation, that I have always endeavoured to draw from the fountain-head; that my curiosity, as well as a sense of duty, has always urged me to study the originals; and that, if they have sometimes eluded my search, I have carefully marked the secondary evidence, on whose faith a passage or a fact were reduced to depend.

I shall soon visit the banks of the lake of Lausanne, a country which I have known and loved from my early youth. Under a mild government, amidst a beautiful landscape, in a life of leisure and independence, and among a people of easy and elegant manners, I have enjoyed, and may again hope to enjoy, the varied pleasures of retirement and society. But I shall ever glory in the name and character of an Englishman: I am proud of my birth in a free and enlightened country; and the approbation of that country is the best and most honourable reward for my labours. Were I ambitious of any other Patron than the Public, I would inscribe this work to a Statesman, who, in a long, a stormy, and at length an unfortunate administration, had many political opponents, almost without a personal enemy: who has retained, in his fall from power, many faithful and disinterested friends; and who, under the pressure of severe infirmity, enjoys the lively vigour of his mind, and the felicity of his incomparable temper. LORD NORTH will permit me to express the feelings of friendship in the language of truth: but even truth and friendship should be silent, if he still dispensed the favours of the crown.

In a remote solitude, vanity may still whisper in my ear that my readers, perhaps, may enquire whether, in the conclusion of the present work, I am now taking an everlasting farewell. They shall hear all that I know myself, all that I



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE

xiii

could reveal to the most intimate friend. The motives of action or silence are now equally balanced; nor can I pronounce, in my most secret thoughts, on which side the scale will preponderate. I cannot dissemble that twelve ample octavos must have tried, and may have exhausted, the indulgence of the Public; that, in the repetition of similar attempts, a successful Author has much more to lose, than he can hope to gain; that I am now descending into the vale of years; and that the most respectable of my countrymen, the men whom I aspire to imitate, have resigned the pen of history about the same period of their lives. Yet I consider that the annals of ancient and modern times may afford many rich and interesting subjects; that I am still possessed of health and leisure; that by the practice of writing some skill and facility must be acquired; and that in the ardent pursuit of truth and knowledge I am not conscious of decay. To an active mind, indolence is more painful than labour; and the first months of my liberty will be occupied and amused in the excursions of curiosity and taste. By such temptations I have been sometimes seduced from the rigid duty even of a pleasing and voluntary task: but my time will now be my own; and in the use or abuse of independence I shall no longer fear my own reproaches or those of my friends. I am fairly entitled to a year of jubilee: next summer and the following winter will rapidly pass away; and experience only can determine whether I shall still prefer the freedom and variety of study to the design and composition of a regular work, which animates, while it confines, the daily application of the Author. Caprice and accident may influence my choice; but the dexterity of self-love will contrive to applaud either active industry or philosophic repose.

DOWNING STREET,

*May 1, 1788.*

*P.S.*—I shall embrace this opportunity of introducing two

*verbal* remarks, which have not conveniently offered themselves to my notice. 1. As often as I use the definitions of *beyond* the Alps, the Rhine, the Danube, &c., I generally suppose myself at Rome, and afterwards at Constantinople: without observing whether this relative geography may agree with the local, but variable, situation of the reader or the historian. 2. In proper names of foreign, and especially of Oriental, origin, it should be always our aim to express in our English version a faithful copy of the original. But this rule, which is founded on a just regard to uniformity and truth, must often be relaxed; and the exceptions will be limited or enlarged by the custom of the language and the taste of the interpreter. Our alphabets may be often defective: a harsh sound, an uncouth spelling, might offend the ear or the eye of our countrymen; and some words, notoriously corrupt, are fixed, and, as it were, naturalized in the vulgar tongue. The prophet *Mohammed* can no longer be stripped of the famous, though improper appellation of Mahomet: the well-known cities of Aleppo, Damascus and Cairo, would almost be lost in the strange descriptions of *Haleb*, *Demashk* and *Al Cahira*: the titles and offices of the Ottoman empire are fashioned by the practice of three hundred years; and we are pleased to blend the three Chinese monosyllables *Con-fü-tzee* in the respectable name of Confucius, or even to adopt the Portuguese corruption of Mandarin. But I would vary the use of Zoroaster and *Zerdusht*, as I drew my information from Greece or Persia: since our connexion with India, the genuine *Timour* is restored to the throne of Tamerlane; our most correct writers have retrenched the *Al*, the superfluous article, from the Koran; and we escape an ambiguous termination by adopting *Moslem* instead of Musulman, in the plural number. In these, and in a thousand examples, the shades of distinction are often minute; and I can feel, where I cannot explain the motives of my choice.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS OF THE FIRST VOLUME

## CHAPTER I

*The Extent and Military Force of the Empire, in the Age of the Antonines*

| A.D. |  | PAGE |
|------|--|------|
|      | Introduction ... ..                                    | I    |
|      | Moderation of Augustus ... ..                          | I    |
|      | Imitated by his Successors ... ..                      | 3    |
|      | Conquest of Britain, the First Exception to it ... ..  | 3    |
|      | Conquest of Dacia, the Second Exception to it ... ..   | 5    |
|      | Conquests of Trajan in the East ... ..                 | 6    |
|      | Resigned by his Successor Hadrian ... ..               | 7    |
|      | Contrast of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius ... ..          | 7    |
|      | Pacific System of Hadrian and the two Antonines ... .. | 8    |
|      | Defensive Wars of Marcus Antoninus ... ..              | 8    |
|      | Military Establishment of the Roman Emperors ... ..    | 9    |
|      | Discipline ... ..                                      | 10   |
|      | Exercises ... ..                                       | 11   |
|      | The Legions under the Emperors ... ..                  | 12   |
|      | Arms ... ..  | 12   |
|      | Cavalry ... ..   | 13   |
|      | Auxiliaries ... ..                                     | 14   |
|      | Artillery ... ..                                       | 15   |
|      | Encampment ... ..                                      | 15   |
|      | March ... ..   | 16   |
|      | Number and Disposition of the Legions ... ..           | 16   |
|      | Navy ... ..  | 17   |
|      | Amount of the whole Establishment ... ..               | 18   |
|      | View of the Provinces of the Roman Empire ... ..       | 18   |
|      | Spain ... ..   | 19   |
|      | Gaul ... ..  | 19   |
|      | Britain ... ..   | 20   |
|      | Italy ... ..   | 20   |
|      | The Danube and Illyrian Frontier ... ..                | 21   |
|      | Rhætia ... ..  | 22   |
|      | Noricum and Pannonia ... ..                            | 22   |
|      | Dalmatia ... ..  | 22   |
|      | Mæsia and Dacia ... ..                                 | 22   |
|      | Thrace, Macedonia, and Greece ... ..                   | 23   |
|      | Asia Minor ... ..                                      | 23   |
|      | Syria, Phœnicia, and Palestine ... ..                  | 24   |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi

## CONTENTS

| A.D.                                      | PAGE |
|---|------|
| Egypt ... ..                              | 25   |
| Africa ... ..                             | 25   |
| The Mediterranean with its Islands ... .. | 26   |
| General idea of the Roman Empire ... ..   | 26   |

## CHAPTER II

*Of the Union and Internal Prosperity of the Roman Empire in the Age of the Antonines*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Principles of Government ... ..  | 28 |
| Universal Spirit of Toleration ... ..                                    | 28 |
| Of the People ... ..   | 28 |
| Of Philosophers ... ..   | 30 |
| Of the Magistrates ... ..  | 31 |
| In the Provinces ... ..  | 32 |
| At Rome ... ..   | 32 |
| Freedom of Rome ... ..   | 33 |
| Italy ... ..   | 34 |
| The Provinces ... ..   | 35 |
| Colonies, and Municipal Towns ... ..                                     | 35 |
| Division of the Latin and the Greek Provinces ... ..                     | 37 |
| General Use of both the Greek and Latin Languages ... ..                 | 39 |
| Slaves ... ..  | 39 |
| Their Treatment ... ..   | 39 |
| Enfranchisement ... ..   | 40 |
| Numbers ... ..   | 41 |
| Populousness of the Roman Empire ... ..                                  | 42 |
| Obedience and Union ... ..   | 43 |
| Roman Monuments ... ..   | 43 |
| Many of them erected at Private Expense ... ..                           | 43 |
| Example of Herodes Atticus ... ..  | 45 |
| His Reputation ... ..  | 45 |
| Most of the Roman Monuments for Public Use ... ..                        | 46 |
| Temples, Theatres, Aqueducts ... ..                                      | 46 |
| Number and Greatness of the Cities of the Empire ... ..                  | 48 |
| In Italy... ..   | 48 |
| Gaul and Spain ... ..  | 48 |
| Africa ... ..  | 49 |
| Asia ... ..  | 49 |
| Roman Roads ... ..   | 50 |
| Posts ... ..   | 50 |
| Navigation ... ..  | 51 |
| Improvement of Agriculture in the Western Countries of the Empire ... .. | 51 |
| Introduction of Fruits, &c. ... ..                                       | 52 |
| The Vine... ..   | 52 |
| The Olive ... ..   | 52 |
| Flax ... ..  | 53 |
| Artificial Grass ... ..  | 53 |
| General Plenty ... ..  | 53 |
| Arts of Luxury ... ..  | 53 |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

xvii

| A.D. |                           | PAGE |
|------|---------------------------|------|
|      | Foreign Trade ... ..      | 54   |
|      | Gold and Silver ... ..    | 55   |
|      | General Felicity ... ..   | 56   |
|      | Decline of Courage ... .. | 56   |
|      | — of Genius ... ..        | 57   |
|      | Degeneracy ... ..         | 58   |

## CHAPTER III

*Of the Constitution of the Roman Empire, in the Age of the Antonines*

|         |  |    |
|---------|--|----|
|         | Idea of a Monarchy ... ..  | 59 |
|         | Situation of Augustus ... ..   | 59 |
|         | He reforms the Senate ... ..   | 60 |
|         | Resigns his usurped Power ... ..   | 60 |
|         | Is prevailed upon to resume it under the Title of Emperor or<br>General ... ..   | 61 |
|         | Power of the Roman Generals ... ..   | 62 |
|         | Lieutenants of the Emperor... ..   | 63 |
|         | Division of the Provinces between the Emperor and the Senate<br>The former preserves his Military Commands, and Guards, in<br>Rome itself ... .. | 64 |
|         | Consular and Tribunitian powers ... ..   | 64 |
|         | Imperial Prerogatives ... ..   | 65 |
|         | The Magistrates ... ..   | 66 |
|         | The Senate ... ..  | 67 |
|         | General Idea of the Imperial System ... ..   | 68 |
|         | Court of the Emperors ... ..   | 68 |
|         | Deification ... ..   | 68 |
|         | Titles of Augustus and Cæsar ... ..  | 70 |
|         | Character and Policy of Augustus ... ..  | 70 |
|         | Image of Liberty for the People ... ..   | 71 |
|         | Attempts of the Senate after the Death of Caligula ... ..  | 71 |
|         | Image of Government for the Armies ... ..  | 72 |
|         | Their Obedience ... ..   | 72 |
|         | Designation of a Successor ... ..  | 73 |
|         | Of Tiberius ... ..   | 73 |
|         | Of Titus ... ..  | 73 |
|         | The Race of the Cæsars, and Flavian Family ... ..  | 74 |
| 96      | Adoption and Character of Trajan ... ..  | 74 |
| 117     | Of Hadrian ... ..  | 75 |
|         | Adoption of the elder and younger Verus ... ..   | 75 |
| 138-180 | Adoption of the two Antonines ... ..   | 76 |
|         | Character and Reign of Pius ... ..   | 76 |
|         | — of Marcus ... ..   | 77 |
|         | Happiness of the Romans ... ..   | 78 |
|         | Its precarious Nature... ..  | 78 |
|         | Memory of Tiberius, Caligula, Nero, and Domitian ... ..  | 79 |
|         | Peculiar Misery of the Romans under their Tyrants ... ..   | 79 |
|         | Insensibility of the Orientals ... ..  | 79 |
|         | Knowledge and free Spirit of the Romans ... ..   | 80 |
|         | Extent of their Empire left them no Place of Refuge ... ..   | 81 |

b

VOL. I.

## xviii

## CONTENTS

## CHAPTER IV

*The Cruelty, Follies, and Murder of Commodus—Election of Pertinax—His attempts to reform the State—His Assassination by the Prætorian Guards*

| A.D. |   | PAGE |
|------|---|------|
|      | Indulgence of Marcus ... ..                               | 83   |
|      | To his wife Faustina ... ..                               | 83   |
|      | To his son Commodus ... ..                                | 84   |
| 180  | Accession of the Emperor Commodus ... ..                  | 84   |
|      | Character of Commodus ... ..                              | 85   |
|      | His Return to Rome ... ..                                 | 85   |
| 183  | Is wounded by an Assassin ... ..                          | 86   |
|      | Hatred and cruelty of Commodus towards the Senate ... ..  | 87   |
|      | The Quintilian Brothers ... ..                            | 87   |
| 186  | The Minister Perennis ... ..                              | 88   |
|      | Revolt of Maternus ... ..                                 | 89   |
|      | The Minister Cleander ... ..                              | 89   |
|      | His Avarice and Cruelty ... ..                            | 90   |
| 189  | Sedition and Death of Cleander ... ..                     | 91   |
|      | Dissolute Pleasures of Commodus ... ..                    | 92   |
|      | His Ignorance and low Sports ... ..                       | 92   |
|      | Hunting of Wild Beasts ... ..                             | 93   |
|      | Commodus Displays his skill in the Amphitheatre ... ..    | 93   |
|      | Acts as a Gladiator ... ..                                | 94   |
|      | His Infamy and Extravagance ... ..                        | 95   |
|      | Conspiracy of his Domestics ... ..                        | 96   |
| 192  | Death of Commodus ... ..                                  | 96   |
|      | Choice of Pertinax for Emperor ... ..                     | 96   |
|      | He is acknowledged by the Prætorian Guards ... ..         | 97   |
| 193  | And by the Senate ... ..                                  | 98   |
|      | The Memory of Commodus declared infamous ... ..           | 98   |
|      | Legal Jurisdiction of the Senate over the Emperors ... .. | 99   |
|      | Virtues of Pertinax ... ..                                | 99   |
|      | He endeavours to Reform the State ... ..                  | 100  |
|      | His Regulations ... ..                                    | 100  |
|      | His Popularity ... ..                                     | 101  |
|      | Discontent of the Prætorians ... ..                       | 101  |
|      | A Conspiracy Prevented ... ..                             | 101  |
| 193  | Murder of Pertinax by the Prætorians ... ..               | 102  |

## CHAPTER V

*Public Sale of the Empire to Didius Julianus by the Prætorian Guards—Clodius Albinus in Britain, Pescennius Niger in Syria, and Septimius Severus in Pannonia, declare against the Murderers of Pertinax—Civil Wars and Victory of Severus over his three Rivals—Relaxation of discipline—New Maxims of Government*

|  |   |     |
|--|---|-----|
|  | Proportion of the Military Force to the Number of the |     |
|  | People ... ..   | 103 |
|  | The Prætorian Guards ... ..                           | 103 |
|  | Their Institution ... ..                              | 103 |
|  | Their Camp ... ..                                     | 104 |

## CONTENTS

xix

| A.D.    |   | PAGE |
|---------|---|------|
|         | Strength and Confidence ... ..  | 104  |
|         | Their specious Claims ... ..  | 105  |
|         | They offer the Empire to Sale ... ..                                      | 105  |
| 193     | It is purchased by Julian ... ..  | 106  |
|         | Julian is acknowledged by the Senate ... ..                               | 106  |
|         | Takes possession of the Palace ... ..                                     | 107  |
|         | The public Discontent ... ..  | 107  |
|         | The Armies of Britain, Syria, and Pannonia, declare against Julian ... .. | 108  |
|         | Clodius Albinus in Britain ... ..   | 108  |
|         | Pescennius Niger in Syria ... ..  | 109  |
|         | Pannonia and Dalmatia ... ..  | 111  |
| 193     | Septimius Severus ... ..  | 111  |
|         | Declared Emperor by the Pannonian Legions ... ..                          | 111  |
|         | Marches into Italy ... ..   | 112  |
|         | Advances towards Rome ... ..  | 112  |
|         | Distress of Julian ... ..   | 113  |
|         | His uncertain Conduct ... ..  | 113  |
|         | Is deserted by the Prætorians ... ..                                      | 113  |
|         | Is condemned and executed by Order of the Senate ... ..                   | 114  |
|         | Disgrace of the Prætorian Guards ... ..                                   | 114  |
|         | Funeral and Apotheosis of Pertinax ... ..                                 | 115  |
| 193-197 | Success of Severus against Niger and against Albinus ... ..               | 115  |
|         | Conduct of the two Civil Wars ... ..                                      | 116  |
|         | Arts of Severus ... ..  | 116  |
|         | Towards Niger ... ..  | 116  |
|         | Towards Albinus ... ..  | 117  |
|         | Event of the Civil Wars ... ..  | 118  |
|         | Decided by one or two Battles ... ..                                      | 118  |
|         | Siege of Byzantium ... ..   | 119  |
|         | Death of Niger and Albinus ... ..   | 120  |
|         | Cruel Consequences of the Civil Wars ... ..                               | 120  |
|         | Animosity of Severus against the Senate ... ..                            | 120  |
|         | The Wisdom and Justice of his Government ... ..                           | 121  |
|         | General Peace and Prosperity ... ..                                       | 121  |
|         | Relaxation of Military Discipline ... ..                                  | 122  |
|         | New Establishment of the Prætorian Guards ... ..                          | 122  |
|         | The Office of Prætorian Præfect ... ..                                    | 123  |
|         | The Senate oppressed by Military Despotism ... ..                         | 124  |
|         | New Maxims of the Imperial Prerogative ... ..                             | 124  |

## CHAPTER VI

*The Death of Severus—Tyranny of Caracalla—Usurpation of Macrinus—Follies of Elagabalus—Virtues of Alexander Severus—Licentiousness of the Army—General State of the Roman Finances*

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Greatness and Discontent of Severus ... .. | 126 |
| His wife the Empress Julia ... ..          | 126 |
| Their two sons, Caracalla and Geta ... ..  | 127 |
| Their mutual Aversion to each other ... .. | 127 |
| Three Emperors ... ..                      | 128 |

| A.D.    |   | PAGE |
|---------|---|------|
| 208     | The Caledonian War ... ..   | 128  |
|         | Fingal and his Heroes ... ..  | 129  |
|         | Contrast of the Caledonians and the Romans ... ..   | 129  |
|         | Ambition of Caracalla ... ..  | 130  |
| 211     | Death of Severus, and Accession of his two sons ... ..  | 130  |
|         | Jealousy and Hatred of the two Emperors ... ..  | 130  |
|         | Fruitless Negotiation for dividing the Empire between them ... ..                                   | 131  |
| 212     | Murder of Geta ... ..   | 132  |
|         | Remorse and Cruelty of Caracalla ... ..   | 133  |
|         | Death of Papinian ... ..  | 134  |
| 213     | His Tyranny extended over the whole Empire ... ..   | 135  |
|         | Relaxation of Discipline ... ..   | 136  |
| 217     | Murder of Caracalla ... ..  | 137  |
|         | Imitation of Alexander ... ..   | 138  |
|         | Election and Character of Macrinus ... ..   | 138  |
|         | Discontent of the Senate ... ..   | 139  |
|         | _____ of the Army ... ..  | 140  |
|         | Macrinus attempts a Reformation of the Army ... ..  | 140  |
|         | Death of the Empress Julia ... ..   | 141  |
|         | Education, Pretensions, and Revolt of Elagabalus, called at<br>first Bassianus and Antoninus ... .. | 141  |
| 218     | Defeat and Death of Macrinus ... ..   | 142  |
|         | Elagabalus writes to the Senate ... ..  | 143  |
| 219     | Picture of Elagabalus ... ..  | 144  |
|         | His Superstition ... ..   | 144  |
|         | His profligate and effeminate Luxury ... ..   | 146  |
|         | Contempt of Decency, which distinguished the Roman Tyrants ... ..                                   | 147  |
|         | Discontents of the Army ... ..  | 147  |
| 221     | Alexander Severus declared Cæsar ... ..   | 147  |
| 222     | Sedition of the Guards, and Murder of Elagabalus ... ..   | 148  |
|         | Accession of Alexander Severus ... ..   | 148  |
|         | Power of his Mother Mamæa ... ..  | 149  |
|         | His wise and moderate Administration ... ..   | 150  |
|         | Education and Virtuous Temper of Alexander ... ..   | 150  |
|         | Journal of his Ordinary Life ... ..   | 151  |
| 222-235 | General happiness of the Roman World ... ..   | 152  |
|         | Alexander refuses the name of Antoninus ... ..  | 152  |
|         | He attempts to reform the Army ... ..   | 153  |
|         | Seditions of the Prætorian Guards, and Murder of Ulpian ... ..                                      | 153  |
|         | Danger of Dion Cassius ... ..   | 154  |
|         | Tumults of the Legions ... ..   | 155  |
|         | Firmness of the Emperor ... ..  | 155  |
|         | Defects of his Reign and Character ... ..   | 156  |
|         | Digression on the Finances of the Empire ... ..   | 157  |
|         | Establishment of the Tribute on Roman Citizens ... ..   | 157  |
|         | Abolition of the Tribute ... ..   | 158  |
|         | Tributes of the Provinces ... ..  | 158  |
|         | _____ of Asia ... ..  | 159  |
|         | _____ of Egypt, Gaul, Africa and Spain ... ..   | 159  |
|         | _____ of the Isle of Gyarus ... ..  | 160  |
|         | Amount of the Revenue ... ..  | 160  |
|         | Taxes on Roman Citizens instituted by Augustus ... ..   | 160  |
|         | I. The Customs ... ..   | 161  |



## CONTENTS

xxi

| A.D. |  | PAGE |
|------|--|------|
|      | II. The Excise ... ..  | 162  |
|      | III. Tax on Legacies and Inheritances ... ..   | 162  |
|      | Suited to the Laws and Manners ... ..  | 163  |
|      | Regulations of the Emperors ... ..   | 164  |
|      | Edict of Caracalla ... ..  | 164  |
|      | The Freedom of the City given to all Provincials, for the purpose of Taxation ... .. | 164  |
|      | Temporary Reduction of the Tribute ... ..  | 165  |
|      | Consequences of the universal Freedom of Rome ... ..                                 | 165  |

## CHAPTER VII

*The Elevation and Tyranny of Maximin—Rebellion in Africa and Italy, under the Authority of the Senate—Civil Wars and Seditions—Violent Deaths of Maximin and his Son, of Maximus and Balbinus, and of the three Gordians—Usurpation and Secular Games of Philip*

|     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
|     | The apparent Ridicule and solid Advantages of hereditary Succession ... ..  | 167 |
|     | Want of it in the Roman Empire productive of the greatest Calamities ... .. | 168 |
|     | Birth and Fortunes of Maximin ... ..  | 169 |
|     | His Military Service and Honours ... ..                                     | 169 |
| 235 | Conspiracy of Maximin ... ..  | 170 |
|     | Murder of Alexander Severus ... ..  | 170 |
|     | Tyranny of Maximin ... ..   | 171 |
|     | Oppression of the Provinces ... ..  | 173 |
| 237 | Revolt in Africa ... ..   | 174 |
|     | Character and Elevation of the two Gordians ... ..                          | 175 |
|     | They solicit the Confirmation of their Authority ... ..                     | 176 |
|     | The Senate ratifies the Election of the Gordians ... ..                     | 177 |
|     | Declares Maximin a public Enemy ... ..                                      | 178 |
|     | Assumes the Command of Rome and Italy ... ..                                | 178 |
|     | Prepares for a Civil War ... ..   | 178 |
| 237 | Defeat and Death of the two Gordians ... ..                                 | 179 |
|     | Election of Maximus and Balbinus by the Senate ... ..                       | 180 |
|     | Their Characters ... ..   | 180 |
|     | Tumult at Rome ... ..   | 181 |
|     | The younger Gordian is declared Cæsar ... ..                                | 181 |
|     | Maximin prepares to attack the Senate and their Emperors ... ..             | 182 |
| 238 | Marches into Italy ... ..   | 183 |
|     | Siege of Aquileia ... ..  | 183 |
|     | Conduct of Maximus ... ..   | 184 |
| 238 | Murder of Maximin and his son ... ..  | 185 |
|     | His Portrait ... ..   | 185 |
|     | Joy of the Roman World ... ..   | 186 |
|     | Sedition at Rome ... ..   | 186 |
|     | Discontent of the Prætorian Guards ... ..                                   | 187 |
| 238 | Massacre of Maximus and Balbinus ... ..                                     | 188 |
|     | The third Gordian remains sole Emperor ... ..                               | 189 |
|     | Innocence and Virtues of Gordian ... ..                                     | 189 |
| 240 | Administration of Misithæus ... ..  | 190 |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxii

## CONTENTS

| A.D. |                                    | PAGE |
|------|------------------------------------|------|
| 242  | The Persian War ... ..             | 190  |
| 243  | The Arts of Philip ... ..          | 191  |
| 244  | Murder of Gordian ... ..           | 191  |
|      | Form of a Military Republic ... .. | 192  |
|      | Reign of Philip ... ..             | 193  |
| 248  | Secular Games ... ..               | 193  |
|      | Decline of the Roman Empire ... .. | 193  |

## CHAPTER VIII

*Of the State of Persia after the Restoration of the Monarchy by Artaxerxes*

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
|     | The Barbarians of the East and of the North ... ..                                     | 195 |
|     | Revolutions of Asia ... ..   | 195 |
|     | The Persian Monarchy restored by Artaxerxes ... ..                                     | 196 |
|     | Reformation of the Magian Religion ... ..  | 197 |
|     | Persian Theology, two Principles ... ..  | 198 |
|     | Religious Worship ... ..   | 200 |
|     | Ceremonies and moral Precepts ... ..   | 200 |
|     | Encouragement of Agriculture ... ..  | 201 |
|     | Power of the Magi ... ..   | 201 |
|     | Spirit of Persecution ... ..   | 203 |
|     | Establishment of the Royal Authority in the Provinces ... ..                           | 203 |
|     | Extent and Population of Persia ... ..   | 204 |
|     | Recapitulation of the War between the Parthian and Roman<br>Empires ... ..             | 205 |
| 165 | Cities of Seleucia and Ctesiphon ... ..  | 205 |
| 216 | Conquest of Osroene by the Romans ... ..   | 207 |
| 230 | Artaxerxes claims the Provinces of Asia, and declares War<br>against the Romans ... .. | 208 |
| 233 | Pretended Victory of Alexander Severus ... ..  | 208 |
|     | More probable Account of the War ... ..  | 209 |
| 240 | Character and Maxims of Artaxerxes ... ..  | 211 |
|     | Military Power of the Persians ... ..  | 211 |
|     | Their Infantry contemptible ... ..   | 211 |
|     | Their Cavalry excellent ... ..   | 212 |

## CHAPTER IX

*The State of Germany till the Invasion of the Barbarians, in the Time of the Emperor Decius*

|  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
|  | Extent of Germany ... ..               | 213 |
|  | Climate ... ..                         | 214 |
|  | Its Effects on the Natives ... ..      | 215 |
|  | Origin of the Germans ... ..           | 216 |
|  | Fables and Conjectures ... ..          | 217 |
|  | The Germans ignorant of Letters ... .. | 218 |
|  | _____ of Arts and Agriculture ... ..   | 218 |
|  | _____ of the Use of Metals ... ..      | 220 |
|  | Their Indolence ... ..                 | 221 |
|  | Their Taste for Strong Liquors ... ..  | 222 |
|  | State of Population ... ..             | 222 |

## CONTENTS

xxiii

| A.D. |   | PAGE |
|------|---|------|
|      | German Freedom ... ..   | 223  |
|      | Assemblies of the People ... ..   | 224  |
|      | Authority of the Princes and Magistrates ... ..                                 | 225  |
|      | More Absolute over the Property, than over the Persons<br>of the Germans ... .. | 225  |
|      | Voluntary Engagements ... ..  | 226  |
|      | German Chastity ... ..  | 227  |
|      | Its Probable Causes ... ..  | 227  |
|      | Religion ... ..   | 229  |
|      | Its Effects in Peace ... ..   | 229  |
|      | ————— in War ... ..   | 230  |
|      | The Bards ... ..  | 230  |
|      | Causes which checked the Progress of the Germans ... ..                         | 231  |
|      | Want of Arms ... ..   | 231  |
|      | ————— Discipline ... ..   | 232  |
|      | Civil Dissensions of Germany ... ..   | 233  |
|      | Fomented by the Policy of Rome ... ..   | 233  |
|      | Transient Union against Marcus Antoninus ... ..                                 | 234  |
|      | Distinction of the German Tribes ... ..   | 235  |
|      | Numbers ... ..  | 236  |

## CHAPTER X

*The Emperors Decius, Gallus, Æmilianus, Valerian, and Gallienus—The  
General Irruption of the Barbarians—The Thirty Tyrants*

|         |  |     |
|---------|--|-----|
| 248-268 | The Nature of the Subject ... ..                                     | 237 |
|         | The Emperor Philip ... ..  | 237 |
| 249     | Services, Revolt, Victory, and Reign of the Emperor Decius ... ..    | 238 |
| 250     | He marches against the Goths ... ..                                  | 239 |
|         | Origin of the Goths from Scandinavia ... ..                          | 239 |
|         | Religion of the Goths ... ..   | 240 |
|         | Institutions and Death of Odin ... ..                                | 240 |
|         | Agreeable, but uncertain Hypothesis concerning Odin ... ..           | 241 |
|         | Emigration of the Goths from Scandinavia into Prussia ... ..         | 241 |
|         | ————— from Prussia to the Ukraine ... ..                             | 242 |
|         | The Gothic Nation increases in its March ... ..                      | 243 |
|         | Distinction of the Germans and Sarmatians ... ..                     | 244 |
|         | Description of the Ukraine ... ..                                    | 244 |
|         | The Goths invade the Roman Provinces ... ..                          | 245 |
| 250     | Various Events of the Gothic War ... ..                              | 246 |
| 251     | Decius revives the office of Censor in the Person of Valerian ... .. | 247 |
|         | The Design Impracticable, and without Effect ... ..                  | 248 |
|         | Defeat and Death of Decius and his Son ... ..                        | 249 |
| 251     | Election of Gallus ... ..  | 250 |
| 252     | Retreat of the Goths ... ..  | 250 |
|         | Gallus purchases Peace by the Payment of an annual Tribute... ..     | 250 |
|         | Popular Discontent ... ..  | 251 |
| 253     | Victory and Revolt of Æmilianus ... ..                               | 251 |
|         | Gallus abandoned and slain ... ..                                    | 252 |
|         | Valerian revenges the Death of Gallus ... ..                         | 252 |
|         | Is acknowledged Emperor ... ..                                       | 252 |
|         | Character of Valerian ... ..   | 253 |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05071-5 - The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Volume 1

Edited by J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxiv

## CONTENTS

| A.D.    |  | PAGE |
|---------|--|------|
| 253-268 | General Misfortunes of the Reigns of Valerian and Gallienus  | 253  |
|         | Inroads of the Barbarians ... ..                             | 254  |
|         | Origin and Confederacy of the Franks ... ..                  | 254  |
|         | They invade Gaul ... ..                                      | 255  |
|         | Ravage Spain ... ..  | 256  |
|         | Pass over into Africa... ..                                  | 256  |
|         | Origin and Renown of the Suevi ... ..                        | 257  |
|         | A mixed body of Suevi assume the name of Alemanni ... ..     | 257  |
|         | Invade Gaul and Italy ... ..                                 | 258  |
|         | Are repulsed from Rome by the Senate and People ... ..       | 258  |
|         | The Senators excluded by Gallienus from the Military Service | 258  |
|         | Gallienus contracts an Alliance with the Alemanni ... ..     | 259  |
|         | Inroads of the Goths ... ..                                  | 259  |
|         | Conquest of the Bosphorus by the Goths ... ..                | 260  |
|         | The Goths acquire a Naval Force ... ..                       | 261  |
|         | First Naval Expedition of the Goths ... ..                   | 262  |
|         | The Goths besiege and take Trebizond ... ..                  | 262  |
|         | The Second Expedition of the Goths ... ..                    | 263  |
|         | They plunder the Cities of Bithynia ... ..                   | 263  |
|         | Retreat of the Goths ... ..                                  | 265  |
|         | Third Naval Expedition of the Goths ... ..                   | 265  |
|         | They pass the Bosphorus and the Hellespont ... ..            | 265  |
|         | Ravage Greece, and threaten Italy ... ..                     | 266  |
|         | Their Divisions and Retreat... ..                            | 266  |
|         | Ruin of the Temple of Ephesus ... ..                         | 267  |
|         | Conduct of the Goths at Athens ... ..                        | 268  |
|         | Conquest of Armenia by the Persians ... ..                   | 268  |
|         | Valerian marches into the East ... ..                        | 269  |
| 260     | Is defeated and taken prisoner by Sapor, King of Persia      | 269  |
|         | Sapor overruns Syria, Cilicia, and Cappadocia ... ..         | 270  |
|         | Boldness and Success of Odenathus against Sapor ... ..       | 272  |
|         | Treatment of Valerian ... ..                                 | 272  |
|         | Character and Administration of Gallienus ... ..             | 273  |
|         | The Thirty Tyrants ... ..                                    | 274  |
|         | Their real Number not more than nineteen ... ..              | 275  |
|         | Character and Merit of the Tyrants ... ..                    | 275  |
|         | Their obscure Birth ... ..                                   | 276  |
|         | The Causes of their Rebellion ... ..                         | 276  |
|         | Their violent Deaths ... ..                                  | 277  |
|         | Fatal Consequences of these Usurpations... ..                | 277  |
|         | Disorders of Sicily ... ..                                   | 279  |
|         | Tumults of Alexandria ... ..                                 | 279  |
|         | Rebellion of the Isaurians ... ..                            | 280  |
|         | Famine and Pestilence ... ..                                 | 281  |
|         | Diminution of the Human Species... ..                        | 281  |

## CHAPTER XI

*Reign of Claudius—Defeat of the Goths—Victories, Triumph and Death of Aurelian*

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 268 | Aureolus invades Italy, is defeated, and besieged at Milan | 283 |
|     | Death of Gallienus ... ..                                  | 284 |

## CONTENTS

XXV

| A.D. |  | PAGE |
|------|--|------|
|      | Character and Elevation of the Emperor Claudius ... ..                             | 285  |
| 268  | Death of Aureolus ... ..   | 286  |
|      | Clemency and Justice of Claudius ... ..  | 287  |
|      | He undertakes the Reformation of the Army ... ..                                   | 287  |
| 269  | The Goths invade the Empire ... ..   | 288  |
|      | Distress and Firmness of Claudius ... ..   | 289  |
|      | His Victory over the Goths ... ..  | 289  |
| 270  | Death of the Emperor, who Recommends Aurelian for his<br>Successor ... ..          | 290  |
|      | The Attempt and Fall of Quintilius ... ..  | 291  |
|      | Origin and Services of Aurelian ... ..   | 291  |
|      | Aurelian's successful Reign ... ..   | 292  |
|      | His Severe Discipline ... ..   | 292  |
|      | He concludes a Treaty with the Goths ... ..  | 293  |
|      | He resigns to them the Province of Dacia ... ..                                    | 294  |
| 270  | The Alemannic War ... ..   | 295  |
|      | The Alemanni invade Italy ... ..   | 297  |
|      | They are at last vanquished by Aurelian ... ..                                     | 297  |
| 271  | Superstitious Ceremonies ... ..  | 298  |
|      | Fortifications at Rome ... ..  | 299  |
| 271  | Aurelian suppresses the two Usurpers ... ..  | 300  |
|      | Succession of Usurpers in Gaul ... ..  | 300  |
| 271  | The Reign and Defeat of Tetricus ... ..  | 301  |
| 272  | Character of Zenobia ... ..  | 302  |
|      | Her Beauty and Learning ... ..   | 302  |
|      | Her Valour ... ..  | 303  |
|      | She revenges her Husband's Death ... ..  | 303  |
|      | She reigns over the East and Egypt ... ..  | 304  |
| 272  | The Expedition of Aurelian ... ..  | 305  |
|      | The Emperor defeats the Palmyrenians in the Battles of Antioch<br>and Emesa ... .. | 305  |
|      | The State of Palmyra ... ..  | 306  |
|      | It is besieged by Aurelian ... ..  | 307  |
| 273  | Aurelian becomes Master of Zenobia and of the City ... ..                          | 307  |
|      | Behaviour of Zenobia ... ..  | 308  |
|      | Rebellion and ruin of Palmyra ... ..   | 309  |
|      | Aurelian suppresses the Rebellion of Firmus in Egypt ... ..                        | 309  |
| 274  | Triumph of Aurelian ... ..   | 310  |
|      | His Treatment of Tetricus and Zenobia ... ..                                       | 311  |
|      | His Magnificence and Devotion ... ..   | 312  |
|      | He suppresses a Sedition at Rome ... ..  | 313  |
|      | Observations upon it ... ..  | 313  |
|      | Cruelty of Aurelian ... ..   | 314  |
| 275  | He marches into the East, and is Assassinated ... ..                               | 315  |

## CHAPTER XII

*Conduct of the Army and Senate after the Death of Aurelian.—Reigns of Tacitus, Probus, Carus and his Sons*

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
|     | Extraordinary Contest between the Army and the Senate for<br>the Choice of an Emperor ... .. | 317 |
| 275 | A peaceful Interregnum of Eight Months ... ..  | 318 |

## xxvi

## CONTENTS

| A.D. |   | PAGE |
|------|---|------|
|      | The Consul assembles the Senate ... ..                        | 319  |
|      | Character of Tacitus ... ..                                   | 319  |
|      | He is elected Emperor ... ..                                  | 320  |
|      | He accepts the Purple ... ..                                  | 321  |
|      | Authority of the Senate ... ..                                | 321  |
|      | Their Joy and Confidence ... ..                               | 322  |
| 276  | Tacitus is acknowledged by the Army ... ..                    | 323  |
|      | The Alani invade Asia and are repulsed by Tacitus ... ..      | 323  |
| 276  | Death of the Emperor Tacitus ... ..                           | 324  |
|      | Usurpation and Death of his Brother Florianus ... ..          | 324  |
|      | Their Family Subsists in Obscurity ... ..                     | 325  |
|      | Character and Elevation of the Emperor Probus ... ..          | 326  |
|      | His Respectful Conduct towards the Senate ... ..              | 326  |
|      | Victories of Probus over the Barbarians ... ..                | 328  |
| 277  | He delivers Gaul from the Invasion of the Germans ... ..      | 329  |
|      | He carries his Arms into Germany ... ..                       | 330  |
|      | He builds a Wall from the Rhine to the Danube ... ..          | 331  |
|      | Introduction and Settlement of the Barbarians ... ..          | 332  |
|      | Daring Enterprise of the Franks ... ..                        | 333  |
| 279  | Revolt of Saturninus in the East ... ..                       | 334  |
| 280  | ——— of Bonosus and Proculus in Gaul ... ..                    | 335  |
| 281  | Triumph of the Emperor Probus ... ..                          | 335  |
|      | His Discipline ... ..   | 336  |
| 282  | His Death ... ..  | 336  |
|      | Election and Character of Carus ... ..                        | 337  |
|      | The Sentiments of the Senate and People ... ..                | 338  |
|      | Carus defeats the Sarmatians and marches into the East ... .. | 339  |
| 283  | He gives Audience to the Persian Ambassadors ... ..           | 339  |
| 283  | His victories and extraordinary Death ... ..                  | 340  |
|      | He is succeeded by his two Sons, Carinus and Numerian ... ..  | 341  |
| 284  | Vices of Carinus ... ..                                       | 341  |
|      | He celebrates the Roman Games ... ..                          | 343  |
|      | Spectacles of Rome ... ..                                     | 343  |
|      | The Amphitheatre ... ..                                       | 344  |
|      | Return of Numerian with the Army from Persia ... ..           | 346  |
|      | Death of Numerian ... ..                                      | 347  |
| 284  | Election of the Emperor Diocletian ... ..                     | 348  |
| 285  | Defeat and Death of Carinus ... ..                            | 349  |

## CHAPTER XIII

*The Reign of Diocletian and his three Associates, Maximian, Galerius, and Constantius—General Re-establishment of Order and Tranquillity—The Persian War, Victory, and Triumph—The New Form of Administration—Abdication and Retirement of Diocletian and Maximian*

|       |  |     |
|-------|--|-----|
| 285   | Elevation and Character of Diocletian ... ..               | 350 |
|       | His Clemency in Victory ... ..                             | 351 |
| 286   | Association and Character of Maximian ... ..               | 352 |
| 292   | Association of two Cæsars, Galerius and Constantius ... .. | 353 |
| [293] | Departments and Harmony of the four Princes ... ..         | 354 |
|       | Series of Events ... ..                                    | 355 |