

in Spain were also trampling down their foes. Scipio was there marching from conquest to conquest, crushing all opposition before him. He had reached and captured New Carthage, now Carthagena, the proud capital of Carthaginian power in the peninsula.

Scipio, the young general now rising so rapidly to renown in the war in Spain, merits special notice. When but twenty-six years of age, he was appointed to the command of the Roman troops in Spain, under circumstances very similar to those in which Napoleon took charge of the army of Italy in 1796; and Scipio wielded the powers placed in his hands with scarcely less of skill and energy than Napoleon subsequently displayed. It is said that he marched from the Ebro to New Carthage, a distance of three hundred and twenty-five miles, in seven days. Carthagena, as the city is now called, stands at the head of its world-renowned bay, and spreads its streets widely over hills and valleys. These valleys were then lagoons, and the city was built on a peninsula, connected by a very narrow isthmus with the main land. Scipio, after a short siege, took the city by storm, in one of the fiercest fights on record, he having inspired his soldiers with his own invincible daring. The slaughter of the wretched inhabitants was dreadful, ten thousand only being reserved as captives. These the conqueror treated with great humanity, and thus secured their gratitude and their loyalty. His honorable bearing, so unusual in those dark days, and particularly the delicacy with which he treated his female prisoners, produced a deep impression in his favor all over Spain.

## CHAPTER VII.

### FOREIGN CONQUESTS AND INTERNAL FEUDS.

FROM 208 B. C. TO 121 B. C.

SCIPIO.—HIS CHARACTER AND CAREER.—THE CONQUEST OF SPAIN.—QUELLING THE MUTINY.—MILITARY PROWESS OF HANNIBAL.—HE RETIRES FROM ITALY.—SCIPIO INVADES AFRICA.—DESTRUCTION OF THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY.—TRUCE AND HUMILIATION OF CARTHAGE.—LANDING OF HANNIBAL IN AFRICA.—BATTLE OF ZAMA.—CLOSE OF THE SECOND PUNIC WAR.—CONQUEST OF GREECE.—INVASION OF SYRIA.—THIRD PUNIC WAR.—DESTRUCTION OF CARTHAGE.—THE NUMIDIAN WAR.—BARBARIAN INVASION.—THE PLEBEIAN AND PATRICIAN CONFLICT.—GRACCHUS AND OCTAVIUS.

THE victories of Scipio in Spain, and the skill with which he combined humanity with severity, speedily created a strong disposition with the Spaniards to throw off their alliance with Carthage and receive the Romans as their protectors and masters. Many Spanish tribes joined the army of Scipio. This young Roman general was one of those marked men born to command. In both form and feature he was remarkably attractive and imposing. He was courteous and polished in his manners, and displayed that consciousness of greatness, blended with gentleness, magnanimity, and an entire absence of arrogance, which naturally wins the homage of all human hearts. The Carthaginian generals complained that no Spanish troops could be trusted, if they were once brought within the sphere of his influence.

As soon as Scipio received the news of the great victory of the Metaurus, he was roused to the strongest desire to emulate that victory by a still more decisive action in Spain. A general by the name of Hasdrubal Gisco was now in command of the Carthaginian forces, having an army of seventy



thousand foot soldiers and four thousand horse, with thirty two elephants. As Scipio could not bring into the field more than forty-five thousand foot and three thousand horse, Hasdrubal felt sanguine in his ability to crush him. Notwithstanding the superiority of the Carthaginian force, Scipio was eager for a general battle. But when he had led his troops within sight of the foe, and found them strongly intrenched in such overwhelming numbers, he was very uneasy lest the courage of his Spanish allies should fail. He, therefore, formed his line of battle, placing his Roman soldiers on the right and left, and encircling, as it were, the Spaniards in the center. With evolutions of wonderful skill, Scipio led his veteran columns to the assault, using his Spanish auxiliaries to intimidate by their formidable array, while sheltering them from the storm of war. The battle raged demoniacally for a day. It was the old story of confusion, clangor, misery, and blood.

By the middle of the afternoon the Carthaginians were routed and flying in all directions. Their camp, with all its magazines and treasures, would have fallen into the hands of the victors, but for a tempest of thunder, wind, and rain which suddenly burst, with almost inconceivable fury, upon the field of battle. The Romans, exhausted by the toils of their great achievement, were compelled to seek the shelter of their tents. The great victory virtually ended the Carthaginian dominion in Spain; and the vast peninsula was transferred to Rome, to swell the renown and the power of that nation, as yet but five hundred and fifty years of age, and destined so soon to be the mistress of the world. The routed Carthaginians fled to the sea, and embarking in their ships, escaped to their own land. The native chiefs crowded around Scipio with offers of homage, and it was soon announced to him that no enemy was to be found in the field, from the Pyrenees to the Pillars of Hercules. Scipio dispatched his brother to Rome to announce the conquest of Spain.

The successful general, with sagacity and energy, which had given him lasting renown, now resolved to carry the war into Africa. Syphax, a king of one of the African nations, was then in alliance with Carthage. Scipio, having sounded him through an ambassador, embarked with only two quinqueremes, and was so fortunate as to elude all the Carthaginian ships, and to enter the maritime metropolis of Syphax in safety. It so happened that Hasdrubal Gisco had just arrived in the same port, with seven ships, seeking aid from his ally. Syphax invited them both to his table in a gorgeous entertainment. The genius of Scipio was here so conspicuous, that Hasdrubal is said to have declared, that Scipio appeared to him more dangerous in peace than in war. Syphax was brought completely under the sway of his mind, and entered cordially into a treaty with him. Scipio then returned to New Carthage, in Spain, well satisfied with the results of his mission.

A mutiny, in consequence of arrearages of pay, broke out in the army, which was quelled by Scipio with characteristic severity and lenity. The mutineers, in a body, marched upon New Carthage to demand redress. Scipio, informed of their approach, sent seven tribunes to meet them with fair words. Thus encouraged they marched into the open gates of New Carthage in high spirits. Scipio sent them a flattering message, and, in perfect confidence, they dispersed to their quarters for the night. In the meantime Scipio had obtained the names of thirty-five of the prominent actors in the revolt, and had ordered their secret arrest. In the earliest dawn of the morning strong bodies of troops were stationed at each gate of the city, so that no one could escape. The insurgents were then invited to meet Scipio at the forum, as if to receive the redress of their grievances. All unconscious of danger, they crowded the market-place, unarmed, as was customary on such occasions.

Scipio was seated upon a throne. Gradually the suspicion



spread through the ranks of the insurgents that they were betrayed. Troops, in solid column, were marched from appointed rendezvous, and they occupied all the streets leading to the place of general gathering. The crier, with a loud voice, commanded silence. Breathless stillness ensued. The thirty-five ringleaders were brought up in chains. Scipio then declared that all of the mutinous soldiers he would forgive, inflicting punishment only on those who had misled them. Each of these thirty-five officers was then stripped and bound to a stake, and after being terribly scourged, they were all beheaded. The mutiny was thus effectually quelled, and Scipio gained a new ascendancy over the minds of his soldiers.

The whole of the Spanish peninsula now was in the possession of the Romans. Scipio, thus victorious, hoped to attain the consulship, and leaving his army under the command of lieutenants, returned to Rome. With great pomp he entered the imperial city, conveying immense wealth, gained from the plundered provinces, which he deposited in the treasury. He was greeted with great enthusiasm, and by acclaim was raised to the consulship. Scipio now prepared, with great vigor, to drive Hannibal from Italy.

The destruction of Hasdrubal's army, had reduced Hannibal to the necessity of acting solely on the defensive. He had sent to Carthage for fresh recruits to be dispatched to him across the sea, and he now hoped only to maintain his ground, until these reinforcements should arrive. His military renown was so extraordinary, that the Romans dared not attack him. Mago, a younger brother of Hannibal, with the wreck of the Carthaginian army which had been driven out of Spain, landed in Italy and took Genoa by surprise. For a few months he carried on a vigorous war against the Romans, struggling to fight his way to the relief of his brother. Four Roman legions were sent against him, and after many obstinate battles he was driven to his ships, he himself being mortally wounded. As the fleet was returning to Africa, when

off the coast of Sardinia, Mago died, suffering far more from disappointment and chagrin than from his festering wounds.

The wonderful genius of Hannibal is conspicuous in the fact, that for four years after the death of Hasdrubal he maintained his position in southern Italy, in defiance of all the power of Rome. During all this time he received no supplies from home, and had no other naval force at his disposal, but such vessels as he could build and man. Conscious that his name would live and his exploits be renowned through ages to come, he reared several monumental columns at Lacinium, upon which he engraved minute particulars of his campaigns. At length, after spending fifteen years in ravaging Italy, he embarked his troops, to return to Carthage, without the slightest opposition from the Romans. For fifteen years he had ravaged Italy, from one end to the other with fire and sword, and yet, through an almost incessant series of battles, had never experienced a decided defeat.

Scipio had already gone, with a large army to Africa, to carry on the war to the walls of Carthage. With a large fleet he crossed the Mediterranean, and landed within five miles of the metropolitan city. He did not venture immediately to attack the formidable capital, but, imitating the policy of Hannibal, he ravaged the adjacent country, and sent to Rome eight thousand unhappy captives, men, women, and children, to be sold into slavery. Two large Carthaginian armies were raised to oppose him, and, as winter was fast approaching, Scipio retired to winter quarters, near the sea, where, supported by his fleet, he waited an opportunity to strike some effectual blow.

The Carthaginians did not venture to attack him behind his intrenchments, but encamped at a short distance to watch his movements. Scipio, to throw them off their guard, sent commissioners to negotiate terms of peace, pretending that he was exceedingly anxious to come to an amicable settlement of their difficulties. In the meantime he had ascertained that the



Carthaginian camp was composed of huts constructed of stakes, and thatched with dry leaves and grass. Disguising some of his soldiers as slaves, they were introduced into the enemy's camp, as forming a part of the suite of the officers engaged in the negotiation; and these pretended slaves, unsuspected, acted as efficient spies, in gaining all the information which was desired.

At length he suddenly broke off all communication with the enemy, having succeeded in introducing, under various disguises and pretexts, several of his emissaries into their camp. In a dry and windy night, the torch was touched to the thatched cottages. The flames spread with a rapidity which no human power could check. The Carthaginians, imagining the conflagration to be the result of accident, were thrown off their guard and they crowded together, in the utmost disorder in the attempt to extinguish the flames, or to escape from them.

While in this helpless state of confusion, Scipio, with his whole force, fell upon them. Neither resistance nor flight were of any avail. The flames, sweeping in all directions, raged like a furnace. Every avenue was choked by a crowd of men and horses, in confusion and terror indescribable. All the enginery of Roman warfare was brought to bear upon them; and in the course of a few hours an army of ninety thousand men was annihilated, all being slain or dispersed.

Scipio, thus exultant, was still not sufficiently strong to make an attack upon the walled city of Carthage. But he surrounded one of the neighboring cities, and vigorously pressed its siege. The retributive providence of God is here wonderfully prominent, a retribution which extends to nations as well as to individuals. "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Scipio was now ravaging the Carthaginian realms in almost precisely the same manner in which Hannibal had ravaged Italy. Soon the Carthaginians had organized another army of thirty thousand men. But no

sooner had they emerged from the walls of the city, than Scipio fell upon them, and with much slaughter drove them panting and bleeding back behind their ramparts.

Scipio now swept to and fro with resistless force, compelling the submission of the surrounding towns, and enriching his soldiers with immense plunder. He advanced to Tunis, then a strong post in the vicinity of Carthage, and, finding it abandoned by the garrison, established himself there. Under these circumstances the Carthaginians implored peace. The terms which the haughty conqueror demanded were humiliating in the extreme. The conditions he dictated were, that the Carthaginians should evacuate all Italy and Gaul; that Spain and all the islands between Africa and Italy should be ceded to Rome; that all the Carthaginian ships, but twenty, should be surrendered to the conqueror; and that Carthage should pay an immense contribution in provisions and money to the Roman army. Hard as these terms were, the Carthaginians acceded to them, and a truce was concluded, while ambassadors were sent to Rome to procure the ratification of the senate and people.

Matters were in this condition when Hannibal, having evacuated Italy, landed with his troops in Africa, and the truce was immediately broken. He disembarked his force at Leptis, and advanced to Zama, a town about five days' march from Carthage. Scipio and Hannibal had a mutual admiration for each other's military genius, and as the armies approached, the two illustrious generals held a private interview, perhaps hoping to effect a termination of hostilities. The meeting led to no peaceful results, and the next day the antagonistic hosts were led into the field for a decisive battle. The numbers engaged on either side are not now known. The battle of Zama is renowned in history as one of the fiercest and most decisive which has ever been fought. The Carthaginians were utterly routed. Twenty thousand were left dead upon



the plain, and an equal number were taken prisoners. Hannibal, with the mere wreck of his army, escaped to Adrimetum.

This was one of the decisive battles which seems to have decided the fate of the world. There was no longer any force to be rallied, sufficient to withstand the march of Rome toward universal conquest. The Carthaginians, utterly dejected, again sent ambassadors to Scipio, with the most humiliating supplications for peace. The conqueror, with imperial airs, reproached them for their past misconduct, and consented to peace only on condition that they should make ample amends for the injuries done to the Romans during the truce, surrender all deserters and prisoners, give up all their ships of war but ten, engage in no war whatever without the consent of the Romans, feed the Roman army for three months, and pay all the Roman soldiers their wages until they should be recalled home; pay an immediate contribution of ten thousand Euboic talents (eleven million seven hundred and ninety-seven thousand five hundred dollars), and also pay annually, for fifty years, two hundred talents (two hundred and thirty-five thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars), and give two hundred hostages, between the ages of fourteen and thirty, to be selected at the pleasure of the Roman general, and to be sent to Rome, there to be held in captivity as security for the fulfillment of the treaty.

Even Hannibal was so conscious that, for the present, further resistance was vain, that he urged the acceptance of these merciless conditions. Peace was accordingly signed, and the Roman army returned to Italy. Thus terminated the second Punic war. Rome received Scipio with triumph, and in reward for his services conferred upon him the name of Scipio Africanus. During this war, at times so disastrous, Rome had made enormous strides. Her dominion now extended over all Italy, Spain, Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica. Even Carthage had become virtually a dependent and tributary province. The destruction of the Carthaginian fleet had made the

Romans masters of the sea; and their own fleet was now rapidly increasing, as a large navy was necessary to maintain communication with their possessions out of Italy. From the height which Rome had now attained, she looked abroad over the world and coveted the possession of unlimited power. Republican equality was dominant in the councils of the nation, and the highest offices of state were accessible to all who had talents and energy to win them.

Hannibal, unable to endure the disgrace of his country and his own humiliation, fled to Syria. For some years he wandered from court to court hoping to form a coalition to resist the encroachments of Rome. Pursued by his foes, he was ever in danger of arrest, and at length life became an insupportable burden. A wretched fugitive he had reached Bithynia, one of the kingdoms of Asia Minor. The king of Bithynia, trembling before the power of the Romans, in reply to their demands, agreed to deliver him up. Hannibal, now a world-weary old man, nearly seventy years of age, in despair went to his chamber, drank poison and died.

The greed of conquest kept alive a warlike spirit, and every man, emulous of renown, sought to attain it on fields of blood. The second Punic war being thus successfully terminated, Rome now turned her eyes to Macedonia determined to crush the power of Philip, its energetic sovereign. It was easy to find occasion for a quarrel. A fleet was dispatched conveying a large army to the shores of Greece, and for three years the hills and valleys of that fair land were swept by the storms of war. At length Philip, defeated in a decisive battle in Thessaly, was compelled to accept peace on such terms as the Romans thought proper to dictate.

In anguish the Macedonian monarch surrendered to Rome and her allies, every city he possessed out of the limits of Macedonia, both in Europe and Asia. He was also forced to deliver up nearly his whole navy to Rome, and also to pay a



subsidy of one million one hundred and seventy-nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

The Roman armies thus victorious in Greece, again entered their ships and crossed the sea into Syria. Antiochus, the king, fought bravely. In battle after battle he was defeated, and he slowly retired, mile by mile, struggling against the invaders. A decisive battle at length brought him upon his knees before triumphant Rome. The terms exacted were remorseless. Antiochus surrendered all his possessions in Europe, all in Asia west of Mt. Taurus, reimbursed the expenses of the war; paid immediately in cash, a sum equal to five hundred thousand dollars, and a vast quantity of corn. He also surrendered twenty hostages to be selected by the Roman consul, and agreed to pay a sum amounting to nearly eighteen million of dollars, in installments extending through eleven years. Antiochus also surrendered all his elephants and his whole navy to Rome.

In all these wars Rome was merciless. In Epirus, after all hostilities were at an end, seventy towns were sacked and destroyed in a day, and one hundred and fifty thousand human beings were sold as slaves. It is Christianity alone, which has divested war of such horrors. Gradually all the states of Greece lost their independence and became Roman provinces. Beautiful Corinth fell in ruins and ashes before the march of the ruthless invaders. Metellus took it by storm in the year 146, B. C. Most of the male citizens were surrendered to the sword. The women and children were sold for slaves. The city was plundered, and houses and temples were given up to the flames. With the fall of Corinth perished Grecian independence.

But again Carthage roused herself for a death struggle against her foes. We enter upon the memorable period of the Third Punic war. Since the termination of the Second Punic war, Carthage had remained humiliated and silent, not daring to utter even a remonstrance against any degree of

insult or outrage. With the most extraordinary docility she yielded to every demand, never declining, whenever called upon, to aid the Romans with her arms. Her little fleet was ever compelled to sail, at the bidding of Rome, to cooperate in Roman conquests. Still the power of Carthage was such that Rome regarded the distant commonwealth with a jealous eye; and in the Roman Senate the suggestion was not unfrequently thrown out, that Carthage ought no longer to be permitted to exist.

When there is a disposition to quarrel, it is never difficult to find a pretext. Two consular armies, with a large fleet, were soon sent to Africa. The Carthaginians, overawed by the magnitude of the force, attempted no resistance; but, through their ambassadors, surrendered themselves unreservedly to the disposal of Rome. The Roman consuls had no pity. They demanded three hundred children of the first families as hostages. It was granted, and the weeping children were surrendered amidst the lamentations of their parents. They demanded all the Carthaginian weapons of war, both offensive and defensive. An immense train of wagons conveyed the arms to the Roman camp. In a vast concourse the most illustrious men of Carthage followed the train, hoping by their abject submission, to conciliate their terrible foes. But haughty Rome had decreed that Carthage must be destroyed. With consternation inexpressible the Carthaginians then heard the demand that they should abandon their city entirely, every man, woman, and child, and establish themselves any where they pleased at a distance of at least ten miles from the sea. "We are resolved," said the consuls, "to raze Carthage to the ground."

This demand roused the energies of despair. As the exhausted stag turns upon the dogs, protracting but for a few moments his inevitable doom, so unarmed, helpless Carthage turned upon Rome. The whole population rose in a frenzy. Men, women and children worked night and day fabricating