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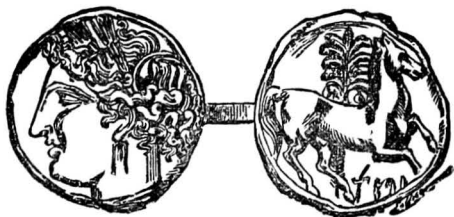
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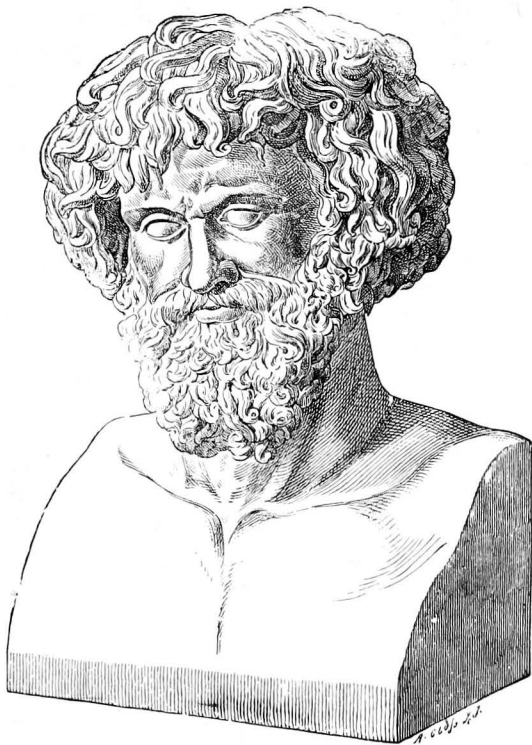
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THE HERO'S DEEDS AND HARD-WON
FAME SHALL LIVE.

HANNIBAL





HANNIBAL.

FROM GILMAN'S "STORY OF ROME."

HANNIBAL

SOLDIER, STATESMAN, PATRIOT

AND THE CRISIS OF THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN CARTHAGE AND ROME

BY

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PREFACE



H

ANNIBAL, like Napoleon, and even more decidedly than Napoleon, towers over all the figures of an age of war in its grandest aspects, and of the shock of nations in conflict. Except his father, who died when Hannibal was still a youth, no Carthaginian of his time had a pretence to greatness; he is supreme over the soldiers and statesmen of Rome; he is the master spirit of the Mediterranean World. Nothing in the period of the Second Punic War can be compared to Hannibal, save the great people which at last overthrew the great man. We possess hardly anything which has emanated directly from this extraordinary personage, scarcely a phrase, not a line of correspondence; his achievements and character have been described by bitter enemies, with the doubtful exception of one historian who understood his genius, yet inclined to the side of Rome. Yet through the mists of calumny and detraction we can see the form and the lineaments of that gigantic figure, one of the most commanding

that has appeared in history. Hannibal was a consummate warrior, an illustrious statesman, a patriot, sustained through a career which proved every extreme of fortune by devotion to his country, and intense hatred of its implacable foe, and that too apparently without a thought of ambition and self-aggrandisement. The triumphs of Hannibal do not increase his stature, as he stands on the tracts of the past; his misfortunes do not diminish it; he seems superior to fate itself. The success of his arms would have been a calamity to mankind; but this does not lessen his greatness, or the admiration it deserves.

Our information respecting Hannibal is far from adequate; we know very little about the daily round of his conduct in the camp and in council, and about his domestic and private life. Nevertheless history has been busy with him; it is possible to form a sufficiently just estimate of the epoch he fills, of his mighty deeds and his character. There is not much in the writings of Appian, Plutarch, Cornelius Nepos, Sallust, and others who have cursorily dealt with his time and his career, that deserves attention, and the feeble poem of Silius Italicus is chiefly interesting as it affords proof how Hannibal's memory impressed the Romans with awe, even after the lapse of centuries. But two historians of the ancient world did describe the Second Punic War in detail, and did dwell fully on the exploits of Hannibal; we can obtain from their works a tolerably accurate idea of the period and of the great man who overshadows it. Polybius is rather a dull writer; he was a bad geogra-

pher; he was under Roman influence, especially under that of the Scipios, but he is tolerably impartial; he has a true military eye; he understood war, especially on its moral side; he sincerely admired Hannibal; he was not far removed from Hannibal's time. We only possess his complete narrative of the Second Punic War to the end of the battle of Cannæ; but considerable fragments of the lost books remain; these are of the greatest value; and all that he has written about the institutions of Rome and of Carthage, the composition and the characteristics of the Roman army, and the art of war in that age should be carefully studied. The second historian is Livy; his whole account of the Second Punic War has fortunately come down to us; it is scarcely necessary to refer to the brilliancy of his style, the beauty of his descriptions, the animation and charm of his pages. But he was indifferent to truth, and a superficial enquirer; his narrative is often untrustworthy, full of omissions, almost incredible; he continually strains after effect and gives too free a rein to rhetoric; above all he is a persistent, mendacious, and unscrupulous slanderer of Hannibal. Still Livy is a great writer; his description of the Second Punic War is of the greatest use to the student of the time, were it only that it perfectly illustrates the strength, the pride, the confidence, and the indomitable constancy of the Roman character.

The modern historians of, and commentators on, the Second Punic War and on the career of Hannibal are very numerous; they may be said to extend from

the days of Raleigh to the present time. Many of these works, however, are worthless or obsolete; many are chiefly conversant with antiquarian researches, as, for instance, with the itinerary of Hannibal's march across the Alps. I shall briefly glance at recent authorities which appear to me to be of peculiar value. The great work of Mommsen, owing to its proportions, necessarily contains rather a brief account of the Second Punic War; the eminent author has, I think, fallen into error in his description of more than one battle, notably of the Trebia. But no modern historian has reproduced so perfectly the genius and tendencies of his age, and of the institutions of Rome and of Carthage; and Mommsen has placed in full and striking relief the grandeur of Hannibal's nature and achievements.* My idea of Carthage has been mainly derived from Mommsen's *History of Rome*, but Mr. Bosworth Smith's *Carthage and the Carthaginians* is an admirable work which should be diligently perused. Arnold's *Second Punic War* is a posthumous fragment; Arnold is, I believe, quite wrong in his account of the battle of Cannæ, and in his estimate of Scipio Africanus; but he is an excellent geographer; he is very intelligent in describing military operations; he thoroughly understands Hannibal's greatness; his narrative is clear, full, and rich in information. Every student of Hannibal ought to possess and to master the *Anni-bal* of Colonel Hénnébert. I do not concur in his

* I cannot read German; my knowledge of Mommsen's *History of Rome* is derived from the translation by Dickson published in 1862. The references in the notes to my text are to this edition.

account of the route taken by Hannibal in his Alpine march, and in several of his conclusions ; but he is a most conscientious and learned biographer ; he has ransacked all available sources for his materials ; his work is very valuable and attractive. The *Hannibal* of Colonel Dodge of the United States Army is also a very able and interesting work ; it is especially good in the description of the military organisation of Rome and of Carthage, and of the Roman and the Carthaginian armies ; he has described carefully and very well the strategy and the tactics of Hannibal and of his adversaries in the field. MacDougall's *Campaigns of Hannibal* is a good epitome, well written and containing able criticism ; the same may be said of the "Trasimenus" of Colonel Malleson in his *Ambushes and Surprises*. There are some pregnant remarks in the *Sea Power* of Captain Mahan, on the importance of the command of the sea in the Second Punic War, and the few lines Napoleon has devoted to Hannibal, if deficient in knowledge, reveal a master's hand. I cannot close these pages without expressing my sense of the ability and the courtesy of Mr. Evelyn Abbott, the editor of this and the other volumes of the "Heroes Series."

WILLIAM O'CONNOR MORRIS.

7th July, 1896.





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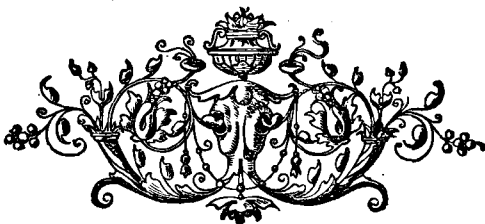
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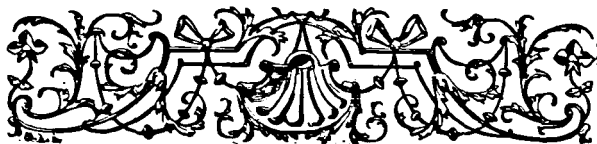




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