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# THE STUDENT'S GIBBON

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## PREFACE.

GIBBON'S *Décline and Fall of the Roman Empire* forms the important link between Ancient and Modern history. Its title conveys an inadequate idea of its contents. It contains nearly a complete history of the world for a period of more than twelve centuries, from the time of the Antonines to the capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453. The decay and fall of the empire which had so long ruled the world; the progress and establishment of Christianity; the foundation of Constantinople and the history of the new empire upon the Bosphorus; the invasions and settlements of the barbarians of Germany and Scythia; the legislation of Justinian and the institutions of the civil law; the life and religion of Mahomet, the conquests of the Saracens, and the glories and vicissitudes of the caliphs; the temporal sovereignty of the popes; the restoration of the Western empire by Charlemagne, and its decay under his successors; the adventures of the Normans in Italy and Sicily, almost realising the fables of romance; the Crusades of the nations of Western Europe to obtain possession of the Holy Land; the conquests of Zingis Khan, Tamerlane and the Turks; the fall of Constantinople; the state and revolutions of Rome in the middle ages: such are some of the important and interesting events narrated in Gibbon's great Work. Since the history of all ancient nations ends in that of Rome,

and the history of the modern states of Europe springs out of the Roman empire, the youthful student, after making himself acquainted with the leading facts in the histories of Greece, Rome and England, cannot employ his time more profitably than in mastering the history of the vast period comprehended in Gibbon's Work. It is mainly for the benefit of such students that the present Abridgment has been prepared: the original work is too voluminous for their purpose; and at present there is no compendious account of this period corresponding to the ordinary manuals of Greek, Roman and English history. It is believed that this Abridgment will also prove acceptable to the general reader, whose time or circumstances prevent him from studying so large a work as Gibbon's, but who wishes to make himself acquainted with some of the most memorable events in the history of man.

In drawing up the present Abridgment, it has not been my aim to make an epitome of every circumstance mentioned in the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. Such an epitome would have been a comparatively easy task, and would have relieved me from much responsibility; but it would have presented little more than a dry skeleton of events, without the warmth and life which give to history its real interest and value. I have therefore treated briefly, and occasionally omitted entirely, many circumstances of inferior importance; and I have thus gained space for narrating at length, and sometimes as fully as in the original work, those grand events which have influenced the history of the world. By adopting this plan it is hoped that the present work will prove interesting as well as instructive, and will not be liable to the reproach of dulness, which is generally, and too often with justice,

brought against compendious histories. It may be observed, however, that there are only few subjects in the original, which have been passed over altogether in the Abridgment. The most important omissions relate to the history of the Church, in which Gibbon too frequently displayed the hostility he felt towards the Christian religion; but I have at the same time given some account of those ecclesiastical events which materially affected the decline and fall of the Roman empire. Thus while I have omitted entirely Gibbon's polemical dissertation on the causes of the spread of Christianity, and his account of the theological disputes of the Oriental sects, I have dwelt at some length upon the conduct of the Roman government towards the early Christians, the legal establishment of Christianity, the Arian disputes, and the quarrel in the eighth century respecting the worship of images, which produced the temporal power of the popes and the restoration of the Roman empire in the West. In treating of these subjects I have suppressed the sarcasms and inuendoes, by which, rather than by any open attacks, Gibbon sought to undermine the religion which he rejected.

It is stated on the title-page that the researches of recent commentators upon the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire are incorporated in the text of the present work. These additions are taken from my own notes and from those of Dean Milman and M. Guizot, inserted in the edition of the original work published in 1854-1855. In drawing up an Abridgment intended for younger students and general readers, it seemed desirable to interweave in the text the necessary corrections and additions, instead of distracting their attention by references to foot-notes, contradicting or modifying assertions in the text.

The Illustrations have been selected with a view to

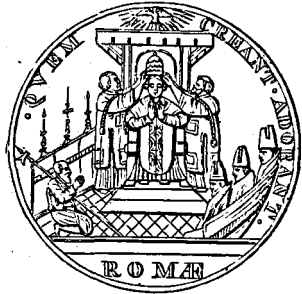
instruction, and not for the sake of ornament. Most of them are very characteristic, and will convey a lively picture of the state of the arts in the different periods comprehended in the history. For several of the architectural illustrations I am indebted to Mr. Fergusson's 'Handbook of Architecture;' and I have added from the same valuable authority a few remarks upon some of the different styles of architecture. I have also much pleasure in acknowledging the important assistance I have derived from the gentlemen connected with the Medal Room of the British Museum; and my thanks are especially due to Mr. R. S. Poole, of that department, for his translation of the Arabic inscriptions upon the coins of the Abbasside and Fatimite caliphs.

WILLIAM SMITH.

*London, December, 1856.*



The Genius of the Roman People, from a coin of Antoninus Pius, in the British Museum.



Medal of Pope Eugenius IV., from the British Museum. (See p. 613.)

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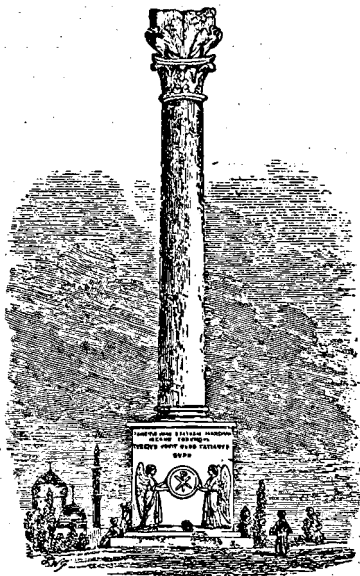
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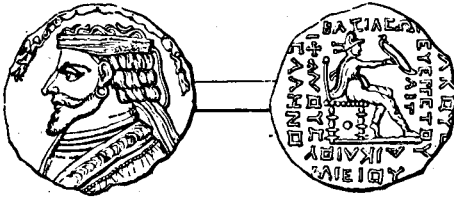
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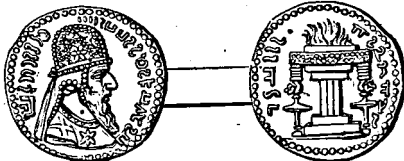
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{ Galerius	.. .. . 6	305-311	
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{ Licinius	.. .. . 16	307-323	
{ Constantine II.	.. .. . 3	337-340	
{ Constantius II.	.. .. . 24	337-361	
{ Constans I.	.. .. . 13	337-350	
Julian	.. .. . 2	361-363	
Jovian	.. .. . 1	363-364	

## WESTERN EMPIRE.

	Reigned	A.D.	A.D.
Valentinian I.	.. .. . 11 yrs.	364-375	
Gratian	.. .. . 16	367-383	
Valentinian II.	.. .. . 17	375-392	
Theodosius I.	.. .. . 3	392-395	
(Emperor of the West as well as of the East.)			
Honorius	.. .. . 28	395-423	
Theodosius II.	.. .. . 2	423-425	
(Emperor of the West as well as of the East.)			
Valentinian III.	.. .. . 30	425-455	
Petronius Maximus	.. .. .	455-455	
Avitus	.. .. . 1	455-456	
Majorian	.. .. . 4	457-461	
Libius Severus	.. .. . 4	461-465	
Anthemius	.. .. . 6	467-472	
Olybrius	.. .. .	472-472	
Glycerius	.. .. .	473-474	
Julius Nepos	.. .. .	474-475	
Romulus Augustulus	.. .. .	475-476	

## EASTERN EMPIRE.

Valens	.. .. . 14	364-379
Theodosius I.	.. .. . 16	378-395
Arcadius	.. .. . 13	395-408
Theodosius II.	.. .. . 42	408-450
Marcian	.. .. . 7	450-457
Leo I. Thrax	.. .. . 17	457-474
Leo II.	.. .. .	474-474
Zeno	.. .. . 17	474-491
Anastasius I.	.. .. . 27	491-518
Justin I.	.. .. . 9	518-527
Justinian I.	.. .. . 39	527-565
Justin II.	.. .. . 13	565-578
Tiberius II.	.. .. . 4	578-582
Mauricius	.. .. . 20	582-602
Phocas	.. .. . 8	602-610
Heraclius I.	.. .. . 31	610-641
Constantine III.,	.. .. .	641-641
also called	.. .. .	
Heraclius II.	.. .. .	641-641
Heracleonas	.. .. .	641-641
Constans II.	.. .. . 27	641-668
Constantine IV.	.. .. . 17	668-685
Pogonatus.	.. .. .	685-695
Justinian II.	.. .. . 10	
Rhinotmetus.	.. .. .	695-69
Leontius	.. .. . 3	
Tiberius Absimarus	.. .. . 6	698-704
Justinian II. (again)	.. .. . 7	704-711
Philippicus, or Philepicus	.. .. . 2	711-713
Anastasius II.	.. .. . 3	713-716
Theodosius III.	.. .. . 1	716-717
Leo III.	.. .. . 24	717-741
Isaurus.	.. .. .	

		Reigned A. D. A. D.				Reigned A. D. A. D.	
Constantine V. . . . .	34 yrs.	741—775		Joannes II. Comnenus or Calo-Joannes } 25 yrs	1118—1143		
Copronymus. [Artavasdes, usurper.]				Manuel I. . . . .	38	1143—1181	
Leo IV. . . . .	5	775—780		Comnenus.			
Chazarus.				Alexis or Alexius II. . . . .	2	1181—1183	
Constantine VI. . . . .	17	780—797		Comnenus.			
Irene . . . . .	5	797—802		Andronicus I. . . . .	2	1183—1185	
Nicephorus I. . . . .	9	802—811		Comnenus.			
Stauracius . . . . .		811—811		Isaac II. . . . .	10	1185—1195	
Michael I. . . . .	2	811—813		Angelus.			
Rhangabe.				Alexis or Alexius III. . . . .	8	1195—1203	
Leo V. . . . .	7	813—820		Angelus.			
Armenius.				Alexis or Alexius IV. . . . .	1	1203—1204	
Michael II. . . . .	9	820—829		Angelus.			
Balbus.				Alexis or Alexius V. . . . .		1204—1204	
Theophilus . . . . .	12	829—842		Ducas.			
Michael III. . . . .	25	842—867					
Basil I. . . . .	19	867—886					
Macedo.							
Leo VI. . . . .	25	886—911					
Sapiens.							
Constantine VII. . . . .	48	911—959					
Porphyrogenitus.							
Alexander, colleague of Constantine VII. } 1		911—912		Baldwin I. . . . .	1	1204—1205	
Romanus I. Lecapenus, colleague of Constantine VII. . . . .	25	919—944		Henry . . . . .	10	1206—1216	
Constantine VIII., Stephanus, sons of Romanus I., reigned five weeks . . . . .		944—944		Peter . . . . .		1217—1219	
				Robert . . . . .	7	1221—1228	
Romanus II. . . . .	4	959—963		John of Brienne . . . . .	9	1228—1237	
Nicephorus II. . . . .	6	963—969		Baldwin II. . . . .	24	1237—1261	
Phocas.							
Joannes I. . . . .	7	969—976					
Zimisces.							
Basil II., colleague of Joannes I. for seven years . . . . .	56	969—1025					
Constantine IX., col- league of Basil II. for forty-nine years . . . . .	52	976—1026					
Romanus III. . . . .	6	1028—1034					
Argyrus.							
Michael IV. . . . .	7	1034—1041					
Paphlago.							
Michael V. . . . .		1041—1042					
Calaphates.							
Zoe and Theodora . . . . .		1042—1042					
Constantine X. . . . .	12	1042—1054					
Monomachus.							
Theodora (again) . . . . .	2	1054—1056					
Michael VI. . . . .	1	1056—1057					
Stratioticus.							
Isaac I. . . . .	2	1057—1059					
Comnenus.							
Constantine XI. . . . .	8	1059—1067					
Ducas.							
Romanus IV. . . . .	4	1067—1071					
Diogenes.							
Michael VII. . . . .	7	1071—1078					
Parapinaces.							
Nicephorus III. . . . .	3	1078—1081					
Botaniates.							
Alexis or Alexius I. . . . .	37	1081—1118					
Comnenus.							

LATIN EMPERORS OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE.

Baldwin I. . . . .	1	1204—1205
Henry . . . . .	10	1206—1216
Peter . . . . .		1217—1219
Robert . . . . .	7	1221—1228
John of Brienne . . . . .	9	1228—1237
Baldwin II. . . . .	24	1237—1261

GREEK EMPERORS OF  
NICÆA.

Theodorus I. . . . .	16	1206—1222
Lascaris.		
Joannes III. . . . .	33	1222—1258
Vatatzes.		
Theodorus II. . . . .	4	1255—1259
Lascaris		
Joannes IV. . . . .	1	1259—1260
Lascaris		
Michael VIII. . . . .	1	1260—1261
Palæologus.		

GREEK EMPERORS OF CON-  
STANTINOPLE AGAIN.

Michael VIII. . . . .	21	1261—1282
Palæologus.		
Andronicus II. . . . .	46	1282—1328
Palæologus.		
Michael IX.		
Palæologus (associated with Andronicus II. in the empire.)		
Andronicus III. . . . .	13	1328—1341
Palæologus.		
Joannes V. . . . .	13	1342—1355
Cantacuzenus.		
Joannes VI. . . . .	36	1355—1391
Palæologus.		
Manuel II. . . . .	34	1391—1425
Palæologus.		
Joannes VII. . . . .	23	1425—1448
Palæologus.		
Constantine XIII. . . . .	5	1448—1453
Palæologus.		

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 Adopts and spreads the religion of Mahomet, 458.  
 Accompanies Mahomet in his flight from Mecca, 459.  
 Chosen by Mahomet to supply his place, 464. Election as caliph, and death, 466.  
 Abu Moslem, author of the 'Call of the Abbassides,' 483.  
 Abu Obeidah, general of Abubekker in the Syrian war, 472.  
 Abu Said, the Carmathian, conquers Bahrein, 491.  
 Abu Sophian, chief of the branch of Ommiyah, and prince of Mecca, meditates the death of Mahomet, 459.  
 Fruitless siege of Medina, 461. Surrenders Mecca and confesses the mission of Mahomet, 462.  
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 Adventus, pratorian prefect, 33.  
 Ægidius, master-general of Gaul, 269.  
 Æmilianus, emperor, 55.  
 Æstii, 196.  
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