

# DAILY SENTINEL

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 31.

## THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON'S BOOK.

The Fall of the Roman Kingdom—The Establishment of the Patriarchal System—Roman Subjugation of Surrounding Nations—A Description of Carthage.

**THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ROMAN KINGS.**  
The kings are driven from Rome. They die appear because their mission is ended. There exists, one would say, in the moral as well as in the physical order of things, a supreme law, which assigns to institutions as to certain beings a fixed limit marked by the term of their existence. In fact, nothing is finally destroyed but may be advantageously repaired.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT.  
The population could judge according to their conduct what lot was reserved for them. Petty provincial interests were replaced by an effect protection, and by new rights, often more precious in the eyes of the people, than the independence of the state. This fact established the empire, which the Roman domination was established. In fact, nothing is finally destroyed but may be advantageously repaired.

At this time an unforeseen event, which changed the destinies of the world, occurred to show the difference which exists between the rapid creation of a mass of genius and the patient work of an enlightened aristocracy. Alexander the Great, after having astonished the world and brought the most powerful empires of Asia, into subjection to Macedonia, died in Babylon. His strong and fertile influence, which carried the Hellenic civilization into the east, lasted beyond his life; but the empire which he had given to fragments only a few years after his death, did not the Romans succeed in saving it from itself from generation to generation, pursued with less haste, but with less interruption, a system which bound the populations to a common centre, and little by little assured them the dominion, first over Italy, and then over the world.

**THE WAR AGAINST PERTINAX.**

On the news of his arrival at the head of 25,000 men and twenty elephants, the Romans rolled every citizen capable of bearing arms, even the proletarians, (an admirable example of manhood) they rejected the assistance of the Carthaginian fleet, with this proud declaration: "The republic undertakes no wars but such as she can conduct with her own forces."

The war against the king of Epirus produced two remarkable results, improved the Roman institutions and introduced between the combatants those principles of civilized nations which teach men to honor their adversaries; to spare the vanquished, and to put away the passions of war which the war is at an end.

**THE REPUBLIC AT ITS HIGHEST SPLENDOR.**

At this epoch the republic was at its highest splendor. The institutions most remarkable in the world, the most perfect, raised by those who were the most worthy, and recalled them to office after a short interval. The sphere of the military commanders never extended beyond the natural frontiers of the peninsula, and their ambition, restrained by public opinion, did not exceed its legitimate object—the union of all Italy under a single power. The members of the aristocracy seemed to inherit the enterprise as well as the virtue of their ancestors, and neither poverty nor obscurity of birth prevented merit from rising to the highest rank. [The ambition of the military commanders was not greater than that of the civil magistrates, who were more faithful to tradition, more daring in its policy, since a great number of persons share in the responsibility, and none is individually responsible. Rome, with her compact territory, had no longer any need for the concentration of authority in a single hand; but she required such a new order of things as would give free access to power to her greatest men, and, by the reward of public honor, would inspire the faculties of all. The main thing was to educate a race of supermen, who, possessed of the same virtues, the same principles, and the same virtues, might perpetuate from generation to generation the system, and likely to promote the national glory. The fall of royalism was therefore an event favorable to the development of Rome.]

**THE BASIS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.**  
We are now approaching the Punic wars. Rome required two hundred and forty four years to constitute herself under the kings, one hundred and sixty two years to consolidate the consul system, seventy two years to make conquest of Italy, and now she is about to cost her the same number of years to make conquest of the world, that is to say, of northern Africa, Spain, the south of Gaul, Illyria, Epirus, Greece, Macedonia, Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt. But, before undertaking the recital of these conquests, the imperial author has to consider the prosperous state of the basin of the Mediterranean at the period immediately preceding the Punic war.]

This concise description of the countries bordering on the Mediterranean two or three hundred years before the birth of Christ, shows the state of prosperity of the different populations on its shores. The enumeration of such prosperity inspires the very natural wish that henceforth the jealousy of the great powers may no longer prevent the east from shaking off the dust of twenty centuries and from being born again to life and civilization.

**CARTHAGE.**  
Rich in the spoils of twenty different nations, Carthage was the splendid capital of a great empire. Her ports, created by the hand of man, could receive a vast number of ships, both for trade and war. Byrsa, her citadel, was two miles in circumference. On the landward side the city was defended by a triple wall, 25 stadia long and 30 cubits high, strengthened by towers of 100 feet, and having gates for the entry of the fleet of the world that is to say, of northern Africa, Spain, the south of Gaul, Illyria, Epirus, Greece, Macedonia, Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt. But, before undertaking the recital of these conquests, the imperial author has to consider the prosperous state of the basin of the Mediterranean at the period immediately preceding the Punic war.]

**THE PUNIC WARS.**

These wars, which almost disturbed Roman society, led us to make this reflection: All governments, whatever may be their form, contain within themselves germs of life which make their strength, and germs of weakness which must some day cause their fall; and accordingly as the republic was in progress or in decline the first or the last became developed or dominant in turn; that is to say, so long as the aristocracy preserved its virtues and its power, it was the power of prosperity that increased, but when the day came that it was time to decline the causes of disturbance had their proper hand and shook the edifice so laboriously erected. If the fall of royalism, in giving more vitality and independence to the patricians, rendered the constitution of the state more solid and durable, the democracy had at first no reason to complain themselves. Two hundred years passed away before the plebeians were able to secure, not only equality of political rights, but a share in the public funds and an act of unity in favor of factors overwhelmed through incessant wars. Then, when the aristocracy had lost the public to reconquer the supremacy over the neighboring peoples which she had exercised under the last of her kings, so many years a country requires to recover from the shocks and weakness caused by even the most legitimate revolution.

The state of Rome bore a close resemblance to that of England before its electoral reform. For several centuries the English constitution was the model of the *patriciate* of liberty, although in England, as in Rome, the first fortune were the only sources of honor and power. In these two countries the aristocracy, master of the elections by either influence, gold, or rotten boroughs, nominated—at Rome the senators, in England the members of parliament; and, in consequence of the high fees, no one could become a "citizen" in either of the two countries without the possession of wealth. Nevertheless, if the people of England had not part in the direction of affairs, they boasted justly, before 1789, a more absolute aristocracy, gloomier and the hushed atmosphere of continental states.

It is far from us to blame the nobility, either in Rome or in England, for having preserved its propinquity by all the means which the laws and usages of society placed at its disposal! The power was destined to remain with the patricians as long as they showed themselves worthy of it; and it cannot but be acknowledged that without their perseverance in the same policy, without that elevation of views, without that severe and inflexible virtue, the distinguishing character of the aristocracy, the wealth of Roman civilization would not have been so consolidated.

**THE ROMAN SUBJUGATION OF SURROUNDING NATIONS.**

In the midst of many hostile populations, for a small power to succeed in raising itself above the others, and subjugating them, it must have had in itself very particular elements of superiority. The nations which surrounded Rome, and which she had to subdue, had not the same spirit, nor the same powerful aristocratic organization, nor the same confidence in their destinies. They exhibited more self-love than ambition. When they fought it was to increase their riches by pillage, rather than to augment the number of their subjects. Rome triumphed, because she alone made war, not to destroy, but to conserve, and because, after the material conquests she always set herself to make the moral conquests of the vanquished.

For the commencement of the fifth century, Rome prepared with energy to subject and assimilate to herself the nations dwelling between the Rubicon and the straits of Messina. Nothing can prevent her from surmounting all obstacles; neither the coalition of her neighbors conspiring against her, nor the new incursions of the Gauls, nor the invasion of Pyrrhus. She will find a way to raise herself from her momentary defeats, and establish the unity of Italy; not by subjecting all these people immediately to the same laws and the same government, but by causing them to enter, by little and little and in different degrees, into the great Roman family.

It is making a right use of force, which is an advantage which every one was happy and fond of to acquire, the senate held out a bait to all ambitious, and this general desire of antiquity not to destroy the privilege, but to gain a place among the privilege, is a characteristic trait of manners. In the city and in the state, the riotous and discontented never sought, as in modern societies, to overthrow, but to share. So every one, according to his position, aspired to a legal status, and the plan was to become nobles, not to destroy nobility, the Italian peoples to acquire part in the sovereignty of Rome, not to contest it; the Roman provinces to be declared allies and friends of Rome, not to regain their indepen-

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