

Lecture 6th

Lecture 6th

Continuation of the History of the
Seleucidae.

The long reign of Antiochus 3^d, the Great,
forms an epoch on account of the re-
lations into which Syria now comes with
Rome.

Molo and Alexander, two brothers, Satraps
of Media & Persia, revolt from Antiochus,
and engaged with them Hermias the Car-
nian; this insurrection threatened the king
with the loss of all the upper provinces, but
ended with the overthrow of Molo, against
whom Antiochus marched in person.

Achaens in Asia Minor rebels; but Antiochus
held it more important to execute his
early plan of driving the Ptolemies from their
possessions in Syria, but this was finally
frustrated by the battle at Raphia 217.
where he was defeated by Ptolemy Philopater.
After this defeat, Antiochus, in connection
with Attalus of Pergamus, conquered Achaens,
who shutting himself up in the fortress of

Sardes, fell into his hands by treachery. Arsaces the 3d. king of Parthia, seizes Media; this occasions a great military expedition of Antiochus into the upper provinces; He makes a compromise with Arsaces, by ceding to him Parthia and Hyrcania in form; and in return he received from Arsaces, promises of assistance against Bactria²¹⁰. But in 206, he makes peace with Bactria also, by the terms of which, the Bactrian king, Euthydemus, retains his crown and his lands. Antiochus, after this, accompanied by Demetrius of Bactria, goes into India; the dominion of the Seleucidae was re-established in inner Asia, except in the countries which were now formally resigned. In his return through Parachatus and Carmania, where he passed the winter, he also undertook a maritime expedition on the Persian Gulf, where Gerrha, which retained its freedom, appears as a pon-

-dering commercial city. After the death of Ptolemy Philopator he renews his plan against Egypt; and forms an alliance with Philip of Macedonia, who at that time made war in Asia. Antiochus made himself master of Coelosyria and Phenicia, (the possessions of the Ptolemies in Syria) but by that very means he first fell into disputes with Rome, which afterwards became of such decisive importance for himself, and his successors. Antiochus conquers the greatest part of Asia Minor, and the Thracian Chersonesus. Hannibal flies to him for refuge; this brings him into collision with Rome; Hannibal advises him to attack the Romans in their own territory; but contrary to his advice, he made preparations for a defence, & was attacked by them in Asia. He was defeated, and compelled to accept the conditions Rome dictated to him, & the power of the Syrian kingdom was broken forever. According to the conditions of the peace Antiochus was obliged 1st To evacuate the

whole of Asia Minor; 2^d. He paid 15000 talents to Rome, and 400 to Eumenes of Pergamus. 3^d. Hannibal & some others, were to be delivered up, and Antiochus, the king's younger son, to be given as a hostage. This peace was far less injurious to the Syrian king by the loss of territory, than by the use which the Romans made of it. For, they giving part of the lands thus ceded to the kings of Pergamus, thus created for their enemy a rival power, which could always be used according to pleasure against the Syrian kings. By stipulating, that the promised sum should be paid at different periods in twelve years, Rome provided for continuing to keep Syria for the present in a state of dependence.

Antiochus is murdered 187. B.C. The reign of his elder son Seleucus 4th Philopator, is peaceful from weakness. He exchanged his son for his brother in Rome.

He was succeeded by Antiochus 4th Epiphanes; Educated in Rome, he sought to unite Roman pompous manners with

Syrian luxury, and thus made himself universally hated and contemptible. 172 to 168. The war with Egypt is occasioned by the claims of Philopator to Coelosyria and Palestine; the pretence for war on the Egyptian side was, that those provinces had been promised by Antiochus the Great, as the dowry of Cleopatra, (sister of Antiochus and mother of Philometor) Antiochus Epiphanes on the contrary laid claim to the regency in Egypt as uncle to the young king who was however soon declared of age. Antiochus gains a victory at Pelusium; fortifies Pelusium, in order to render the future invasion of Egypt easy. Another victory, and he takes Egypt as far as Alexandria. Philometor, who had been driven from Alexandria, where his brother Physcon was placed on the throne, falls into the hands of Antiochus, who closes with him a peace, favorable to himself, and in

Antiochus promises him assistance against
Physcon. The siege of Alexandria follows
but without effect. After his retreat
Physcon closes for himself a separate
peace with his brother, according to
which both are to rule in common &
he is received in Alexandria. The
embittered Antiochus now declares
war against both brothers, who gain
assistance from Rome. Antiochus inva-
des Egypt again, but is obliged to
purchase peace by delivering up Cy-
prus and Pelusium.

Epiphanes wished to introduce the Greek
worship among the nations of his king-
dom. This occasioned the revolt of the
Jews under the Maccabees, and weaken-
ed a little the Syrian Kingdom.

Great commotions had arisen in Hyperbæ
in consequence of the introduction of the
Greek worship, Antiochus goes there, &
died on the journey to Babylon.

His son, Seleucus, the rightful heir to the throne,
was detained as a hostage at Rome, An-
tiochus 5th Eupator, son of Epiphanes,

a child of 9 years, succeeded. During this
short reign the empire of the Seleucidae
by the dissensions of his guardians, the
despotism of the Romans, the continuing
war with the Jews, and the new &
great conquests of the Parthians, became
an enfeebled kingdom.

Eupator is acknowledged in Rome, that
the guardianship may be assumed by the
Senate; The Parthian king, Mithridates
1st begins his great conquests at the
expense of the Syrian empire in Hyper-
bæ; Seleucus secretly escapes from
Rome, and gains possession of the throne
and causes Eupator to be executed. 161.
Seleucus 1st Soter. He succeeds in making
himself recognized by Rome, on which all
depended. He attempts to enlarge his
power by supporting Brotares, a preten-
der to the crown of Cappadocia, against
Antiochus. He drew upon himself the
hostility of the kings of Pergamum and E-
gypt; he made himself hated by his
own subjects for his riotous living.
Alexander Bala, a son of Epiphanes &

surged the throne; assisted by the Roman Senate which acknowledged him. The Syrian kingdom had then sunk so low, that both the king and the usurper had to court the assistance of the Jews under Jonathan, who till now had been treated as rebels. In the second battle Demetrius lost his life.

The usurper Alexander Balas endeavored to confirm his authority by marrying Cleopatra, the daughter of Ptolemy Philometor. He leaves the government to his favorite, Humonius. The eldest son of Demetrius succeeds in assembling a party against him; and excites Philometor to join his side, & give Cleopatra to him for his wife. He takes her from Balas; the consequence of this union with Egypt, was the expulsion and fall of Balas, altho' the battle cost Philometor his life. 145 B. C.

Demetrius L.icator. He embittered the hired troops of his father by dismissing them. The severity of his favorite Lasthenes occasions a revolt in Antioch, which it required the assistance of the Jews under Jonathan, their high priest and leader, to quell. A partisan of Balas, Prodomus, afterwards called Tryphon, excites an insurrection. He puts forward Antiochus, the son of Balas, and with the assistance of Jonathan, actually places him in Antioch, on the throne. He makes Jonathan his prisoner by treachery, murders Antiochus, and himself assumes the crown. Demetrius maintains himself in only a part of Syria; The Grecian colonists in upper Asia invite him to assist them against the Parthians; he does so, is made prisoner by the Parthians and remains 10 years in captivity, from 140 to 130 B. C.

To maintain herself against Tryphon, Cleopatra marries the younger & better brother, Antiochus Sida. He makes an alliance with the Jews, conquers and slays Tryphon, and afterwards subjects the Jews. As master of Syria he undertakes an expedition against the Parthians, is defeated, and loses his life. 131.

Semetrius in the mean time escaped from captivity; the Parthian king Phraates 2^d, sent Semetrius from his captivity to Syria, that he might force Antiochus Sida to retreat. He had given him his sister Rhodogune in marriage. When Antiochus was killed, Phraates would willingly have recalled Semetrius, but he escaped, and again took possession of the throne. He grew still more haughty than before, and took part in the dissensions of Egypt. Ptolemy,

Phycon, opposed to him a rival in Alexander Lebia, a pretended son of Alexander Bala, by whom he was defeated and lost his life 302. The following history of the Selencidae, is a picture of civil wars, family quarrels, and deeds of horror, to which a counterpart can hardly be found. The empire now extended no farther than to the Euphrates, as all Upper Asia obeyed the Parthians. And as the Jews too were entirely independent, it was limited to Syria proper, and Phenicia. The decline was so deep, that even the Romans seem for a long time not to have cared for it; partly because not much was to be gained there, partly because it seemed the safest course, to let the Selencidae mutually waste each other's strength, till finally, after terminating the last war with Mithridates the Great, the Romans were pre-

pleased formally to make of it a Roman province.

In 85 B. C. the Syrians, tired of bloodshed, finally did, what they should have done much sooner, committed the government to another king, Tigranes of Armenia. In 70 B. C. Antiochus Asiaticus, son of Antiochus Eusebes, possessed himself of some provinces of Syria, which however were taken from him by Pompey, and all Syria, made a Roman province in 64 B. C.

History of the Egyptian Kingdom under the Ptolemies 323 to 30 B. C.

Egypt under the Ptolemies became a powerful kingdom, and the chief seat of the commerce of the world, and of the sciences. But the history of Egypt is hardly more than the history of the new capital Alexandria;

Alexandria was, in its origin, a military colony; but there was soon a concourse of nations there, such as was to be seen in no other city of the world at that time. The inhabitants were divided into 3 classes; Egyptians, Alexandrians, (that is, foreigners of all kinds, who had established themselves there, of whom next to the Greeks, the Jews seem to have been the most numerous) and the mercenary troops, in the employment of the king.

Ptolemy 1st Soter, the son of Lagus, received Egypt on the first division after Alexander's death. He added Phoenicia, Judea, and Coelosyria to his possessions. which remain in possession of the Ptolemies, till wrested from them by Antiochus the Great 203 B. C.

Cyprus, like most of the other islands

remained in ~~possession~~ dependence on the power, possessing the dominion of the sea; and therefore, after the Ptolemies obtained that dominion, could not be taken from them. Ptolemy made himself master of Cyprus 313. In 307. Cyprus again fell into the hands of Antigonus and Demetrius. After the battle at Ipsus 301, it at first remained in the power of Demetrius, but as he went on an expedition against Macedonia, Ptolemy found an opportunity of taking it once more, 294 and from that time it remained with Egypt.

Within Africa, Ptolemy extended his territory by the conquest of Cyrene, by means of which the neighboring Libya, or the lands between Cyrene and Egypt, also came under his sway.

We have but an imperfect knowledge of the constitution of Egypt. The royal authority seems to have been unlimited, the foreign provinces were governed by regents, whom the kings appointed; The high offices of State, appear to have been filled exclusively by Macedonians or Grecians; Yet it is certain that the ancient national constitution and administration were not wholly discarded. The caste of priests remained with their religion, their influence was diminished, but not annihilated. Memphis, though not the usual residence of the kings, still continued the capital, where the coronation took place; and the temple of Phtha in that place was the principal temple. Egypt enjoyed a continued tranquillity during the 40 years reign of Ptolemy Ist, whilst the rest of the world, was desolated by perpetual

Storms. Ptolemy was a warrior, yet in a high degree cultivated; he had a taste for all the arts of peace, and promoted them with royal liberality. Alexandria is increased by colonists who are conducted there; especially Jews. A multitude of splendid buildings raised, especially the Serapeum.

Means are taken to promote commerce and navigation: A double harbor on the sea, and the Lake Marcotis. The Pharos is built. His love of the sciences distinguished him above his contemporaries. The establishment of the Museum was an idea, suggested by the wants of the age;

Ptolemy, 2^d Philadelphus, son of the 2^d wife of his father, Berenice, reigned jointly with his father from 206. His 30 yrs reign was still more tranquil than

that of his father, whose spirit settled on him, except that he was no warrior. Egypt became under him the first maritime power, and one of the first on land.

The commerce of Alexandria, had 3 principal branches. 1st The commerce by land through Asia and Africa.

2^d. The commerce on the Mediterranean Sea. 3^d The commerce on the Arabian Gulf and Indian Sea. The

maritime commerce by land, Alexandria was obliged to share, with several other cities and countries; partly, as a chief road which it took, led over the Orens and the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea; and partly the caravans, which came through

Syria, and Mesopotamia, were extended among the sea ports of Phœnicia and Asia Minor. The most important commerce was that to the southern countries or Ethiopia, of which the interior

was now penetrated; especially on account of the taking of elephants. The commerce on the Mediterranean was at that time divided by Alexandria, with Rhodes, Corinth, & Carthage. Of the manufactures, those of cotton, seem to have been the most remarkable.

The wars which were conducted by Ptolemy 2^d were limited to the war with Syria, and a war with his half brother Magas, in Cyrene. Fortunately for Egypt, Ptolemy was a weakly prince, and his health did not permit him to lead his armies.

Ptolemy 1st had given Cyrene to his then son Magas; his wife was Lysimache, the daughter of Antiochus the 1st. He revolted and induced Antiochus 1st to invade Egypt, which however was frustrated by Philadelphus. Magas ended this contest, by an at-

tempt to unite his daughter Berenice to the oldest son of Philadelphus. To prevent this Lysimache fled to her brother Antiochus 2^d. Magas died, and the induced Antiochus 2^d, to make war on Egypt; ^{which was ended 257}. Under Ptolemy reciprocal embassies laid the first foundation to the new relation to Rome, which was afterwards of such moment in Egyptian history. The embassy to Rome was occasioned by the victories of the Romans over Pyrrhus 273, and was returned 272 by another embassy from the Romans.

But the simplicity which had distinguished the private life of the father, was not inherited by the son; the destructive custom of marriages within the family, was introduced at court during his reign. Philadelphus repudiated Arsinoe, the daughter of Lysimachus, and then married his own sister whose name was Arsinoe; who, as long as she lived, exercised the greatest

influence over him.

Ptolemy 3^d Evergetes. from 246 to 221. Under him Egypt, from a commercial, became a conquering State. But notwithstanding his warlike propensities he too had the taste for the arts of peace, which belonged to the Ptolemies. His conquests extended partly to Asia, in the war with Seleucus 2^d, and to the boundaries of Bactria.

He engaged in a war with Seleucus Bal. linicus on account of the murder of his sister Berenice, by Laodice, the first wife of Seleucus. During this war all Syria was conquered to the Euphrates, and most of the countries on the coast of Asia Minor, from Cilicia to the Hellespont. It was a singular fortune which Egypt enjoyed of having had three great kings, whose reigns extended through

a whole century. If a change now ensued, it came but in the natural course of events. How could the luxury, which made its way into the city, that was the chief seat of the commerce of the world, and the place of deposit for the treasures of the richest countries, fail to subject the country to its influence?

Ptolemy 4th Philopator. A violent liver and a tyrant; he stood during the greater part of his reign, under the guardianship of the crafty Sosibius, one of his favorites after whose death he fell into the hands of the still more crafty Agathocles, and his sister Agathoclea. He was the contemporary of Antiochus the Great, who gained a victory over him at Raphia. He died in 204 B.C.

The guardianship of his son Ptolemy 5th Eusiphanes was at first assumed by Agathocles and his sister; the people were indignant at their sway &

murdered them. His guardianship was then committed to the younger Sosibius & Ptolemy; Antiochus the Great, and Philip of Macedonia, attack Egypt; this induces the Egyptians to look to Rome, and to commit the guardianship to the Senate, which had thus far carefully maintained a friendly relation with Egypt.

The regency during the minority was entrusted by the Romans to Aristomenes of Harnania. Philip became engaged in a war with the Romans, and thus Egypt was saved for the present from embarrassments; in 190 Antiochus the Great took from it its Syrian possessions, altho' he promised to give them back, at some future day, as a dowry to his daughter Cleopatra, as the bride of the young king of Egypt; which marriage was afterwards actually solemnized.

The hopes which had been excited by E-piphanes, as he grew up, were but poorly fulfilled. His guardian Aristomenes fell as a victim to his tyranny; & his severity excited rebellious even among the patient Egyptians, which, however, were quieted by his counsellors and general Polyerates. His reign falls in the period, when Rome took the power of Macedonia and Syria; and notwithstanding his near connection with Antiochus the Great, Rome was still able to hold him in dependence, but his extravagances brought him to the grave in his 20th year. 101 B.C.

From 101 to 145 B.C. Of his two sons he is first succeeded by the elder Ptolemy 6th Philometor; a boy of 5 years old, under the guardianship of his mother Cleopatra, who filled her office till 173 to the general satisfaction. She was the daughter of

But after her death, a war commenced with Antiochus Epiphanes, which was most disastrous for Egypt. Antiochus, after having gained a victory at Pelusium, and after Cyrenus had been betrayed to him, made himself master of Egypt to the chief city, an insurrection broke out in the capital; by which Philometor was driven away, and his younger brother Physcon was placed on the throne 170 B. C. The banished Philometor fell into the hands of Antiochus, who compelled him to a separate peace, on terms, very advantageous to himself; this peace however Philometor did not keep, but secretly formed an agreement with his brother, that they should reign jointly 169. As upon this Antiochus invaded Egypt again, the two kings sought help of the Achaeans, and Romans, who by an embassy commanded Antiochus to evacuate Egypt, which was done 168. In the contest which now arose between

the two brothers, Physcon is expelled and driven to Rome; the Romans made a division of the kingdom between the two; the disputes continue till Physcon is made captive by Philometor. In the 1st division Philometor received Egypt & Cyrenus, and Physcon, Cyrene and Lybia. But Physcon was able by his presence in Rome, to get Cyrenus assigned to him, which however, Philometor refused to give up. Supported by Rome, Physcon, carried on a war against his brother; & in 159 fell into his hands; Philometor forgave him, and permitted him to retain Cyrene & Lybia; — During the last period of his reign the Syrian affairs occupied Philometor almost exclusively; he supported Alexander Bala against Demetrius, and even gave him his daughter Cleopatra. Yet he afterwards joined the side of the younger Demetrius, took his daughter from Balas, and gave her to him, and placed him on the throne. But in the battle which ruined Balas he was mortally wounded 145 B. C.

1145 to 117. Ptolemy, the now king of Cy-
rene, got possession of the throne by
marrying the widow of his brother, Cleo-
patra; he murdered her son, and afterwards
repudiated her, for her daughter, the youn-
ger Cleopatra. He was such a tyrant
that he soon changed the city Alexandria
into a desolated place; he was compelled
to fly to Cyprus, while the Alexandrians
raise the repudiated Cleopatra to the
throne; he afterwards regained its possession
and preserved it till death. 116. B.C.
From 116 to P. B. C. He left two sons by
the younger Cleopatra; the Alexandrians
compelled her to raise to the throne the
elder, Ptolemy 9th Lathurus; he gave
Cyprus to the younger, her favorite Pto-
lemy Alexander 1st. But he afterwards
compelled Lathurus to exchange Egypt
for Cyprus, and gave the former to Ptolemy
Alexander. But he too was not able to bear
with her tyranny; and she was planning to take
away her life, he murdered her; he was then
compelled to become a fugitive, & after a vain
attempt to recover the throne, lost his life.

The Alexandrians raised Lathurus to the throne
and he reigned till P. B. C. - Lathurus left
a legitimate daughter Berenice, & two
illegitimate sons, Ptolemy of Cyprus,
and Ptolemy Auletes. Besides these there
was a son of Ptolemy Alexander, of
the same name, who at that time was
in Rome with Sylla. The immediate fol-
lowing history full of obscurities. The 1st
successor of Lathurus in Egypt, was
his daughter Berenice P. But in 6
months, Sylla sent Alexander 2^d to Cy-
prus, who married Berenice, and with
her ascended the throne. at the end of
19 days he murdered her; one of the ille-
gitimate sons of Lathurus, Ptolemy,
had obtained Cyprus, which was however
taken from him 5th, and made a Ro-
man province; and the other Ptolemy
Auletes was probably the cause, of
the expulsion of Alexander, after whose
death he came to the throne. In 5th
there was an insurrection in Alexandria
in consequence of which, Auletes fled
& went to Rome. Pompey attempted to

reinstate him, but is defeated by Cato
56. B. C. Meantime the Alexandrians
placed his eldest daughter Berenice on
the throne; Ptolemy was restored, &
Berenice executed 54. Ptolemy An-
letes died 51. B. C.

From 51. to 31. He endeavoured by a
will to secure the kingdom to his chil-
dren; intending that Ptolemy Dionysius
who was 13 years old, and Cleopatra
who was 17, should marry each other;
and naming him his successor under
the guardianship of the Romans; &
commending the two younger, Ptolemy Cleo-
patra and Arsinoe to the Roman senate.
Contests between Cleopatra & her twi-
n-sister; she is expelled, flies to Syria, &
enlists troops; Caesar, after conquering
Pompey, pursues him, & comes to Alex-
andria; in the name of Rome, he appears
as arbitrator between the two, but
allows himself to be won by the cun-
ning of Cleopatra 48. B. C. A great
insurrection in Alexandria ensued, &

Caesar is besieged in Banchium. Caesar
was victorious and Ptolemy Dionysius
lost his life in the war, the crown re-
mained with Cleopatra, on condition
that she should marry her younger
brother, of whom however, as soon as
he grew up, and had been crowned at
Memphis, she freed herself by poison
44 B. C.

As long as Caesar lived, Cleopatra
stood under his protection, and con-
sequently in dependance on him. She
and her brother was obliged to visit him
even in Rome. But after he was put
to death, she embraced the party of the
triumvirs; and after the death of her
brother, prevailed on them to acknow-
ledge as king, her son, Ptolemy Caesarion.
But the deep passion which Antony
conceived for her, chained her to his fate,
under which, she too met her ruin. 31.
The chronology of the 10 years which
Cleopatra passed chiefly with Antony

is not without its difficulties; Being called before his tribunal, because some of her generals were charged with having assisted Cassius, she appears before him in Tarsus, in the attire of a Venus. 41, on which he follows her to Egypt. In the year 40 Antony returns to Italy, and there for political reasons marries Octavia, while Cleopatra remains in Egypt. In 37 she traveled to him to Syria, where he prepared for a war against the Parthians; he gave her Phenicia, Byrene & Cyprus, and in 36 she returned to Alexandria, while this campaign was going on. After the campaign Antony went to Egypt again, & remained at Alexandria. In 34 he attacked Armenia, and on the capture of the King, entered Alexandria in triumph. and gave to Cleopatra, or the three children whom he had by her, the countries of Asia, which were in part con-

quered, in part to be conquered, from the Mediterranean to the Indus. When he wished to attack the Parthians again, Cleopatra brought about a formal rupture with Octavia, who wished to bring him military supplies 33. War between him & Octavius was now unavoidable; the expedition begun against Parthia was given up; Antony repudiated Octavia, and Cleopatra accompanied Antony to Samos. After this Cleopatra followed him in his campaign against Octavius, which was decided at the battle of Actium 31 B. C. Octavius pushed them to Egypt; besieged Alexandria, which surrendered; Antony took his own life, and Cleopatra, to prevent her being conducted as a captive to Rome, in like manner put herself to death. Even in this last period Egypt appears as the seat of immense wealth and boundless luxury: the miserable series

of princes, who had held the throne since
the 3^d Ptolemy, seem not to have red-
uced its prosperous condition. But this
is easily explained, when we consider, that
the political revolutions usually affected
only the capital, and an almost conti-
nual peace prevailed in the country;
that it was the only great commercial
country; and that its commerce would
not but necessarily increase in the
same degree, as extravagance increased
in Rome, and the Roman empire. This
is shown by the condition of Egypt as
a Roman province; for the commerce
of Alexandria, far from declining in this
period, afterwards increased in an ex-
traordinary degree.