

## Lecture 16<sup>th</sup>

In the Eastern Empire after its final separation from the west, in the time of Theodosius 395. A. C. there were transactions which deserve our notice. Theodosius, as we have seen, assigned the East to his son Arcadius. This prince was then 10 years of age, and he proved both weak and dissolute. He suffered himself to be governed by favorites, and by Eudoxia, his empress, who made it her great object to plunder the revenues of the State.

Theodosius 2<sup>d</sup> son of Arcadius, succeeded to the empire 408. A. C.

He was a prince of mild disposition and piety of conduct, but otherwise destitute of those qualities that are essential to a sovereign. But his deficiencies were supplied by the genius and address of his



address of his sister Pulcheria, who aided in the government. Pulcheria sought to strengthen her influence & power, by securing for her brother a companion in marriage, who would ever be grateful to her benefactors. The person on whom her choice fell was the beautiful and learned Athenais, the daughter of an Athenian philosopher, who had taken the greatest care of her education. In 431, she embraced Christianity, and was baptised by the name of Eudocia, and the same year was united to the Emperor in marriage. Theodosius became displeased with her finally on a false accusation she retired to Jerusalem, where she died 460. 10 yrs after the death of the Emperor.

Upon the death of Theodosius, 450, Pulcheria, called to the throne, married a native of Thrace, and gave him her hand in marriage.

He reigned 7 years.

On the death of Marcian, 457. Leo 1<sup>st</sup> also a native of Thrace was called to the empire. He reigned till nearly the destruction of the western Empire. During the latter part of his reign, his dominions were much ravaged by the Goths. He died 474 A. C.

The period of the Justinian Code and the wars of Belisarius; extending from the extinction of the western Empire, 476, to the flight of Mahomet 622. A. C. The dark ages commenced with this period; the human intellect, & the state of society, had, for some time previous, been retrograde; but upon the conquest of the western Empire by the barbarians the darkness became more especially obvious, and we shall



find it prevailing over the nations;  
nearly 1000 years.

The Eastern Empire of the Romans  
sometimes called the Greek Empire,  
and the Empire of Constantinople,  
was at this time 474 under the  
sway of Zeno, son in law to Leo.  
Leo 2<sup>d</sup> son of Zeno, and grandson to  
Leo 1<sup>st</sup> was designed for the empire;  
but being of tender age when his  
grandfather died, Zeno, was made  
regent. But the death of the  
child, the same year left Zeno in  
possession of the throne. He was  
buried alive, by his wife Ariadne,  
during an epileptic fit. When the  
sepulchre was opened a few days  
after, it was found that Zeno  
had devoured the flesh from his  
arms. He was a wicked prince.

Anastasius, an officer of the palace,  
married the widow of Zeno, and was  
gave him

raised to the throne 491. A. D. He  
reigned about 27 years.

After the death of Anastasius, Jus-  
tin 1<sup>st</sup> the Thracian ascended the  
throne. He governed with great  
prudence; he was the son of a  
ploughman, and rose by his ta-  
lents to the first military digni-  
ties before he was chosen emperor.  
He was so illiterate, as to be unable  
to write his own name, and he knew  
respect, only by the good sense he  
manifested in the choice of his  
counsellors. In 526, he sent the  
celebrated Belisarius, against the  
Persians; he died however before the  
conclusion of the war, having reigned  
about 9 years.

Justinian 1<sup>st</sup> nephew of Justin, succe-  
ded to the empire 527. A. D. His  
personal character was far from im-  
pining respect; but his reign was suc-



-cessful, and he was extremely fortunate in his generals & counselors. The exploits of his generals, and the introduction of the code of laws, that goes by his name, of which the learned Trebomian was the author, form an era in History. Towards the brave and noble Belisarius, the warrior who at first fought his battles, the emperor was ungrateful in the extreme. There were two factions at Constantinople, which were distinguished by a diversity of color. The support of one or other of these, became necessary to every candidate for civil or ecclesiastical honors. The greens were attached to the family or sect of Anastasius; the blues were devoted to orthodoxy & Justinian. The latter, were favored by the emperor during five years, though

their tumults endangered equally his own safety, and the peace of the city. Belisarius by his arms & his policy, preserved his master on the throne, when his expulsion from it was likely to be effected, by the civil factions which raged at Constantinople. He also destroyed the kingdom of the Vandals in Africa, and recovered that province to the empire. He was recalled by the jealousy of Justinian. He also wrested Italy from its Gothic sovereign, and restored it for a short time to the authority of its ancient masters. The Gothic forces, were obliged to retire before the Roman army upon its landing in Sicily and Italy, and long before Belisarius reached Rome the Gothic king had abandoned it, with a view however, to wrest the city from the hands of Belisarius.



at some future time. In the course of a few months, Vitiges, the Gothic king, advanced towards Rome, at the head of 100,000 warriors. The army of Belisarius, defended Rome during a long siege; and being reinforced from the East, obliged the Gothic king to retire, first to Ravenna and at last to surrender all the towns and villages in Italy. Belisarius was again demanded to Constantinople by the jealousy of Justinian. Necessity again compelled the emperor to appoint Belisarius to the command of Italy, inasmuch as it had been nearly overrun, during this interval by the brave & virtuous Totila. No sooner however, had he a prospect of driving the Gothic king from Italy, than he was called off by the

jealousy of Justinian, to some less important warfare, which was intended as a disgrace to him. His declining years were passed in Constantinople, and the unnatural suspicions of the Emperor followed him to the grave. He was superseded in the command of the army in Italy, by Narses, who was able in council, and successful in war. He completed the conquest of Italy, defeated Totila in a decisive engagement, in which the Gothic king was slain. He governed Italy with ability for 13 years. Justinian died in his 83<sup>d</sup> year. He would be but little thought of by mankind, were it not for those illustrious men who fought his battles, and presided in his councils. He had the sagacity to per-



ceive their merits, & happy would it have been, had he possessed the magnanimity to reward them. His vices were meanness, vanity, caprice and tyranny; his virtues were chastity, temperance, vigilance & studiousness. Imposing as was his reign, he lived in a miserable age; the history of the empire is hence forth made up more than ever, of disasters, miseries, and crimes.

Upon the death of Justinian, 565, his nephew Justin 2<sup>d</sup>. ascended the throne. He was a man of weak intellect, and was governed by his consort Sophia; but his intentions appear to have been good. The troubles & calamities of his family and the empire, threw him into an incurable frenzy. In consequence

of this event, Tiberius, his son in law was associated in the empire. Soon after his elevation the Lombards established themselves in Italy. In his reign Italy was lost again to the empire, Africa was desolated, and the East ravaged by the Persians.

Tiberius, who assumed the name of Constantine, became sole possessor of the throne in 578. His reign was short, but it was rendered glorious by his defeat of the Persians. He was accounted a just, humane, temperate, & brave prince.

He bestowed his diadem on his son in law Maurice, a native of Cappadocia, who ascended the throne 582. He reigned 20 years in almost continual turbulence; he was not destitute of sense and courage. In 602 he obliged his army to



to take up their winter quarters beyond the Danube, upon which a revolt ensued, and Phocas, being proclaimed emperor, advanced to Constantinople. Maurice and his children were cruelly slain. Phocas seated himself on the throne 602. His character was despicable. Heraclius, governor of Africa, sent his son against him with a fleet; the emperor forsaken by his people, was beheaded, and his body was treated with the greatest indignity. Phocas had exercised the greatest cruelty towards the family of his predecessor. He finally caused the innocent empress, Constantina, and her three daughters, to be executed on the same spot, where her husband and sons had suffered, three years before.

Heraclius 1<sup>st</sup> was crowned in 610. His reign extended several years into the next succeeding period. The Persians ravaged his empire, but he defeated them in six successive campaigns, and brought them to a peace. He reigned more than 30 years. During the last part of his reign, the foundation was laid of the Caliphate of the Saracens, under the impostor Mahomet, whose history will claim our attention at the beginning of the next period.

#### Kingdom of Italy.

The kingdom which was established on the ruins of the western Empire of the Romans, is sometimes called the kingdom of Italy. That country was held and governed, for the most part, by its northern conquerors.



word, through the space of nearly 300 years. During this time, however, there were several transfers of the sovereignty, from one of the barbarous tribes to another. The Heruli, who conquered the country, in 476, held it till 493. It then passed from their hands, into the possession of the Goths, or Ostrogoths, who held it till the year 590, when the Lombards seized and conquered the country. They were masters of a great portion of it, a little more than two centuries.

The kingdom of the Heruli, in Italy, was of short continuance; Odoacer, their king reigned 13 years without opposition; In the year 489. Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths, or Eastern Goths, twice overcame Odo-

acer in battle, but, being betrayed by one of his general officers, he retired to Pavia, where he was besieged by Odoacer. Theodoric called in the assistance of the Visigoths and gained a third victory in 490. Odoacer, shut himself up in Ravenna, and defended the place for three years. He was at last forced into a treaty with Theodoric, and obtained a stipulation that his life should be spared. Theodoric, however, perfidiously caused him to be assassinated. 493.

The kingdom of the Ostrogoths, began 493. Theodoric, their king, was now acknowledged the sovereign of the country, and fixed his residence at Ravenna. Theodoric, at the age of 6 years had been



given as a hostage to Leo 1<sup>st</sup> and remained 13 years at Constanti-  
nople. He succeeded his father  
in Pannonia in 475. He was an  
Arian in principle, but protected  
the Catholics. He reigned about  
33 years. His administration of  
government, showed him to be  
an able prince, but the latter  
part of his reign was tarnished  
by cruelty and suspicion. He  
put to death the celebrated  
Boethius.

The successors of Theodoric in the  
kingdom of Italy, were 7 in num-  
ber. It was during the reign of  
several of these monarchs, that  
the invasion and conquest of  
Italy by Belisarius & Narses  
occurred. The best known of the  
Gothic kings of this country are

Theodatus, Vitiges, and Totila. Af-  
ter the death of Theias, the  
last of them, the Goths endea-  
voured, to re-establish their  
dominions, but were subdued  
by Narses, who administered  
the government as duke, until  
567. A. D.

The kingdom of the Lombards  
followed. In 568, Alboin, king  
of this people, was invited into  
Italy by Narses, to avenge the  
affront he had received from  
the emperor Justin 2<sup>d</sup> in his  
recall. Alboin penetrated into  
Italy, and was proclaimed king.  
He reigned but a short time;  
having killed Cunimund, king of  
the Gepidae (or Goiterers) in a  
single combat, he married Rosa-  
mond, that king's beautiful



daughter, and making a drinking  
cup of her father's skull, obliged  
her to drink of it; the disturbed  
her indignant feelings, but in  
revenge caused the king to be  
assassinated, by two officers,  
whom she introduced into his  
chamber while he slept.

There were 4 kings the successors  
of Alboin, none of whom were  
distinguished. An anarchy of  
10 years, took place after the  
death of one of the kings, during  
which Italy was governed by  
30 dukes.

Autharis, one of the kings, con-  
firmed the dukes, in their au-  
thority, on condition of their  
paying him half their revenues,  
and serving under his command  
in times of war, with troops

levied within their respective  
jurisdictions. This is considered  
by some as the origin of the fe-  
dal system.

### Spain.

Spain, while constituting a portion  
of the Roman Empire, was in-  
vaded by the Suevi, the Alains,  
and the Vandals in 406. Ex-  
pelling the Romans, they divided  
the country, a part of which,  
Vandalasia, or Andalusia. The  
latter bears the name of one of these  
tribes.

The Alains in 418, were mostly  
exterminated by the Ostrogoths.  
The Suevi remained in the posses-  
sion of the country, under a suc-  
cession of their kings, till 505.  
The Vandals, had early, in 427,  
passed into Africa, and settled there



upon the invitation of Count Boniface.

The Visigoths who entered Spain in 531 conquered the greater part of the country by 506, and erected a monarchy which existed till 712 when they were subdued by the Saracens, or Moors.

Spain was anciently called Hesperia or western; it was also called Iberia, from the river Iber, now the Ebro. The name Hispania or Spain, is said to be derived from a Phœnician word, which signifies abounding in rabbits, these animals being very numerous in Spain.

Its original inhabitants were Celts, of the same race with those of France.

France.

France, anciently called Gaul, immediately previous to the dissolution of the Western Empire, was divided between the Romans, Visigoths, Franks, and Burgundians. A few years after that event, 501 Clovis, king of the Franks, obtained by degrees possession of the country; from this people ancient Gaul obtained the name of France. The kings who have reigned in France seem to be divided into 4 dynasties - the Merovingian, the Carlovingian, the Capetian, and the Bourbon. The Merovingian, derived its name from Merovæus, the grandfather of Clovis, who reigned over that portion of the Franks, who had obtained in a former age



a settlement in the country. The Merovingian dynasty continued till 752.

The Franks were supposed to have been of German origin, and to have inhabited the country between the Rhine and the Weser, which now forms part of Holland and Westphalia. Some believe them to have consisted of a mixed multitude of various tribes, living beyond the Rhine, who when Germany was invaded by the Romans, united in defence of their common liberty, and styled themselves Franks, that is, free men. Of the clans into which they were divided, the Salii, and Ruarvii, were the most considerable.

Clovis made many conquests

first over the Romans in the battle of Soissons; then over the king of Thuringia who had invaded his dominions; over the Germans in the battle of Tolbiac, and finally over the Visigoths under Alaric, when he subdued all the south of Gaul. In his contest with the Germans 496 he invoked the god of Clotilda a Christian princess, whom he had murdered three years before; in consequence of his victory, he became professedly a believer, and with three thousand of his subjects, was baptised on Christmas day, the same year. But Christianity had little influence over him. Clovis made Paris the seat of his kingdom.



Clovis was followed by a series of obscure kings, who were in general weak and wicked; & plunged the nation into deeper barbarism than it was during the Roman dominion.

### England.

England, whose ancient name was Britain, had been abandoned by the Romans 50 years, when the Empire of the West, was subverted. In the mean time, the inhabitants suffered from the encroachments of their northern neighbors, the Picts & Scots, and in their distress solicited several of the warlike tribes of the continent to assist them. The Jutes first arrived for that purpose; they were soon followed by the Angles and Saxons, in

451, from the shores of the Baltic. The enemies of the Britons, were repulsed, but they found a more formidable enemy in their protectors themselves.

The Saxons, procured large reinforcements from Germany, turned their arms against the Britons and took possession of the country. 150 years elapsed before the conquest was achieved; the result was the establishment of 7 distinct states, or sovereignties, which were governed more than 200 years, by their respective kings. These states are usually called the Saxon Heptarchy.

The name England was given to the country was from the Angles. The island was originally settled



in all probability, by a colony from Gaul, who were called Picti or Gaels, the remains of whom are chiefly in Wales, in the highlands of Scotland, and in the north of Ireland.

The first Roman invasion was by Julius Caesar. 55. B. C.

Forty three years after Christ it was again invaded by the emperor Claudius, whose general, Aulus Plautius, defeated Caratacus, King of the Britons, and sent him to Rome in 51.

In the reign of Nero 61. A. D. Suetonius defeated Boadicea, Queen of the Iceni, (inhabitants of Norfolk and Suffolk) and slew 80,000 men in a single battle. Boadicea committed suicide rather

than fall in the hands of the conqueror.

Agricola, who governed Britain in the reigns of Titus, Vespasian, and Domitian, penetrated into Caledonia, and established a chain of forts between the firths of Clyde & Forth.

To protect the southern inhabitants against the Scots, Hadrian, in 121 built a wall in the north part of Britain, between the river Tyne, and the Firth of Solway. This was afterwards strengthened with new fortifications, by Severus in 208. From this period, till the abandonment of Britain by the Romans, 426, the inhabitants enjoyed uninterrupted tranquillity.

The Romanised Britons when left



by their matters were thrown into a defenceless state. It was then one of their kings who invited the German tribes to his protection. Hengist & Horsa, two brothers were their leaders on this occasion, and with only 1600 warriors, in conjunction with the South Britons, they compelled the Scots to retire to their mountains. In 827 Egbert the Great, became sole king of England; in 597 the Saxons had been converted to Christianity by the labors of the monk Augustin.

### Lecture 17<sup>th</sup>

Period from the establishment of the Saracen Dominion; extending from the flight of Mahomet 622 years A. C. to the crowning of

### Charlemagne at Rome 800 A. C. Arabs or Saracens

The Arabs derive their origin from Ishmael, and before the time of Mahomet, they professed a religion which was a mixture of idolatry and Judaism.

The name Saracen, is derived from a tribe that occupied the north western part of the country. Mecca, on the Red Sea, in 569, gave birth to Mahomet, their pretended prophet. In 609, when about 40 years old, he began to concert the establishment of a new religion in the world, which still remains. His impostures were not at first well received. The citizens of Mecca opposed him. He then fled to Medina, at the epoch called by the Mahometans, the hejira, or flight,



which was in the year 622, and  
in the 54<sup>th</sup> of his age. By the aid  
of his disciples at Medina, he re-  
turned to Mecca, as a conqueror,  
made numerous proselytes, &  
soon became master of Arabia  
and Syria; was saluted King  
in 627 and died suddenly in  
632. He left two branches of  
his family, who became powerful  
Caliphs of Persia & Egypt.

Amongst his followers were Amro,  
who afterwards conquered Egypt,  
Saad, who overran Persia, Obeidah,  
who subdued Syria & Palestine, &  
the celebrated Kaled Eben al  
Walid.

In the same year that Mahomet  
left Mecca, a war took place,  
between the Eastern Empire &  
Persia, as has been mentioned.

Heraclius, the emperor, penetrated  
to the heart of the Persian dominion,  
almost destroying that power, & great-  
ly weakening his own.

The followers of Mahomet, term  
their religion, Islam, and themselves  
Musselmen, or Moslems—true belie-  
vers. The book containing their  
creed, which he professed to have  
derived from the Angel Gabriel, is  
called the Koran. Their priests  
are called moolahs, or imams.

The successors of Mahomet, were  
called Caliphs, a word which  
means successors or vicars. The  
1<sup>st</sup> Caliph was Abu-beker. The  
father of one of the wives of Ma-  
homet. It is said that the impertin-  
ence on his death-bed, appointed Ali,  
his son in law, as his successor,  
but the influence of Abu-beker



with the army was such, that, he by  
this means secured the caliphate.  
Thus, the foundation was laid for  
a mighty contention, which, at this  
distant period, weakens the power  
of Mahometanism, and may  
eventually terminate its existence.  
The sects are two, and the ground  
of dispute, is the right of succession  
to Mahomet. Their names are Sheas,  
or Shiites, and the Sunnites. The  
Sheas, who believe in Ali, as the true  
Successor, are chiefly Persians. The  
Sunnites, who believe in Abu-beker,  
consist of the inhabitants of East  
Persia, Arabia, Turkey &c. The Sun-  
nites receive the Koran only, the  
Sheas adopt the traditions also.