

Commencement of
Lecture 13th

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Fourth Period. History of the Roman State, as a Monarchy, till its fall in the West. 30. B.C. to 476. R. G.

The usual boundaries of the Roman Empire, although it was sometimes for a season extended beyond them, were in this period in Europe the two great rivers, the Rhine & the Danube, in Asia, the Euphrates, & the Syrian Desert; in Africa likewise the Sandy Region. Thus it included the finest countries of the three continents round the Mediterranean Sea.

European Countries. 1st Spain; (Hispania) Boundaries. Rivers. the Minius; (Minho) Sarinus; (Duro); Tagus, (Tago); Anas, (Gadriana); Baetis, (Guadalquivir) all which go into the Atlantic; the Iberus (Ebro) which falls into the Mediterranean. Mountains; Pyrenees, the chain of Idubæda along the Iberus, Prospeda, (Sierra Morana) Divided into three provinces; 1st Lusitania; Chief nations; Lusitani, Turdetani; Chief place; Augusta Emerita;

2^d Baetica; Chief nations; Turduli, Bastuli; Chief places, Corduba (Cordua) Gades (Cadiz) Iunda.

3^d Tarraconensis, all the rest of Spain. Chief nations; Callaeci, Astures, Cantabri, Vascones, Celtiberi, Carpetani, Ilergetes, Indigetes, Cosetani... Chief places; Tarraco (Tarragona), Castago nova (Cartagena), Toletum (Toledo); Ilerda (Lerida); Saguntum & Imanthia had already been destroyed. To Spain were counted the Balearian islands, Majorca & Minorca.

Gallia Transalpina. Chief rivers; Garumna (Garonne); Liger, (Loire); Segnana (Seine); Scaldis, (Scheldt); which go into the ocean; the Rhodanus (Rhone) which received the Arar (the Saone) and goes to the Mediterranean. the Mosella (Moselle) and Mosa (Maas) which flow into the Rhine. Mountains. Alpes, Mount Jura, Vosagus, Cebenna (the Cevennes).

Divided into four provinces.

1st Gallia harbonensis or Braccata. Chief nations; Allobroges, Volcae, Talyes, Chief places; Narbo (Narbonne); Tolosa (Toulouse); Remanus, (Rismes); Mastilia, (Marseilles); Vienna (Vienne);

2^d Gallia Lugdunensis or Beltica. Chief nations; Aedui, Lingones, Parisii, Cenomani, all of Celtic origin.

Chief places; Lugdunum, (Lyons); Lutetia Parisiorum, (Paris); Alesia, (Alise);

3^d Gallia Aquitania. Chief nations; Aquitani, of the Iberian race; Pictones, Averni, of Celtic origin;

Chief places; Pimberis, Burdegalia, (Bordeaux)

4th Gallia Belgica; its originally included the Rhine lands, and Helvetia; yet afterwards they were divided from it, under the name of Germania inferior and superior; Chief nations; Nervii, Bellovaci, in the north, of Belgian origin; Trevirii & others, of German; Segunni, Helvetii, in the interior, of Celtic origin;

Chief places; Vesentio (Besançon); Verdunum (Verdun); along the Rhine, in Germania inferior; Colonia Agrippina (Cologne); in Germania Superior; Moguntiacum, (Mentz) Argentoratum (Strassburg).

Gallia Cisalpina; as the inhabitants under Caesar received the full rights of Roman citizenship, it was now considered as a part of Italy.

Sicilia; divided into Syracuse & Lilybaeum.

Sardinia & Corfica.

The Insulae Britannicae; of these only England, and a part of southern Scotland under the name of Britannia Romana became a province from the time of Nero; Chief rivers; Tamesis (Thames) Labrina, (Severn); Chief places; Eboracum, (York); Londonium (London); Into Scotland, Britannia Barbara, or Palemonia, the Romans often penetrated, but never conquered it entirely; Hibernia, (Ireland) was visited by Roman merchants

but not by Roman legions.

The lands on the South Bank of the Danube, which were subjected under Augustus, and divided into the following provinces;

Indelicia. Chief places; Augusta Vin-
-delicorum (Rugsburg); Briantium (Bregenz);

2^d. Rhaetia; Chief places; Curia (Chur); Velvidera (Witten); Tridentum (Trent);

3^d. Noricum; Mount Cetius, (The Ka-
-lenberg); Cities Invarium (Salzburg); Bojodorum (Passau);

4th Pannonia Superior; Cities Vindobona (Vienna) Caruntum.

5th Pannonia inferior; Cities Tan-
-num (Belgrade); Mursa (Essek)
Trimium.

6th Moesia Superior. River Cetius (Ischia); Cities, Sigidunum (Seme-
lin); Naissus (Nissa);

Moesia inferior; Cities; Adrestus, Tomi;

Illyricum. In the wider sense this name comprised all the countries south of the Danube, from Rhaetia together with Dalmatia; but Illyricum proper embraces only the coast of the Adriatic, from Istria, in Italy, to the river Drinus, and east to the Savus.

Macedonia. Rivers. Nestus, Strymon, Haliacmon which flow into the Egean, and Apus Mons which empty into the Adriatic.

Thracia at first had kings of its own though dependent. It was not made a province till the time of Claudius. Archaea, Greece.

On the north of the Danube, Dacia was reduced by Trajan to a Roman province.

Asiatic provinces; Asia Minor contained these provinces; 1. Asia, 2. Bithynia with Paphlagonia, and a part of Pontus; 3. Cilicia with Pisidia.

Syria with Phenicia.

The island of Cyprus.

There were still kings, though dependent ones in India, it became a Roman province, 44 B.C. Commagene, a province B.C. 70, and like India made a part of Syria; Cappadocia a province 17. B.C. Pontus, entirely a province under Nero. As free states there were still Rhodes & Samos; became provinces 70. B.C.; Lycia, a province in 43. B.C. Beyond the Euphrates, Armenia & Mesopotamia were made provinces by Trajan, but given up again by Hadrian.

African Provinces. 1. Egypt; 2. Cyrenaica; 3. Africa; Numidia; Mauritania still had a king of its own, but in 42 was formally taken & divided into two provinces. Mauritania Caesariensis; Mauritania Tingitana.

Principal neighbouring lands; 1. Germania. Chief rivers; Danubius (Danube); Rhemus (Rhine); Elbis (Elbe); Visurgis (Weser);

Diadum (Boer). The Hercynian forest
a general name for the mountain fo-
rests especially of eastern Germany.
Mehibocus (The Harz); Sudetus, (the
forest of Thuringia); a general politi-
cal division in ancient Germany can
as little be sought for, as cities; nothing
beyond the places of residence of the
chief tribes can be designated. Yet
it must be observed, 1st that these
nations, especially since the 2^d cen-
tury, often changed their residence by
migrating; 2^d. that the names of the
chief tribes are often appellations of
alliances of tribes. The chief tribes in
the age of Augustus were in northern
Germany; the Batavi in Holland; the
Frisii in Frisia; the Bructeri
in Westphalia; the smaller & larger
Chanci in the territory of Oldenburg
& Bremen; the Cherusci, likewise the
name of a confederacy in Brunswick;
the Catii in Hesse. In southern (mid-
dle) Germany; the Hermunduri in

Transconia; the Marcomanni in Bohemia;
the Almanni, not the name of a single
tribe, but of a confederacy, are not re-
corded till the third century; in the age
of Augustus, they as well as the nations
of eastern Germany generally, which
only gradually became known, were
included under the general name of
Suevi.

The northern countries of Europe were con-
sidered as islands in the German ocean;
and therefore as belonging to Germany;
Scandinavia (Sweden) Thengoa, (Norway)
Finningia (Finland). The northernmost
island was called Thule.

Northern Europe from the Vistula to
the Tanais (Don) was comprised under
the general name of Sarmatia; but
except the lands on the Danube, were
but partially known by the commerce
with the coasts of the Baltic for am-
ber.

In Asia the Roman Empire was bounded
by Armenia major, the Parthian king-

-dom, from the Euphrates to the Indus,
and the peninsula Arabia.

Eastern Asia, or India, became known
to the Romans by commercial connec-
-tions, which were formed with it after
the conquest of Egypt.

First Section,

From Caesar Augustus to the death
of Commodus 30 B. C. to 193. A. D.

For 44 the sole rule of the state was
in the hands of Octavius Caesar, being
expressly committed to him by the Senate,
with the name Augustus, which his suc-
-cessors also bore. In this period, notwith-
-standing the great changes by which the
former republic was transformed into
a monarchy, the government was as
little despotic in reality as in form. The
interests of Augustus required the great-
-est possible preservation of the republi-
-can forms, and his subsequent history
sufficiently shows, that the cruelty,
with which he had been charged at an
earlier period, lay more in the circum-
-stances of the times than in his dispo-

sition. Under an administration so long,
so tranquil, and so successful, the repub-
-lican spirit, which at its beginning lived
only in individuals, could not but of it-
-self vanish away.

The Senate it is true, remained the coun-
-cil of state, but the relation between
it & Augustus was unsettled, and it remain-
undecided whether the Senate was su-
-bordinate to Augustus, or Augustus to
the Senate. Every public concern could not
be brought before the Senate, especially
the most important, as they often re-
-quired secrecy; and it was natural for
a prince, who had no other court, to
consult with his confidential friends,
a Maecenas, an Agrippa, and others.
The introduction of standing armies, had
been rendered necessary, by the newly con-
-quered provinces, if they were to be main-
-tained, and the frontiers protected. The
tranquillity of Rome was preserved by
20,000 soldiers, who under the titles
of alic's cohorts, & praetorian guards,
watched over the safety of the monarch

and capital. The legions were divided among the provinces. Fleets were stationed at Misenum and Ravenna.

Augustus divided the administration and the revenues of the provinces with the Senate. He reserved to himself chiefly the provinces on the confines of the empire, and left the rest to the Senate. Therefore his governors, subordinate generals, managed alike civil & military concerns in his name; while those of the Senate, had only civil authority.

The fate of the provinces naturally depended in a great measure, on the character of the emperor, and the governors. But in those appropriated by the Senate, there was no military oppression; & hence is to be explained the prosperity of Gaul, Spain & Africa.

The additions to the Roman territory under Augustus, were of great importance. In 25, he entirely subdued northern Spain, & western Gaul; In 15, he conquered Rhætia, Vindelicia, & Noricum; and afterwards

Pannonia & Invesia.

But all these conquests taken together did not cost Rome so much as the attempts, entirely unsuccessful in the end, for the subjugation of Germany; which were made first under Drusus, & Tiberius Nero, the step sons of Augustus; and afterwards under Drusus Germanicus, the son of Drusus.

The aggressive wars of Rome against the Germans, began under Drusus, 12. B. C. and Lower Germany, (Westphalia, Lower Saxony & Hesse) continued to be the theatre of them, because the attacks were made up the Rhine, partly by land, partly by water, through the mouths of the Rhine, the Weser & Elbe, on which account the Romans sought to gain assistance by alliances with the nations, along the Sea, the Batavi, the Frisii, and Chauci. The bold Drusus, in his 2^d expedition 10 B. C. reached the Weser, and in 9 B. C. even the Elbe, but died on his return. His successors in

The comm and Tiberius, Domitius Re-
-nobartus & others, sought to build up-
-on the foundation laid by Drusus, &
gradually to form that part of Ger-
-many, which had been already conque-
-red, into a province, by the creation
of castles, and by the introduction of
Roman laws & language; but the art-
-fully concerted rising of the young Her-
-man, prince of the Cherusci, the son
of Siegmur, and son in law of Segestes,
(the friend of Rome) together with the
defeat of the Roman general Varus,
and his army, in the Teutoburgian
forest, in the district of Paderborn G.B.C.
saved Germany from subjugation, & its
language from destruction; and taught
the victors, what they never forgot, that
the legions were not invincible. Augustus
immediately dispatched Tiberius (who
had just quelled a great rebellion in Pan-
-nonia,) with Germanicus to the Rhine;
but no battles of consequence took place,
until Germanicus again penetrated far
into the country, and indeed as far as the

Weser in 16. A.D. but notwithstanding the
victory at Idistavisas (at Minden) his
fleet and a part of his army perished
in a storm on his return, and he was
soon after recalled through the jealousy
of Tiberius. From the Germans had peace
from this quarter.

The long and peaceful reign of Augustus, as
far as Italy is concerned, is generally
regarded as a happy and splendid period,
and it certainly was so, in comparison
with the times that preceded and follow-
-ed it. Security of person & property was
restored; the arts of peace, favored by
Augustus himself, and his intimate
friend Maecenas, rose into prosperity;
the formal restoration of the repub-
-lic would have been the signal to
new commotions; and if the reign of
Augustus was not the very best, we
must first answer the question, whe-
-ther Rome, as it was then, could
have endured a better?
The history of the reign of Augustus turns
very much upon his family circum-
-stances; in his family he was not happy.

He married for his second wife, Livia, who, at the time, had two sons, by a former marriage, Tiberius & Drusus; her influence over Augustus was great, and she made use of it, to secure the elevation of her sons; Augustus had but one child, Julia, the daughter of his former wife Senobia. Livia wished to secure the succession to one of her sons; but to this Augustus was secretly averse. Octavia, the wife of Antony, & sister of Augustus, had previous to her marriage with Antony, been married to Claudius Marcellus, a friend of Pompey; by him she had a son Marcellus, whom Augustus now adopted, & to whom he married his daughter Julia, intending he should succeed him in the empire. He died suddenly at the early age of 18; 23. B. C. He then married Julia to his friend Agrippa; the two eldest sons of this marriage, Caius & Lucius Caesar, were then adopted by Augustus; 17. B. C. Their father Agrippa died;

and their mother Julia, then married Tiberius; but was exiled by her father on account of improper conduct; as the sons grew up, they were so brought forward by Augustus, that Tiberius, in discontent, left the court. But Augustus was again disappointed in his hopes of a successor by their early death, and the hopes of Tiberius again revived, and the hopes of Tiberius again revived, Augustus then adopted him, but obliged him in turn to adopt Drusus Germanicus, the son of his deceased brother Drusus; and afterwards, 11 A. D. Augustus formally appointed Tiberius his associate in the empire, with the consent of the Senate. Augustus 14. A. D.

Tiberius was 56 years old, when he succeeded Augustus. His name was Tiberius Claudius here, after his father, but after his adoption by Augustus, it was changed to Caesar; in his reign all business was transferred to the Senate, which became the highest court of criminal justice. But the Senate had become so subservient, that every thing

depended on the personal character of the prince. It became the instrument of tyranny, when it ceased to be the government of a republic. Notwithstanding the military talents, and many good qualities of Tiberius, his despotic character had long been developed, before he ascended the throne; but external circumstances induced him not wholly to throw aside the mask which he had hitherto worn.

The principal object of his suspicion and hatred was Germanicus, almost the idol of the army & the people, whom he soon recalled from Germany, and sent to Syria on account of the disturbances in the East, where after having successfully computed all contests, he was poisoned. Pninus Piso, the governor of Syria, & his wife; 19. A.D. He had married Agrippina, the daughter of Agrippina & Julia, who accompanied him to Syria; she fell under the displeasure of Tiberius, who exiled her to an island, where she died for want of bread, 26 A.D.

Unhappily for Rome, Helius Sejanus, the commander of the Praetorian guards, was able to acquire the confidence of Tiberius, & his despotism was occasioned by his 8 years authority, from 23 to 31. A.D. Since he not only made this formidable by collecting the guards in barracks, before the city, and was able to persuade Tiberius to leave Rome forever, in order to tyrannize more securely from Capreae, but he also attempted to lay open an avenue, for himself to the throne, by many deeds of infamy and crime, and by the persecution of the house of Germanicus. While Tiberius was in Capreae, the plans of Sejanus were developed, & Tiberius gaining information of the matter, ordered him to be accused before the Senate. Upon this his friends deserted him, he was seized, & the same day strangled in prison. 31. A.D. The despotism he exercised acquired new terror from his fall, in which all his adherents, or all who were considered as such, were implicated.

Tiberius died 16th March 37. A. D.
Caius Caesar Caligula, now 25 years
old, the only son of Germanicus
ascended the throne: but the hopes
which were formed of the young prince
were soon terribly disappointed. His
mind, already distracted by sickness
and extravagance, fell into a madness
which deprived his short reign of all
consistency. Still he was yet more per-
nicious to the state by his insane pro-
digality, than by his savage cruelty;
he was murdered, after a reign of al-
most four years, by two captains of
the guards, Cassius Chaerea, and Corne-
lius Sabinus. 41.

His uncle and successor, Tiberius Claudius
Caesar, aged 50 years, was the first em-
peror raised to the throne by the praeto-
rian guards, and he rewarded them in
return by a largess. Tiberius ^{Claudius} was the son
of Drusus & brother of Germanicus.
Too weak to govern himself, almost stu-
pid from early neglect, a vicious liver,
and cruel from timidity, he was the sport
of his wives and freedmen; the power of

his wife Messalina, was yet more detrimental
to the empire from her avarice, which made
every thing venal, than by her disorderly
conduct, than by her disorderly conduct.
Her excesses became the occasion of her
destruction; and the emperor was per-
suaded to put her to death. Afterwards
he married the younger Agrippina, the
daughter of Germanicus; her first hus-
band was Semonius Senobarbus, by whom
she had Nero. Agrippina united to
the vices of her predecessor, a passion
for power, which Messalina never had.
The one great object of her policy was
to secure the succession to her, (who had
been adopted by Claudius, & married
to his daughter Britannia) in preference
to Britannicus, the son of Claudius,
by Messalina. She had Burrus ap-
pointed sole commander of the prae-
torian guards, and then to strain her
object poisoned Claudius. 54. A. D. The
limits of the Roman Empire were exten-
ded during the reign of Claudius, in sev-
eral countries. In 43. A. D. he himself

made an expedition into Britain, in order to reduce the island. He left his generals Plantius L. Vespasian there, who prosecuted the war for several years with various success. The Silures, or inhabitants of South Wales, under their king Caratacus, made a spiritual resistance, though without avail. Their king was led captive to Rome.

He was succeeded by Nero, 17 years of age, supported by Agrippina & the guards. Brought up in the midst of great crimes, and more fitted by a perverted education, for a musician & connoisseur, than a ruler, he ascended the throne, while yet a youth, with the determination to enjoy, quickly, and in his life, we see even his cruelty, subjected to his affected love of letters, and the fine arts, and his dissoluteness. The causes of this cruelty lay in the uncertainty of the succession; even after the murder of Britannicus, the sword fell in regular order upon all

those, who were even remotely connected with the Julian family. But his vanity as an artist had no less effect in producing this cruelty; and since with tyrants, every execution is of itself a motive for new ones, we must not wonder that it fell on those also, who appeared to distinguish themselves. The care of his education had been intrusted to Seneca, the famous philosopher; and while he was controlled by him, and Burrhus, captain of the praetorian guards, a worthy and experienced officer, Nero appeared just & humane; but he could not long restrain the feelings of his base nature. A conspiracy in Rome, headed by Caius Piso, 65, opened a train of suspicious that almost turned Rome into a field of blood; he extirpated many of the principal families of Rome, & ordered Seneca to put himself to death, also Lucan, the poet, & Burrhus, his benefactor; he also caused

the murder of his wife Octavia. ^{and his mother Agrippina} The execution of the individuals which alone have been preserved by history, were perhaps on the whole the less injuring; but the plundering of the provinces, almost produced a dissolution of the empire; amongst his extravaganzas was that of setting Rome on fire, charging the crime on the christians, & then punishing them with unheard of tortures. His latter years were equally marked by a madness which evinced itself in his theatrical exercises, and even in the history of his fall. In 60 there was a rebellion under Julius Vindex, in Gallia Celtica, and afterwards of Galba, in Spain, who was there proclaimed emperor, and is joined by Otho, in Lusitania. Julius Vindex was defeated by Virginius Rufus, the lieutenant in upper Germany. After this in Rome itself a rebellion broke out, amongst the quads; Nero fled from Rome, & was

killed by a slave, 11th June 68. B. C. In his reign the greater part of Britain was conquered by Suetonius Paulinus, and became a province; also, Corbulo, in Asia; Vologeses 1st king of Parthia, had given Armenia to his brother Tiridates; but the Romans gave it to Tigranes, grandson of Herod the Great, this led to wars, which during the reign of Nero, were conducted by Corbulo, and ended with this, that after the death of Tigranes, Tiridates came to Rome, and received the crown of Armenia, as a present from Nero 65. In 66 the oppression of the Roman governor Gessius Florus, caused a rebellion of the Jews, & they were massacred in great numbers. The principal reason why the destruction of Nero, and his predecessors, was so quietly borne by the nation, lay in the fact, that a great part

part of them were fed by the emperors. From the monthly distribution of corn of the times of the republic, there now sprang up, the extraordinary congiaria, (gifts in corn or money) and viscerationes (distributions of raw flesh). The times of tyranny were generally the golden days of the table.

The extinction of the house of ~~her~~ Caesar, with her, occasioned such great commotions in the Roman Empire, that in less than two years, four rulers made themselves masters of the throne by force. The right of the senate, to appoint the successor to the throne, or at least to confirm the appointment, was indeed acknowledged; but as soon as the armies had discovered the secret that they could make emperors, its ratification became a mere ceremony. Servius Sulpitius Galba, who had already been proclaimed emperor by his legions in Spain, and

now acknowledged by the senate, obtained possession of Rome, without resistance; he reigned only 7 months, and gained the ill will not only of the guards, but also of the German legions; in seeking to accomplish two important objects, the punishment of the enormous vices then prevalent, and the replenishing of the treasury, he was unduly severe; and as he was naturally parsimonious, he became an object of contempt & ridicule. Otho expected to be adopted by Galba for his successor; but the emperor sought the good of empire by nominating the virtuous Licinius Piso. Otho had recourse to arms, & with the assistance of the guards, accomplished the death both of Galba & Piso. 15th June 69.

Otho, aged 37 years, was acknowledged by the senate, but not by the German legions, who proclaimed their commander Vitellius emperor, and advanced with him to Italy. Otho proceeded to meet him;

but after the loss of the battle at Bedriacum, a place near Mantua, it is uncertain whether from wear-
-die or patriotism, he took his own
life. He reigned only 95 days.

Vitellius, aged 57 years, was immediate-
-ly acknowledged both by the Senate,
and also in the provinces; but while
he rendered himself hated in Rome,
by his extravagance, & cruelty, & the
licentiousness of his troops; the Syrian
legions rebelled, and declared their
general Titus, Flavius Vespasianus,
emperor, who accepted the throne at
the instigation of the powerful Mucius
-annus, the governor of Syria. The le-
-gions on the Danube acceded to him
a short time after, and under their
commander, Antoninus Primus, marched
towards Italy, and defeated the troops
of Vitellius at Cremona; his overthrow
was now speedily effected, although not
without some bloody scenes in Rome,
in which Flavius Sabinus, the brother

of Vespasian perished, and the Capitol was
burned. Vitellius fell into the enemy's
hands & was put to death. He reigned
only 8 months, in the year 69, from
16th April to 20th Decr.

With Flavius Vespasianus, a new dy-
-nasty, ascended the throne, of which
there were three Emperors. Vespasian
reigned from 69 to 79. The Empire al-
most dissolved by wasteful prodigality,
civil wars, and repeated revolutions,
obtained in Vespasian the very prince
it needed. His first occupation was to
fix his relations with the Senate; while
he caused all the rights and liberties,
which his predecessors of the house of
the Caesars had enjoyed, to be defined
individually, and conferred upon himself
by its resolve; He began his reform by
reducing the countries, that had been
emancipated by Nero, together with
some others, to provinces; and by res-
toring discipline in the army. He has
been accused of avarice, but he was li-
beral in erecting public edifices, both in

Rome, and in the other cities, and in his
care for education, by the appointment
of teachers, who received Salaries. He
expelled from Rome the numerous sect
of the Stoics, who still cherished repub-
lican principles on account of their
turbulent sentiments; but he was li-
beral in the encouragement of learning
and the arts. He was particularly kind
to Josephus the Jewish historian. Lami-
than & Pliny, who flourished in his
reign, were highly esteemed by him.
The countries reduced by him to provin-
ces, were Rhodes, Samos, Lycia, Paphla-
gia, Thrace, Cilicia, and Commagene. The
foreign wars, were the wars against the
Jews, which ended with the destruction
of Jerusalem 70. A.D. by Titus; and
the important war against the Batavi,
and their allies under Civilis, a Bata-
vian chief, who sought during the last
civil wars, to free themselves from the
oppression of Rome, in 69, but were
compelled to a treaty, by Vespasian's 70.

From 70 to 85 we have the enterprises
of Agricola in Britain, by whom not
only all England was subjected to
Roman rule, but Scotland also was at-
tached & circumnavigated. Agricola
was father in law of the historian
Tacitus. Vespasian died in the 70.th
year of his age 79. A.D.
His elder son, Titus Flavius Vespasianus,
aged 39, who had already been nominated
Caesar, A.D. 70, ascended the throne A.D.
79. He afforded the singular example
of a prince, who became better on the
throne. His short and beneficent reign
was only remarkable, for many public
misfortunes; the great eruption of Vesu-
vius, which buried several cities, at
which time Pliny lost his life, by ventu-
ring too near the volcano; a plague;
and a destructive conflagration in Rome;
He reigned two years; his early death se-
cured to him forever, the fame of having
been the best, if not the most fortunate
of princes. He was succeeded in 81 by
his younger brother S. Flavius Domitianus

He gave the opposite example; for although the beginning of his reign was marked by strictness and rectitude, he soon became the most perfect despot on the Roman throne. His cruelty, joined to an equal degree of vanity, and, in a short time, nourished by more suspicion, made him the enemy of all, who were distinguished for their actions, riches or talents; and he was made still worse by the mortifications, which his pride had to experience, in the wars against the Catti, Lo yet more in those against the Dacii; His cruelty however seems to have been principally confined to the Capital; and the strict inspection, which he exercised over the governors of the provinces, prevented such a general disorganization, of the empire, as had taken place under Nero. His fall confirms the result of universal experience, that a tyrant has little to fear from the people, but to much the more from individuals, whose throats are in ^{danger}.