

bravery in war, strictness of rule, simplicity and frugality of life, moderation and dignity of character. The chief event of his reign was the complete suppression of the Jewish revolt (begun in 66) in the capture and destruction of Jerusalem by his son *Titus* (A.D. 70). The dreadful incidents of the siege of Jerusalem are well known. The great eruption of *Vesuvius* (A.D. 79), causing the destruction of the towns of *Herculæneum*, *Pompeii*, and *Stabia*, near the foot of the mountain, has been already mentioned.

11. This occurred two months after the death of *Vespasian* (June, 79), who was succeeded by his elder son *Titus*. His brief reign (two years) was marked by his care for the public good, and by the completion of the great amphitheatre called the *Colossæum*.

12. *Domitian*, younger son of *Vespasian*, became a cruel tyrant, under whom the informers of the reign of *Tiberius* were again rampant with their false charges of treason. The conquest of Britain was completed in this reign by the great and good *Agricola*, and a new enemy for Rome appeared in the *Dacians*, dwelling to the north of the Danube, in the territory now comprising *Transylvania*, *Roumania*, and part of *Hungary*. This warlike people had long troubled the Danubian frontier by their inroads, and in the years A.D. 86-90, under their king *Decăbalus*, they had such success against the Roman armies that *Domitian* disgraced the empire by consenting to pay tribute to *Dacia* for freedom from harassing attacks. *Domitian* was murdered by a conspiracy of court-officials in 96.

13. In the reigns of the five "good emperors," we come to the happiest time of Rome's imperial sway. They succeeded each other in adoption as sons by their predecessors.

14. *Nerva* (96-98), a cautious, feeble, humane, and virtuous man, reigned but fifteen months, wisely choosing an able and vigorous successor.

15. *Trajan* (A.D. 98-117), reckoned the greatest of Roman emperors, was born in Spain in A.D. 52, being the first foreigner that attained the imperial position.

In physical strength and demeanour, moral excellence, and intellectual capacity, *Trajan* was thoroughly fit to rule. His successes in war extended the Roman dominion beyond all former limits. Between A.D. 100 and 106 *Dacia* was subdued