

in force, and defeated and slew the emperor. This powerful

Decius. German people, destined to do much hereafter in overthrowing the empire of Rome, had migrated from the Baltic coasts to those of the Black Sea, and overrun a large part of the Roman province of Dacia.

7. Under Valerian (A.D. 253-260) the Roman frontier was broken into at several points. The Franks (a confederacy of German tribes on the Lower Rhine, replacing the league of the *Cherusci* of the time of Arminius), invaded Gaul; the *Aleman'ni* (another German confederacy of peoples between the Danube and the Rhine) were moving south and west; the *Goths* attacked Greece and Asia Minor. The *Persians* invaded Syria, and Valerian's reign ended in his defeat and capture by the Persian king, *Sapor*. It seemed as if the Roman Empire would be broken up by outward force; but the end was not yet to be.

8. A change came with the brilliant deeds of the brave emperor Aurelian (270-275), a Pannonian of low birth. He drove the *Goths* and *Vandals* (another German confederacy of tribes) out of Pannonia (Modern Hungary and countries north-east of the Adriatic); he drove the *Aleman'ni* and other German invaders out of Italy; he recovered Gaul, Spain, and Britain from a rival claimant to the empire. In order to secure the frontier on the Danube, Aurelian wisely surrendered Dacia to the *Goths*. In the East he defeated and brought captive to Rome the famous *Zenobia*, *Queen of Palmyra*, who was aiming at the sovereignty of the eastern world. She had succeeded to the power of her husband, *Odenathus* (o-de-na'thus), who had driven the *Persians* out of Syria after the defeat of Valerian, and had been allowed by the emperor *Gallienus* (A.D. 260-268) to set up a "Kingdom of Palmyra." It is of interest to mention that at *Zenobia's* court lived the famous Greek philosopher and grammarian *Longinus*, a man of great ability and extensive learning, still widely known by his admirable work "*On the Sublime*."

9. The emperor *Probus* (276-282), also a native of Pannonia, did much glorious work in restoring the military supremacy of Rome. He put down rebellions, defeated the barbarians on the Danubian and Rhenish frontiers, and was at last killed by mutinous and dissolute troops, who objected to the useful labour imposed upon them in the public works.