

list of emperors, with their various achievements; the light falls into the palaces; we catch glimpses of questionable palace ladies, of intriguing favourites, and ambitious statesmen; we see the dagger, cord, or poison cup which removed prince after prince to make room for his successor with horrid uniformity. We read of invasions by barbarians, of fierce battles on the Danube, or the Euphrates, and the frontier advancing or receding. The units which form the sum of mankind we do not see; they are of small significance save to themselves and their families. In hundreds of millions they play their little parts upon the stage, and pass away and are forgotten because no one cares to notice or speak of them. Yet it is of these multitudes that humanity consists, and by the thoughts obscurely working in the minds of them the destinies of humanity are eventually controlled. In the centuries of which I speak ten generations of men were born and lived and died. The empire was sprinkled with cities, towns, villages, and farmsteads, all thronged like anthills, and in a fair state of outward civilization. Political discontent was rare and easily suppressed. Order was moderately maintained, and was disturbed only by occasional bands of robbers. Men of fortune resided on their estates, shot and