

No other country has had such an influence on the growth and development of Rome, for it was only by constant efforts in every direction that the latter managed to hold her own against her rival both by land and sea.

Chapter XI.

GREECE, THE LAND OF IDEALS.—I.

(2000—400 B.C.)



WE come now, in our survey of the empires of the past, to one that belongs to Europe itself, and so lies much nearer home than those of which we have been lately reading. But the whole period of the early civilization of Greece, which lasted for more than twelve centuries before her actual history begins, was so closely bound up with that of the Eastern World that we can scarcely claim her as a European country until she began, about the tenth century before

Christ, to develop on independent lines.

The story of this early period, hidden for many a century under the dust of ages, has been unfolded for us in recent times by the discoveries made in Crete and on the site of Ancient Troy, as well as at Mycenæ and Tiryns in Greece: and these discoveries make clear to us that the wonderful pictures painted