

Chapter XIII.

THE EMPIRE OF ALEXANDER.

(350-200 B.C.)

WE come now to the turning-point in the history of the empires of the world. We saw how the Eastern World developed and gradually decayed, and how its influence affected in certain ways the more ancient civilizations of the West. Then we saw how a new and energetic Western civilization grew up in Greece on independent lines; and we shall now see how this became spread, in its turn, over a great part of the dying Eastern World.

Although Greece had to be practically reconquered after his father's death by Alexander, son of Philip of Macedon, that country can scarcely be said to have fallen into the hands of a foreign despot. For Alexander, to all intents and purposes, was himself a Greek by education, by instinct, and by sympathy; was, moreover, the "flower of the Greek race," in whom was fulfilled all the traditions of Greek heroism.

Beautiful of face, athletic in body, keen and restless in intellect, he might well have been the descendant of the great Achilles, as he himself so eagerly claimed to be. The story of how, as a boy, he tamed the famous horse Bucephalus gives a characteristic glimpse of the future empire-maker. The wild rage of the animal had

