

Chapter XIV.

THE MAKING OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

(753-44 B.C.)

THE beginnings of Rome, like those of all other countries of the Ancient World, belong to the Age of Myths, though most of the stories concerning the infancy of the various nations contain some germs of truth.

The story which is concerned with the very earliest period of all tells how the Trojan prince Æneas, after the siege of Troy, was driven by stress of sea storms on to the coast of Italy, where he founded a city for his son Ascanius on the slope of the Alban Hills.

The sequel to this story tells us that the descendants of this same Æneas, twin babes called Romulus and Remus, said to be the sons of the god Mars, were thrown into the Tiber by their wicked uncle, who then usurped the throne. But the river would not drown the children, and cast them upon an islet, where they were nursed by a she-wolf. There they were found by the keeper of the royal herd, who took them to his home and brought them up as his children. When they had grown to be lusty youths they discovered the secret of their origin, and having killed their uncle, proceeded to found a city. But first they had to decide where the founda-

