

## Chapter XV.

## ROME AS A WORLD EMPIRE.

(44 B.C.—40 A.D.)

WHEN Rome had fallen into a condition of civil war at home and almost perpetual fighting for an empire abroad, it was not a difficult matter to convince the citizens that a vigorous rule could only be established by handing over the chief power to one man instead of to many, as in the days of the republic.

It only needed a fine general like Marius to win the admiration of the army, and the thing was almost done. Marius became the leader of one strong party, and for a while held the upper hand. Then his rival, Sulla, drove him from power, and took the title of "Perpetual Dictator," in an office which differed very little from that of king. After his death two men stepped forward upon the stage of Roman history, both of whom did much to prepare the way for the fall of the republican form of government.

Pompey, whom men called in later days the "Great," was a magnificent general, and one who hoped to hold sway over the people merely by dint of making himself a successful conqueror. When the Eastern Mediterranean was beset by pirates, and Asia Minor torn by internal wars, it was Pompey who, in a wonderfully brief time, swept away the nests of robbers, and reduced