

**THE ROMAN REPUBLIC; BEING A
REVIEW OF SOME OF THE
SALIENT POINTS IN ITS HISTORY.
DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF
EXAMINATION CANDIDATES**

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The Roman Republic; Being a Review of Some of the Salient Points in Its History. Designed for the Use of Examination Candidates by Horace Moule

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BY

HORACE MOULE,

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THE ROMAN REPUBLIC.

PART I.

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CHAPTER I.

THE ÆQUIAN AND VOLSCIAN WARS.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION. There were situated in ancient times within the boundaries of Apennine Italy no less than six distinct races, the Pelasgians, the OSCANS, the Sabellians, the Umbrians, the Etrurians, and the Greeks. The Opicans or Oscans occupied all the country between the Silarus and the Tiber: the sea-coast of this district, however, was thickly dotted with rich towns belonging to other nations. This race had various subdivisions, such as the Auruncans, the Ausonians (in the more limited sense—in the wider sense the word is synonymous with the Oscans*), the ÆQUIANS, and the VOLSCIANS. It is the constantly recurring encroachment of these last-mentioned nations upon the Latin territory that forms the great feature of the external history of Rome, during the half-century that intervened between the establishment of the Republic and the Laws of the Twelve Tables.

Their geographical position may be described in two ways: first, with a view to the hills, and secondly, with a view to the rivers, of the district.

The mountain-wall of the lower Apennines that runs

* Ὀσκιοί, καὶ πρότερον καὶ νῦν καλούμενοι . . . Ἀβσονες.
ARIST. *Polít.* vii., 10.
B

between Tibur and the sea, near Terracina, is divided into two portions of unequal length. The shorter and upper division extends from Tibur to Præneste; the lower and longer, from Præneste to Terracina and the sea. The *latter* portion was held by the Volscians, the *former* by the Æquians.

Again, if we look at the rivers, we may roughly allot to the Volscians the territory on the *right* bank of the Trerus, a tributary of the Liris, down to Terracina, on the coast: and to the Æquians, a district on the *left* bank of the Anio, stretching northwards, and reaching beyond Carseoli and Alba. This district includes the oldest seat of the Æquians on the Fucine Lake (Lake of Celano), which lies in the heart of the Apennines. *Between* the Trerus and the Anio, and wedged in, as it were, between the two Oscan tribes, were situated the Hernicans,* whose geographical position does much to show the vast importance to Rome of the LEAGUE concluded with them by Sp. Cassius, 486 B.C., which will be further mentioned below.

Two of the most famous legends in Roman story belong to the contests which form the subject of this section. Coriolanus was the great hero with the Patrician bards and annalists against the Volscian, as Cincinnatus against the Æquian foe. Both legends are too important to be wholly omitted here, although little more than the heads of each will be given.

LEGEND OF CORIOLANUS. C. Marcius, a youth of high Patrician blood, descended from the Sabine King Ancus, and who had won a civic crown at the Lake Regillus when only seventeen, retook the town of Corioli, a Latin stronghold which had fallen into the hands of the Volscians, and gained from his valour high renown, with the surname of *Coriolanus*. But when Gelon, the Greek King of Syracuse, sent ships to Rome laden with corn to relieve the prevailing distress, C. Marcius proudly opposed the claims of the Plebeians, who in revenge

* This tribe belonged not to the Oscan, but to the Sabellian, stock.

would have torn him in pieces, had not the Tribunes restrained them and cited him to appear before the Comitia. The Patricians would not stand by him, and the hero of Corioli went into exile with threats and vows of a terrible return.

Having gone straight to Antium, he became the guest of Attus Tullius. There was then a treaty between the Volscians and Romans; but Tullius, by a stratagem, procured that the Senate of Rome should decree the departure of all Volscians from the city before sunset, when the Great Games were being solemnised. This was deemed a wanton insult; and Tullius, with the famous Coriolanus, led the Volscians out to battle.

One Latin town after another fell before the victorious Roman, until he encamped at the Cluilian Foss, only five miles distant from Rome. Nothing now was left to the Romans but prayer. Deputies were sent to the dreaded exile from the chief Patricians, but they failed to move him. The Pontiffs, Flamens, and Augurs then marched solemnly forth, but they also failed. At last a procession of noble matrons, headed by Volunnia, the mother of C. Marcius, went forth to the camp, and they prevailed. "O my mother," cried he in pain of soul, "thou hast saved Rome, but lost thy son."

The Senate then raised a temple to *Fortuna Muliebris*; and Coriolanus, returning to dwell among the Volscians, lost favour, and was killed in a tumult.

LEGEND OF CINCINNATUS. L. Quinctius was a Patrician, who had been elected Consul Suffectus in 460, in the room of P. Valerius, but who was content to live like a plebeian yeoman, on his little farm which lay beyond the Tiber, somewhere among the entrenchments of the Janiculum. His wife's name was Racilia, and he was father to Keso Quinctius, the wild young Patrician leader, who perished, probably, in the desperate attempt upon the Capitol by Herdonius, the Sabine. L. Quinctius allowed his hair to grow in long curling locks (*cincinni*), and from this custom he gained the surname of *Cincinnatus*.