

still raise, the greatest idea of its power, were formed under its kings. They began already to lay the foundation of that city, which was to be eternal.

Romulus, and his successors, were engaged in almost perpetual wars with their neighbours, to encrease the number of their citizens, their women, and their territories. They used to return to the city, loaded with the spoils of conquered nations; and these spoils, which consisted of wheat-sheaves and flocks, used to fill them with the greatest joy. Such is the origin of triumphs, to which that city, afterwards, chiefly owed its grandeur.

The strength of the Romans was greatly increased by their union with the Sabines, a stubborn warlike people, resembling the Lacedaemonians from whom they sprung. Romulus (*a*) copied the form of their shields, which were large, and used them ever afterwards instead of the small buckler of Argos: and it is to be observed, that the circumstance, which chiefly raised the Romans to the sovereignty of the world, was, their laying aside their own customs as soon as they met with better among the people they conquered; and it is well known that they fought successively against all nations.

It was a maxim then among the republics of Italy, that treaties made with one king were not obligatory towards his successor. This was a sort of law of nations (*b*) among them. Thus every thing which had been submitted to by one king of Rome, they thought themselves disengaged from under another, and wars continually begot wars.

(*a*) Plutarch's life of Romulus.

(*b*) This appears throughout the history of the kings of Rome.