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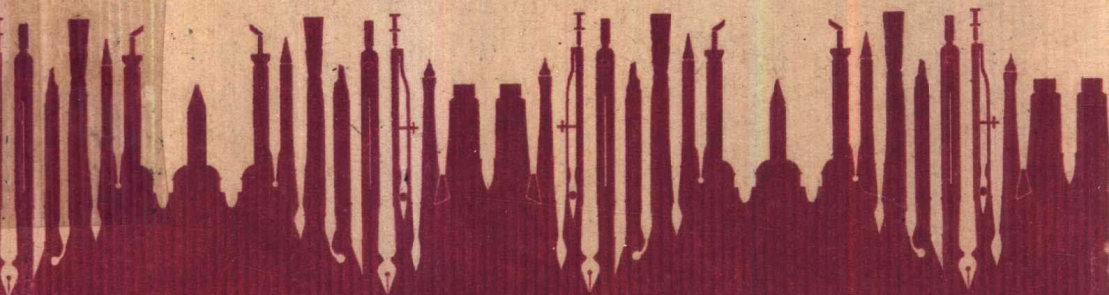
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# The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

罗马帝国衰亡史（缩写本）

Edward Gibbon

〔英〕爱德华·吉本



# *THE STUDENT'S GIBBON.*

## HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE,

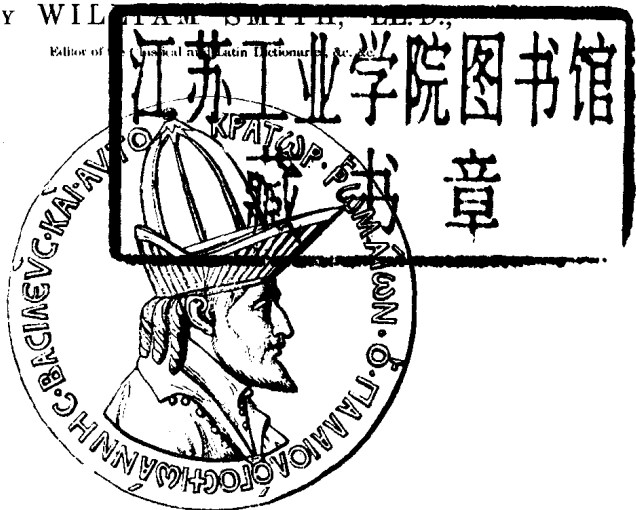
By EDWARD GIBBON.

ABRIDGED.

INCORPORATING THE RESEARCHES OF RECENT COMMENTATORS.

By WILLIAM SMITH, LL.D.,

Editor of the Classical and Latin Dictionary, &c. &c.



ILLUSTRATED BY ONE HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD.

*ELEVENTH THOUSAND.*

LONDON:  
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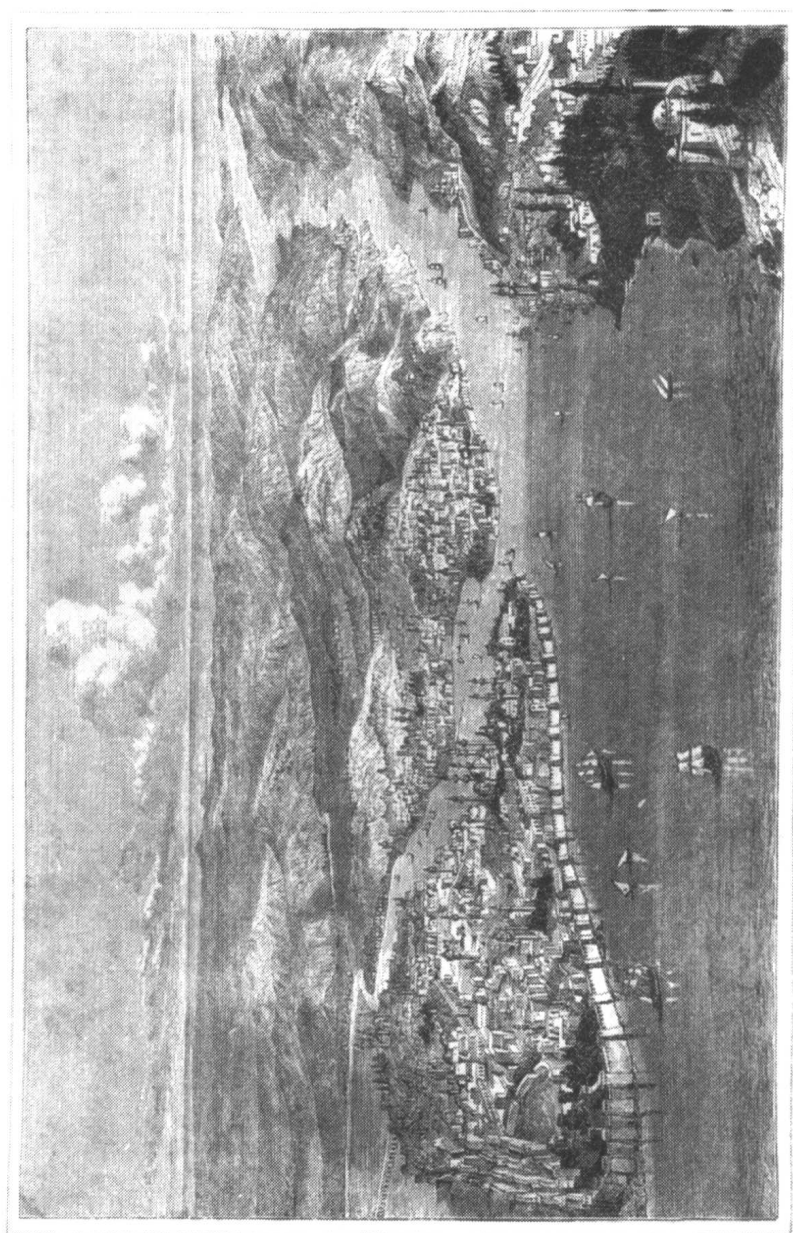
有史以来,无论东方西方,皆有这样一些人——他们仰望星空,环视人类,目极八荒,思接千载;他们探索真理,创立学说,预设问题,启迪众生。这样一种人,我们称之为人类精英;他们披发沥血写就的著述,我们视之为不朽经典。而正是这样的人和书,在影响和推进着全人类的整体进步。

在此之中,毫无疑问,西方文化迥异于中国传统文化。一个世纪前的先哲们,在国门初开之际,即深明此理,而将西学大量引入中国,对中国在20世纪的崛起和发展,确曾影响深远。然而,经典浩瀚,殊多沧海遗珠;虽有百年译述充栋,却仍多千秋巨著无觅于市。且译作虽佳,终不如原著之精准;而多语对照,则更能阐隐发幽,得前贤之精髓。因是,值此新世纪初年,我社为继承和弘扬世界文化遗产,促进中西文化交流和提高国人英文阅读水平,特推出“英语阅读文库”。

本文库呈完全开放状,不限时代,不限学科,不限国别,不限数量。凡中外知识界公认的名著皆可入选,所选皆为英文原版或他语英译之善本,旨在与国内业已出版的大批汉译名著交相辉映,并方便学子参照互读,丰富知识,拓宽视野,加深对西方历史与文化的理解。由于国际之别,众多原版好书国人买不到、借不到甚或买不起。本文库则尽量首选国内尚未推出且便于阅读的大众经典,精编精校,分批推出,意在让国人以国内版书价而拥有外版书,为后代求知者行一扇方便法门。

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2001年4月



CONSTANTINOPLE.

## P R E F A C E.

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GIBBON'S *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* forms the important link between Ancient and Modern history. Its title conveys an inadequate idea of its contents. It contains nearly a complete history of the world for a period of more than twelve centuries, from the time of the Antonines to the capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453. The decay and fall of the empire which had so long ruled the world; the progress and establishment of Christianity; the foundation of Constantinople and the history of the new empire upon the Bosphorus; the invasions and settlements of the barbarians of Germany and Scythia; the legislation of Justinian and the institutions of the civil law; the life and religion of Mahomet, the conquests of the Saracens, and the glories and vicissitudes of the caliphs; the temporal sovereignty of the popes; the restoration of the Western empire by Charlemagne, and its decay under his successors; the adventures of the Normans in Italy and Sicily, almost realising the fables of romance; the Crusades of the nations of Western Europe to obtain possession of the Holy Land; the conquests of Zingis Khan, Tamerlane and the Turks; the fall of Constantinople; the state and revolutions of Rome in the middle ages: such are some of the important and interesting events narrated in Gibbon's great Work. Since the history of all ancient nations ends in that of Rome,

and the history of the modern states of Europe springs out of the Roman empire, the youthful student, after making himself acquainted with the leading facts in the histories of Greece, Rome and England, cannot employ his time more profitably than in mastering the history of the vast period comprehended in Gibbon's Work. It is mainly for the benefit of such students that the present Abridgment has been prepared: the original work is too voluminous for their purpose; and at present there is no compendious account of this period corresponding to the ordinary manuals of Greek, Roman and English history. It is believed that this Abridgment will also prove acceptable to the general reader, whose time or circumstances prevent him from studying so large a work as Gibbon's, but who wishes to make himself acquainted with some of the most memorable events in the history of man.

In drawing up the present Abridgment, it has not been my aim to make an epitome of every circumstance mentioned in the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. Such an epitome would have been a comparatively easy task, and would have relieved me from much responsibility; but it would have presented little more than a dry skeleton of events, without the warmth and life which give to history its real interest and value. I have therefore treated briefly, and occasionally omitted entirely, many circumstances of inferior importance; and I have thus gained space for narrating at length, and sometimes as fully as in the original work, those grand events which have influenced the history of the world. By adopting this plan it is hoped that the present work will prove interesting as well as instructive, and will not be liable to the reproach of dulness, which is generally, and too often with justice,

brought against compendious histories. It may be observed, however, that there are only few subjects in the original, which have been passed over altogether in the Abridgment. The most important omissions relate to the history of the Church, in which Gibbon too frequently displayed the hostility he felt towards the Christian religion ; but I have at the same time given some account of those ecclesiastical events which materially affected the decline and fall of the Roman empire. Thus while I have omitted entirely Gibbon's polemical dissertation on the causes of the spread of Christianity, and his account of the theological disputes of the Oriental sects, I have dwelt at some length upon the conduct of the Roman government towards the early Christians, the legal establishment of Christianity, the Arian disputes, and the quarrel in the eighth century respecting the worship of images, which produced the temporal power of the popes and the restoration of the Roman empire in the West. In treating of these subjects I have suppressed the sarcasms and inuendoes, by which, rather than by any open attacks, Gibbon sought to undermine the religion which he rejected.

It is stated on the title-page that the researches of recent commentators upon the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire are incorporated in the text of the present work. These additions are taken from my own notes and from those of Dean Milman and M. Guizot, inserted in the edition of the original work published in 1854-1855. In drawing up an Abridgment intended for younger students and general readers, it seemed desirable to interweave in the text the necessary corrections and additions, instead of distracting their attention by references to foot-notes, contradicting or modifying assertions in the text.

The Illustrations have been selected with a view to



instruction, and not for the sake of ornament. Most of them are very characteristic, and will convey a lively picture of the state of the arts in the different periods comprehended in the history. For several of the architectural illustrations I am indebted to Mr. Fergusson's 'Handbook of Architecture;' and I have added from the same valuable authority a few remarks upon some of the different styles of architecture. I have also much pleasure in acknowledging the important assistance I have derived from the gentlemen connected with the Medal Room of the British Museum; and my thanks are especially due to Mr. R. S. Poole, of that department, for his translation of the Arabic inscriptions upon the coins of the Abbasside and Fatimite caliphs.

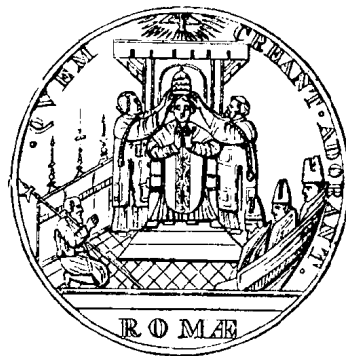
WILLIAM SMITH.

*London, December, 1856.*



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The Genius of the Roman People, from a coin of Antoninus Pius, in the British Museum.



Medal of Pope Eugenius IV., from the British Museum. (See p. 613.)

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