

beautiful translation. From the number of men who worked at it, this version of the Old Testament is known as the Sep´tu-a-gint (277 BC).

Greek rule brought changes to this ancient land of the Scriptures. Some Jews, especially in Jerusalem, began to admire Greek philosophy, science, and art. They found the Greek athletic contests exciting, and in Jerusalem an amphitheater and gymnasium were even built! Moreover, some Jews went so far as to discard their own way of life, centered around the worship of God and observance of His Law, and adopt Greek clothing and language, much to the dismay of the devout Jews, who valiantly sought to keep their ancient way of life intact.



CXI. THE WONDERFUL LIBRARY.

DESPITE the subterfuge used to gain Jerusalem and Judea, Ptolemy, among the generals who succeeded Alexander, turned his attention to the sound government of his territory, so that the well being of Egypt’s citizens—native Egyptians, Greeks, and Jews, of which there were many after the conquest of Judea—was generally secured.

He allowed each class to maintain their own religion and laws without interference, and kept native Egyptians as governors over the districts, which greatly pleased his Egyptian citizens, who were far more content under Greek rule than under Persian.

As a ruler, Ptolemy displayed the more noble character for which Alexander was famous, while abstaining from his vices. In an age marked by treachery, Ptolemy usually kept his word, and was rarely guilty of any bloodshed not absolutely necessary for his own defense or that of his country. He maintained the simple habits of a Macedonian soldier, not assuming the pomp and luxury which marked his rivals in the Eastern provinces.

Ptolemy removed the capital from the Egyptian city of Mem´phis, in the interior of the country, to the new Greek city of Alexandria, at the mouth of the Nile on the Mediterranean Sea.



Ptolemy I, *Louvre Museum.*

Besides rebuilding and ornamenting many of the Egyptian temples, and beautifying Alexandria with majestic buildings, he established a wonderful library there, which was soon without equal in the ancient world. For Ptolemy, raised as one of Alexander's companions, inherited a love of learning from Alexander's childhood teacher, Aristotle; and desired to have his library at Alexandria contain every book in the world, and become the repository of all the world's knowledge.

The library thus housed hundreds of thousands of books, which in those days was a very great number indeed. Now you must not imagine these books were like the books such as you read today. These books were written on very large sheets of papyrus, a du-



Ancient Library at Alexandria.

urable type of paper made from a native Egyptian plant; and these large sheets, or scrolls, were rolled around a pair of central rods.

The library gained such a large collection so rapidly, because not only did Ptolemy and his successors send agents to centers of learning such as Athens, to acquire books, but also every visitor who came to the library, was required to surrender his own books for a short time. Highly skilled copy-

ists then copied these works, which were often so exact, that the library kept the originals, and returned the copies to the unsuspecting owners.

Ptolemy thus encouraged men of learning from all over the Empire to settle at Alexandria, where he comfortably maintained them at the expense of his own government. The scholars were free to use the expansive library to continue their research and produce new works of learning. Euclid wrote his famous work on geometry there, which is still studied in schools today. Eratosthenes did likewise in geography, as did Apollonius of Rhodes in poetry, Hipparchus in astronomy, and Manetho in history.

Thus a kind of university grew up around the library, as students soon flocked to Alexandria to learn under the greatest men of the age. Students could study one of four courses: poetry and literature, mathematics, astronomy, or medicine.



CXII. THE COLOSSUS OF RHODES.

WHEN Perdicas died, Antigonus ("the one-eyed") was named his successor, and became governor of all the Eastern province. He no sooner heard that Cassander had murdered Alexander's family, than he marched westward, intending to avenge the crime.

On his way, Antigonus passed through Syria, the land governed by Seleucus, and asked that ruler how he had spent the money of the kingdom. Seleucus, who had a bad conscience, instead of answering, ran away to Egypt, where he became a friend of Ptolemy. Then, fearing that they would not be able to fight against Antigonus successfully, these two generals persuaded Cassander, ruler of Macedon, and Lysimachus, ruler of Thrace, to join them (315 BC).

For several years the war was kept up between the four allies on one side, and Antigonus and his son Demetrius on the other. The field of battle was principally in Asia Minor. The fighting continued until the generals became weary of warfare, and concluded to make peace (311 BC).

A treaty was then signed, settling the claims of all parties, and providing that all the Greek cities should have their freedom. This done, each went back to his own province; but it soon became evident that the peace would not last, for Cassander did not keep his promise to make the Greek cities free.

When Cassander's wrongdoing became known, the generals called upon Demetrius to bring him to terms. The Athenians were so pleased when they heard of this, that they received Demetrius with great joy. Demetrius soon managed to defeat Cassander at Thermopylae; and when he came back to Athens in triumph, the happy people gave him the title of "The Preserver," called a month by his name, lodged him in the Parthenon, and worshiped him as a god (306 BC).

Some time after this, Demetrius conquered Ptolemy, who did not abide by the treaty either. This victory was so great, that Demetrius' soldiers said he deserved a reward,