

T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F T H E
D E C L I N E A N D F A L L
O F T H E
R O M A N E M P I R E.

By EDWARD GIBBON, Esq;

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THE
H I S T O R Y
 OF THE
DECLINE AND FALL
 OF THE
R O M A N E M P I R E.

C H A P. XVII.

Foundation of Constantinople.—Political System of Constantine, and his Successors.—Military Discipline.—The Palace.—The Finances.

THE unfortunate Licinius was the last rival who opposed the greatness, and the last captive who adorned the triumph, of Constantine. After a tranquil and prosperous reign, the Conqueror bequeathed to his family the inheritance of the Roman Empire; a new capital, a new policy, and a new religion; and the innovations which he established have been embraced and consecrated by succeeding generations. The age of the great Constantine and his sons is filled with important events; but the historian must be oppressed by their number and variety, unless he diligently se-