

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.

VOLUME THE SIXTH.

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THE
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R O M A N E M P I R E.

By EDWARD GIBBON, Esq;

VOLUME THE SIXTH.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OF THE

SIXTH VOLUME.

CHAP. LVIII.		Page
<i>Origin and Numbers of the First Crusade.—</i>		
<i>Characters of the Latin Princes.—Their</i>		
<i>March to Constantinople.—Policy of the</i>		
<i>Greek Emperor Alexius.—Conquest of</i>		
<i>Nice, Antioch, and Jerusalem, by the</i>		
<i>Franks.—Deliverance of the Holy Sepulchre.—</i>		
<i>Godfrey of Bouillon, First King of Jerusalem.—Institutions of the</i>		
<i>French or Latin Kingdom.</i>		
A. D.		Page
1095—1099.	T HE first Crusade - 1	
	Peter the Hermit - ib.	
1095	Urban II. in the Council of Placentia 3	
	Council of Clermont - 6	
	Justice of the Crusades - 9	
	Spiritual Motives and Indulgences - 11	
	Temporal and carnal Motives - 14	
	Influence of Example - 16	
1096	Departure of the first Crusaders - 17	
	Their Detraction in Hungary and Asia 19	
	The Chiefs of the first Crusade - 21	
	I. Godfrey of Bouillon - 22	
	II. Hugh of Vermandois, Robert of Normandy, Robert of Flanders, Stephen of Chartres, &c. - 23	
	III. Raymond of Tholouse - 24	
	IV. Bohemond and Tancred - 25	
	Chivalry - 26	
1096, 1097.	March of the Princes to Constantinople - 29	
	Policy of the Emperor Alexius Comnenus 32	
	He obtains the Homage of the Crusaders 34	
	Influence of the Franks - 37	
1097	Their Review and Numbers - 38	
	Siege of Nice - 40	
	Battle of Dorylaeum - 42	
	March through the Lesser Asia - 44	
1097—1151.	Baldwin founds the Principality of Edessa - 45	
1097, 1098.	Siege of Antioch - 46	
1098	Victory of the Crusaders - 49	
	Their Famine and Distress at Antioch - ib.	
	Legend of the Holy Lance - 51	
	Celestial Warriors - 53	
	The State of the Turks and Caliphs of Egypt - 55	
1098, 1099.	Delay of the Franks - 56	
1099	Their March to Jerusalem - 57	
	Siege and Conquest of Jerusalem - ib.	
	1099, 1100. Elec-	

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C H A P. LVIII.

Origin and Numbers of the First Crusade.—Characters of the Latin Princes.—Their March to Constantinople.—Policy of the Greek Emperor Alexius.—Conquest of Nice, Antioch, and Jerusalem, by the Franks.—Deliverance of the Holy Sepulchre.—Godfrey of Bouillon, First King of Jerusalem.—Institutions of the French or Latin Kingdom.

ABOUT twenty years after the conquest of Jerusalem by the Turks, the holy sepulchre was visited by an hermit of the name of Peter, a native of Amiens, in the province of Picardy¹ in France. His resentment and sympathy were excited by his own injuries and the oppression of the Christian name; he mingled

C H A P.
 LVIII.

The first
 crusade,
 A. D.
 1095—1099.
 Peter the
 Hermit.

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¹ Whimsical enough is the origin of the name of *Picards*, and from thence of *Picardie*. Vol. VI. which does not date earlier than A. D. 1200. It was an academical joke, an epithet first applied