

16. He then ordered the immediate destruction of the house so that the site would be a reminder of the frustration of Maelius' wicked scheme. The levelled area was called the *Aequimaelium*. *Lucius* Minucius was honoured with a gilded ox outside the *Trigemina Gate*;^{*} the plebs made no objection because he had distributed to them Maelius' grain at the rate of one copper coin per peck. I find in certain sources that this Minucius changed from being a patrician to a plebeian and that, having been co-opted as an eleventh tribune of the plebs, he calmed the tumult stirred up by the killing of Maelius. But it is scarcely credible that the senators would have allowed the number of tribunes to be increased, and that this innovation in particular would have involved a patrician and that thereafter the plebs did not hold on to it once it was in place, or at least did not try to do so. But most decisive is the fact that a law had been passed a few years before forbidding the tribunes to co-opt a colleague; this shows the inscription beside Minucius' death mask to have been false.*

Quintus Caecilius, Quintus Iunius, and Sextus Titinius were the

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only tribunes who did not sponsor the law conferring honours on Minucius and who had not stopped levelling charges against both Minucius and Servilius before the plebs and complaining of the undeserved death of Maelius. So they prevailed in having military tribunes rather than consuls elected for the following year, confident that by promising to avenge Maelius' murder and with six vacancies—for this was the number that could be elected—even some plebeians would be returned. The plebs, although they had been upset by many different disturbances in the course of the year, elected no more than three tribunes with consular power, among them *Lucius* Quinctius, the son of Cincinnatus, whose unpopular dictatorship had been used as a reason for sparking civil unrest. *Mamercus Aemilius*, a man of the greatest distinction, was returned first in the voting; Quinctius came next, followed by *Lucius* Iulius in third place.

Sergius Fidenas. I believe his cognomen came from the war he proceeded to wage; for he was the first to fight a successful battle with the Veian king on the near side of the Anio River. But it was not a bloodless victory: the grief for the lives lost was greater than the joy over the enemy's defeat; the senate ordered that a dictator be named, which is usual in emergencies—in this case *Mamercus Aemilius*. He picked as master of the horse his colleague of the year before when they had been tribunes of the soldiers with consular power, *Lucius* Quinctius Cincinnatus, a young man worthy of his great father. Included in the levy conducted by the consuls were veteran centurions with much experience in war as well as new recruits to make up the number of men lost in the last battle. The dictator ordered that Titus Quinctius Capitolinus and Marcus Fabius Vibulanus follow him as his lieutenants. The great power of the dictator and an incumbent equal to that power drove the enemy out of Roman territory and across the Anio. They occupied the hills between Fidenae and the Anio and fixed their camp there, nor did they venture into the plain below until the legions of the Falisci came to their aid. Only then was the Etruscan camp pitched before the walls of Fidenae. The Roman dictator, in turn, settled down not far from the confluence of the Tiber and Anio Rivers and there threw up a rampart in front where he was vulnerable to enemy attack.* The next day he drew up his battleline.

18. Opinions were split among the enemy. The Falisci, not liking

30. In the city the tribunes of the plebs agitated for the election of military tribunes with consular power, but they did not succeed. Elected consuls were *Lucius* Papirius Crassus and *Lucius* Iulius. When envoys from the Aequi asked the senate for a treaty, that body made the counter-proposal of unconditional surrender; a truce of eight years was the compromise. The Volscian nation, in addition to the disaster it had suffered at Algidus, fell into wrangling and internal strife between equally determined advocates of war and peace. For the moment the Romans found themselves at peace on every side. When one of the tribunes secretly alerted the consuls that the college of tribunes was getting ready to propose a law concerning the valuation of fines, an idea much in favour among the people, the consuls took the lead in proposing it and presided over its passage.

Fidenae had participated in this raid, and investigation into the matter was assigned to **Lucius** Sergius, Quintus Servilius, and **Mamercus Aemilius**. Certain suspects were sent into exile at Ostia because it was not clear why they had absented themselves from Fidenae during the days in question. A number of colonists was added, and the land of those killed in the war assigned to them.

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the effects of the battle and its night journey. A little later the consul entered the city, where he spent as much energy in giving Tempanius due praise as in exculpating himself. It was in an atmosphere of grief over the defeat and of anger at the commanders that Marcus Postumius, who as military tribune at Veii had acted in place of the consul, found himself on trial. He was convicted and fined ten thousand pieces of heavy bronze. His colleague Titus Quinctius, because as consul he had been successful against the Volsci under the auspices of the dictator Postumius Tubertus and again at Fidenae as a lieutenant of the other dictator **Mamercus Aemilius**, and because he shifted the entire responsibility for the disaster on to his convicted colleague, was acquitted by all the tribes. The memory of his revered father, Cincinnatus, is said to have helped him, as did Quinctius Capitolinus, now far on in years, who begged in suppliant fashion that they not make him, whose life was nearing its end, the one to report any grim news to Cincinnatus in the world below.

1. With peace prevailing on other fronts, Rome and Veii faced one another in arms, harbouring such anger and hatred that defeat would surely mean the extinction of one of them. Each held elections markedly different from the other. The Romans increased the number of military tribunes with consular power; eight were chosen, a higher number than ever before: Manius **Aemilius Mamercus** for the second time, **Lucius** Valerius Potitus for the third, Appius Claudius Crassus, Marcus Quinctilius Varus, **Lucius** Iulius Iulus, Marcus Postumius, Marcus Furius Camillus, and Marcus Postumius Albinus.