

A MANUAL
OF
ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

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REVISED AND PARTLY RE-WRITTEN

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Thus, in the full designation *Publius Cornelius Scipio*, *Publius* is the *Praenomen*, marking the individual; *Cornelius* is the *Nomen*, and marks that he belonged to the *Gens Cornelia*; *Scipio*, is the *Cognomen*, and marks that he belonged to that family or branch of the *Gens Cornelia* called *Scipio*.

Occasionally a *Familia* became very numerous, and sent out many branches, forming, as it were, sub-families; and in such cases it became necessary, in order to prevent confusion, to add a second cognomen. Thus, we find such appellations as, *Lucius Cornelius Lentulus Crus*—*Lucius Cornelius Lentulus Niger*—*Publius Cornelius Lentulus Spinther*—all these persons belonged to the *Gens Cornelia* and to the *Familia* of the *Lentuli*; but the *Lentuli* became in process of time so numerous that a number of subsidiary branches were established, whose descendants were distinguished by the additional cognomina of *Crus*, *Niger*, *Spinther*, &c. Sometimes, in the case of a family which could boast of a great number of distinguished members, it became necessary to add a third cognomen, which, however, seldom passed beyond the individual to whom it was applied. Thus, *Publius Cornelius Scipio Nasica*, (consul, B.C. 191.) had a son who was designated as *P. Cornelius Scipio Nasica Corculum*, (consul, B.C. 161 and 155.) and the son of the latter was known as *P. Cornelius Scipio Nasica Serapio*, (consul B.C. 138, killed Ti. Gracchus B.C. 131.)—*Serapio* being, in the first instance, a mere nick-name applied to him from his likeness to a certain pig merchant. The son of *Serapio* resumed the more simple appellation of his great grandfather, and was *P. Cornelius Scipio Nasica*, (consul, B.C. 111.)

Again, in addition to the ordinary name, a complimentary title was sometimes bestowed by an army, or by the common consent of the citizens, in order to commemorate some great achievement. Thus, *Publius Cornelius Scipio*, the conqueror of Hannibal, was styled *Africanus*, and the same epithet was applied to the younger *Publius Cornelius Scipio*, the destroyer of Carthage. In like manner *Q. Caecilius Metellus*, in consequence of his successes against Jugurtha, was styled *Numidicus*—*Publius Servilius Vatia* was styled *Isauricus*; and Roman history will furnish many other examples. Such an addition to the cognomen was called an *Agnomen*,¹ and, generally speaking, was confined to the individual who gained it, and was not transmitted to his posterity.²

Lastly, a peculiar modification of the name was introduced when an individual passed by adoption (of which we shall have occasion to speak more at large hereafter) out of one *Gens* into another. The person adopted laid aside his original names and assumed those of the person by whom he was adopted, adding, however, an epithet to mark the *Gens* out of which he had passed. Thus, *Publius Cornelius Scipio*, the son of the elder *Africanus*, having no son, adopted *L. Aemilius Paulus*, the son of *L. Aemilius Paulus Macedonicus*. The young *Paulus*, immediately upon his adoption, took the name of his adopted father, and became *P. Cornelius Scipio*; but to mark that he had once belonged to the *Gens Aemilia*, the epithet *Aemilianus* was annexed, so that, when at a subsequent period he received the title of *Africanus*, his name at full length was *Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus Aemilianus*, to which eventually was added a second *Agnomen Numantinus*! In like manner *C. Octavius Caepias*, when adopted in terms of the last will of his maternal grand-uncle, became *C. Julius Caesar*

¹ See a catalogue of some of the more remarkable in Ovid. *Fast.* I. 587.

² The title of *Asiaticus* was assumed by, and not bestowed upon, *L. Cornelius Scipio*, the brother of the elder *Africanus*, and when applied to his descendants must have been regarded merely as a second cognomen. So also the title *Aeternus*, which distinguished a branch of the *Claudii Marcelli*.