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State and Family in Early Rome by C. W. L. Launspach  
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**State and Family in Early Rome.** By C. W. L. LAUNSPACH. George Bell and Sons. 1908, Pp. xx+288.

The central idea of this treatise, which deals with the period from the beginning of Rome to the outbreak of the first Punic War, is 'that the early Roman State was a conscious imitation of the ancient Gens or ancient Family, that its theory of Government was founded upon the relations existing between kinsmen, and that these again were determined by religious notions which later became transformed through developments within the city and external influences.' The book, thus limiting itself to internal, domestic, and constitutional history, begins with a discussion of the origin of the Romans, the religious basis of their society, and the constitution and function of the Gentes. There follows an account of constitutional development in the period, worked out from the starting-point of the central hypothesis. The three concluding chapters, which occupy almost half the book, are concerned with marriage, patria potestas, and succession, tracing the intricacies of private law from their origins and relating them to social and constitutional development. The book presupposes a considerable knowledge of Roman history and some knowledge of Roman private law. To the reader adequately equipped in this respect it should prove an interesting study.

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**The Greatness and Decline of Rome.** Vol. III. The Fall of an Aristocracy. Vol. IV. Rome and Egypt. By GUGLIELMO FERRERO; translated by Rev. H. J. CHAYTOR. Pp. 342 and 291. William Heinemann. 1908.

The third and fourth volumes of Signor Ferrero's work traverse twenty-two eventful years. Opening with the scene on the Capitol after the assassination of Julius Caesar (a scene depicted with rare insight and power) the narrative proceeds to the completion of the constitutional settlement in B.C. 22. The two volumes fully uphold the promise of their predecessors. Those pictures of the social and financial condition of Italy, which formed so striking a feature of the earlier chapters, though now more compressed, are no less incisive and vivid than before. The author's point of view is essentially modern; he never loses sight of the vast multitude of the inarticulate poor of whom ancient historians deigned to mention nothing but their turbulence.

The portraits of the leading actors in the later civil wars are splendidly robust. The third volume witnesses the last years of Cicero, whose life is treated throughout with sympathy and judgment. The characters of Fulvia and Octavia, very vividly drawn, make a fine study in contrasts. As for Antony, Cleopatra, and Augustus, the protagonists, their personalities pervade the book, but they are not quite the old personalities. For Signor Ferrero is not bound by the judgment of earlier historians. He discards the time-honoured tradition of the Cleopatra love-story, and acknowledges only a marriage effected lovelessly and prosaically enough at Antioch, a marriage dictated on Cleopatra's side by fear of palace intrigues, and on Antony's by need of the treasure of the Ptolemies for the prosecution of the Persian War. The whole history of Antony's last years is strangely changed in Signor Ferrero's hands; neither is it very easy to believe that the deep-rooted legend sprang from no stronger seed than the scandalous report of political opponents. Moreover Signor Ferrero places a new interpretation on the career of Augustus. His constitutional settlement was intended to restore not the form, but the essence of the Republic; not to hide monarchical under republican forms, but to remove a weight of responsibility which Augustus shunned and feared. 'A general conviction arose that he (Augustus) was the long-expected figure, called, as Virgil will soon express it, *condere aurea saecula*, to realise all the vague hopes which then possessed men's minds. One citizen of the Empire, however, declined to believe the legend, mistrusted, and indeed almost feared it, and this man was Augustus himself. For fifty years historians have incessantly repeated that Augustus had secretly