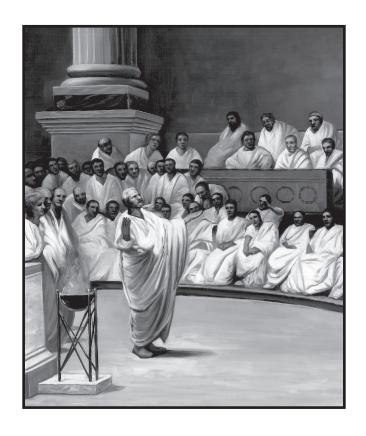
## THE BOOK OF THE ANCIENTROMANS



**Dorothy Mills**Edited by Memoria Press



## THE BOOK OF THE ANCIENT ROMANS

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## THE BOOK OF THE ANCIENT ROMANS

Others, no doubt, from breathing bronze shall draw More softness, and a living face devise From marble, plead their causes at the law More deftly, trace the motions of the skies With learned rod, and tell the stars that rise. Thou, Roman, rule, and o'er the world proclaim The ways of peace. Be these thy victories, To spare the vanquished and the proud to tame. These are imperial arts, and worthy of thy name

IN THESE WORDS, Virgil, the great Roman poet, set forth what he believed to be the mission of Rome. He lived at a time when Rome had become a mighty empire. Looking back across the centuries, he could see how she had grown from only a small settlement to the ruler of the world.

She had conquered the world, and not only the Mediterranean world with its great civilizations, but lands far beyond the shores of that ancient sea, lands inhabited by men of strange speech and uncouth ways. In the thought of the poet, that had been the just step in her mission, to conquer; then, having conquered, she was to rule and crown the peace she had established in her empire with law and order. This mission she worthily fulfilled. We, looking back to the days of Virgil, can see that she accomplished yet a third great task, for, having conquered and then wisely ruled it, she civilized the world.

<sup>1</sup> Aeneid, VI.

The spirit of a nation expresses itself and its history is recorded in various ways: in the social relations of the people both with each other and with other nations (this is called its political history); in its language, which expresses itself in its literature; and in its building, which is its architecture.<sup>2</sup>

It is in the political history, the literature, and the architecture of Rome that we find the story of how she made her own that which came to her out of the East, and of how greatly she fulfilled her mission not only of conquering, but also of ruling and of civilizing the world.



The Goddess Rome

<sup>2</sup> The Book of the Ancient Greeks.