

**THE ROMAN EMPRESSES, OR, THE
HISTORY OF THE LIVES AND SECRET
INTRIGUES OF THE
WIVES OF THE TWELVE CAESARS WITH
HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL NOTES, IN
TWO VOLUMES-VOL. II**

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The Roman Empresses, or, The History of the Lives and Secret Intrigues of the Wives of the Twelve Caesars with Historical and Critical Notes, in Two Volumes-Vol. II by Jacques Roergas de Serviez

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JACQUES ROERGAS DE SERVIEZ

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THE
ROMAN EMPRESSES
VOL. II.

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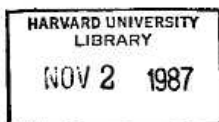
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THE ROMAN EMPRESSES

SABINA, WIFE OF HADRIAN.

REAL happiness is not always to be met with in a high rank or exalted station, for frequently it happens that great vexations are attendant upon great fortunes, and kings upon their thrones are surrounded with cares, jealousies, and bitter anxieties. Sabina was not at all the more fortunate for being raised to the empire, but on the contrary fell a sacrifice to her grandeur. Hadrian became Emperor by her means, but that did not hinder him from being his wife's tyrant and persecutor: she found herself no better than a miserable slave in the most elevated dignity in the universe.

Sabina was daughter of Matidia, niece to Trajan, and grand-daughter to Marciana, that prince's sister, whose names were not so much as known (such was the obscurity of their husbands' fortunes) till Trajan obtained the throne. Marciana and Matidia, her daughter, were widows when Nerva adopted Trajan, which certainly is the reason that history makes no mention of their husbands' names, who, in all probability, were not very considerable in the empire. But Trajan being invested with the sovereign power, his glory could not of course but reflect upon all his family, and from that time Marciana, his sister, Matidia, his niece, and the young princesses, Sabina, and Matidia, his niece's daughter, were always treated with the fitting respect due to their rank. The Senate, who were sure never to omit any opportunity of flattering and paying their court to the Emperor, gave them the most pompous titles, and among the rest that of August was not forgotten; and as Trajan was exceedingly fond of his sister, and had also a great affection for his nieces, the Court, the city, and the provinces had the same regard for them that they had for the Empress herself.

Sabina was the eldest of Matidia's daughters, and because Trajan had no children, she was looked upon as his daughter; so that whoever she married was thought to bid fairest for the empire, which was no small addition to her merit, and served mightily to heighten her good qualities. Besides these great prospects and expectations Sabina had this additional advantage, that few could