

Some Excerpts out of the Civil
History of the Kingdom of Naples
Written in Italian By Pietro Giannone
Civilian And Advocate in Naples
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The Introduction.

All tho' it is in the power of one Man to Collect the History of the rise and progress of Learning in other parts of Europe, and of its various success over all the Part of Europe, in which we have seen some Men and then who have succeeded, yet never the less as to the Jurisprudence, which often changes its shape on the change of Princes and Nations, it is not an Undertaking that can be performed by one Man, but ought to be divided amongst many, each of whom was fit about to treat of the use, Authority, and the various Changes that have happened in his own Country. So we perceive that a sort of a History of the Roman Jurisprudence has been compiled by some Excellent Writers; neither the less they have all laboured to make it clear and Evident in relating its origin and progress in the times when the Roman Empire had its full Growth, and when it came to the highest pitch of Grandeur; but its various turns of Fortune, when the Empire began afterward to fall from its Glory, its Declension, Extinction, and Restoration, the use and Authority that it had in the New Dominions established in Europe after the Inundations of so many Nations, when by the New Laws it was in a manner extinct, and when, being restored, it eclipsed those, cannot surely be exactly described by any one Man in the whole world. Therefore it was well advised of some Noble Geniuses, who, after having given a specimen of general things in their own Kingdom, ^{or} provided bounds to themselves, beyond which they seldom or never went.