drawn up in the Government office and in the presence of Governmental officials; 3) the Jews usually brought their judicial claims before the official bodies, *i. e.* before the various Greek courts or the strategus of the district; 4) the laws and regulations forming the legal basis of the family and business life of the Jews are the usual laws of the Greek population of Egypt. There were, of course, judicial cases which were heard before Jewish courts, especially matters relating to family-life (marriages, divorces), but we have no instances thereof in the papyri, save the obscure hint in *P. Ent.*, 23 mentioned above. The influence of Hellenistic law on Jewish life in Egypt may be noted particularly in the following two cases : 1) A Jewish woman in Egypt is always represented in the law-courts by her *κύριος* like the Greek woman,—a fact indicating the inferiority of her judicial rights; yet this representation is not demanded by Jewish law. 2) There are instances in the papyri of Jews lending their money to other Jews on interest, which is inconsistent with the principles of Jewish law [1]. The explanation for so great an influence of the Hellenistic law on the Egyptian Jews may be found in the weakness of Jewish national institutions in the beginning of the Ptolemaic period and in the strong process of Hellenisation among the Jews of Alexandria.

CHAPTER V.

THE CIVIC STATUS OF EGYPTIAN JEWS IN THE ROMAN PERIOD.

1. *Rome, Alexandria and the Jews.*—From the very beginning of the Roman period, Alexandria, the second city in the Empire, was constantly hostile to Rome. Her enmity to Rome, now overt, now dissimulated, can be seen during the whole history of the Roman Empire. It therefore happened that "the Jewish question" was at times associated with the

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[1] There are, however, many instances in the documents of persons lending their money (or corn) without interest, but it cannot be assumed that all these persons of various nationalities and social status were influenced by Jewish law. See Tscherikower and Heichelheim, *Jewish religious influence in the Adler papyri? Harv. Theolog. Review*, 35, 1942, p. 25 sqq.