

AVENTURE  
DE  
TÉLÉMAQUE



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LAS  
AVENTURAS  
DE  
TELÉMACO,  
HIJO DE ULISES.  
POR FRANCISCO SALIGNAC  
DE LA MOTHE-FÉNÉLON,  
ARZOBISPO DE CAMBRAY.

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TRADUCIDO DEL ORIGINAL FRANCES.

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TOMO II.

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EN PARIS,  
POR BOSSANGE, MASSON y BESSON.

XII. — M. DCCCIV.



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THE ADVENTURES  
OF  
TELEMACHUS.

AVENTURAS  
DE  
TELÉMACO.



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VOL. II.

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# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XIII.

### ARGUMENT.

Idomeneus relates to Mentor his confidence in Protesilaus, and the artifices of that favourite, in concert with Timocrates, to betray him, and destroy Philocles: he confesses, that being prejudiced against him by these confederates, he sent Timocrates to kill him while he was abroad with the command of a fleet upon a dangerous expedition: that Timocrates having failed in the attempt, Philocles forbore to avenge himself, by taking his life, but resigning the command of the fleet to Polymenes, who had been appointed to succeed him in the written orders for his death, he retired to the isle of Samos; Idomeneus adds, that he at length discovered the perfidy of Protesilaus, but that, even then, he could not shake off his influence.

THE mild and equitable government of Idomeneus, soon brought the inhabitants of the neighbouring countries, in crowds, to Salentum, to be incorporated with his people, and share the felicity of his reign. The fields, which had been long overgrown with thorns and brambles, now promised a rich harvest, and fruits that were unknown before; the earth opens her bosom to the plough-share, and gets ready her treasures to reward the husbandman; every eye sparkles with hope; innumerable flocks whiten, alike, the valleys and the hills; the mountains resound with the lowing of cattle, which, in large herds, share the pasture with the sheep; and the pasture thus manured, becomes more fertile, in proportion to the number that it feeds. These flocks and herds were procured by the contrivance of Mentor, who advised Idomeneus to exchange, for them, with the Peucetes, a neighbouring people, such superfluities as were prohibited by the new regulations at Salentum.

# TELEMACHUS.

## LIBRO XIII.

### SUMARIO.

Idomeneo refiere á Mentor la confianza que tuvo en Protesilaó, y los artificios de ese favorito, que se habia concertado con Timocrates para perder á Filocles, y vender á su mismo Rey. Le confiesa que, animado contra Filocles por estos hombres, habia despachado á Timocrates para que fuese á matarle en una expedicion en que aquel mandaba la armada; que habiendo este errado el golpe, Filocles le habia perdonado, retirandose á la isla de Samos despues de haber entregado el mando de la armada á Polymenes, nombrado por el propio Idomeneo en su despacho; y que, á pesar de la traicion de Protesilaó, no habia podido resolverse á echarlo.

YA de todas partes venian multitud de pueblos atraidos por la fama del gobierno suave y moderado de Idomeneo, á incorporarse con el suyo, buscando su felicidad baxo un dominio tan amable. Ya las campañas, que tan largo tiempo habian estado cubiertas de zarzales y espinos, prometian abundantes cosechas y frutos, hasta entónces no conocidos. La tierra abria el seno á las heridas del arado, y prevenia sus riquezas, para recompensar al labrador: en suma, la esperanza brillaba en todas partes. Velanse en los valles, y sobre las colinas manadas de carneros, que saltaban sobre la yerba, y número crecido de bueyes y terneras, que con sus bramidos hacian resonar las montañas, yéndose á engordar en el campo. Mentor habia hallado el modo de tener este bien. El habia aconsejado á Idomeneo que hiciera con los pueblos vecinos un trueque de todas las cosas superfluas, que no se habian de tolerar mas en Salento, por aquellos ganados, de que los Salentinos tenian falta.



At the same time, the city and the adjacent villages were filled with the youth of both sexes, who had long languished in dejection and indigence, and did not dare to marry for fear of increasing their distress. When they perceived that Idomeneus had adopted sentiments of humanity, and was become the father of his people, they feared no longer the want of food, nor any other scourge with which heaven chastises the earth. Nothing was heard but shouts of joy, and the songs of shepherds and husbandmen, at the celebration of their marriage: Pan seemed himself to be among them; and Fauns and Satyrs to mix with nymphs in the dance, which the rural pipe prompted in the chequered shade. Tranquillity was every where heightened into joy: but the joy was no where perverted into riot; it served only as a relaxation from labour; and that labour rendered it, at once, more poignant and more pure.

The old men were astonished to see, what they had never dared to hope through the whole course of a long life, and burst into tears with excess of tenderness and joy. Their pleasure soon kindled into devotion; and raising their tremulous hands to heaven, they cried out, «O mighty Jupiter! bless the prince that resembles thee: and is himself the greatest blessing thou couldst bestow upon us. He is born for the benefit of mankind: return to him the benefits that we receive from him. The children of these marriages, and their descendants to the last generation, will be indebted to him for their existence, and he will be truly the father of his people!» The young couples that were married, expressed their joy, by singing the praises of him from whom it was derived: his name was continually in their lips, and his image in their heart; they thought themselves happy, if they could see him; and they feared his death, as the greatest evil that could befall them.

And now Idomeneus confessed to Mentor, that he had never felt any pleasure equal to that of diffusing happiness and exciting affection. «It is a pleasure,» said he, «of which I had no idea. I thought the greatness of a prince consisted in his being the object of

Al mismo tiempo la ciudad y lugares circunvecinos estaban llenos de bellísimos jóvenes, que por mucho espacio de tiempo habian estado perdidos en la miseria; ni habian osado casarse, por temor de aumentar sus propios males. Quando viéron que Idomeneo empezaba à tener sentimiento de hombre, y les queria ser padre no temieron mas à la hambre, ni los demas azotes de que se sirve el cielo quando quiere alligir à la tierra. No se oyeron ya mas que gritos de alegría, canciones de pastores y jornaleros, que celebraban sus bodas. Hubierase qualquiera imaginado que veia à dios Pan con una turba de sátiros, y de faunos mezclados con las ninfas, danzando con el son de las zampoñas à la apacible sombra de las selvas. Todo estaba tranquilo y risueño; pero era moderada la alegría, y no servian aquellos gustos sino de dar recreo à las largas fatigas; antes eran por esto mas vivos, y mas puros.

Los viejos, admirados de ver lo que en todo el discurso de su larga edad jamas se hubieran atrevido à esperar, lloraban con excesivo júbilo à vueltas de la ternura, y levantaban al cielo sus tembloras manos. Beuedid, decian, ó grande Júpiter, à este Rey, que se semeja à vos, y es el mas grande Rey, que habeis nunca formado. El ha nacido para bien de los hombres: volvedle todo el bien que recibimos de él. Nuestros nietos, que saldrán de estos matrimonios favorecidos de él, le serán deudores aun de sus nacimientos: y él será verdaderamente el padre de todos sus vasallos. Las doucellas y los mancebos que se desposaban, no daban à entender su alegría sino cantando las alabanzas de aquel de quien les provenia un consuelo tan dulce. Las bocas, y mucho mas los corazones estaban sin cesar llenos del nombre de Idomeneo. Tenian todos por su fortuna el verlo: tenian todos miedo de perderle, y fuera su pérdida la ruina de todas las familias.

Entonces confesó Idomeneo à Mentor, que no habia tenido jamas un tan vivo placer, como el de ser amado, y hacer feliz à todo su Reyno. Yo nunca lo hubiera creído, se explicaba, diciendo: Pareciame que toda la grandeza de los Principes consistia en hacerse

fear; and that the rest of mankind were made only for him. What I had heard of kings that were the love and the delight of their people, I despised as a fable; but I now revere it as truth. I will, however, tell you by what means these false notions, the cause of all my misfortunes, were early planted in my heart.

« Among other persons, whom I loved when I was very young, were Protesilaus and Philocles. Protesilaus was somewhat older than myself, and was my chief favourite: his natural disposition, which was sprightly and enterprising, exactly corresponded with my own; he entered into all my pleasures, he flattered all my passions, and he endeavoured to render me suspicious of Philocles. Philocles had great reverence of the gods, an elevated mind, and obedient passions: he placed greatness, not in the acquisition of power, but the conquest of himself, and in never stooping to a mean action: he often warned me of my faults with great freedom; and when he did not dare to speak, his silence, and the sorrow that was expressed in his countenance, sufficiently convinced me, that I had given cause for reproach.

« This sincerity, at first, gave me pleasure; and I frequently protested, that I would always listen to the truths he told me, as the best preservative against flattery: he directed me how to walk in the steps of Minos, and give happiness to my people: his wisdom was not, indeed, equal to mine; but I now know, that his counsel was good. By degrees, however, the artifices of Protesilaus, who was jealous and aspiring, succeeded. The frankness and integrity of Philocles disgusted me: he saw himself decline under the ascendancy of Protesilaus, without a struggle: and contented himself with always telling me the truth, whenever I would hear it; for he had my advantage, and not his own interest, in view.

« Protesilaus insensibly persuaded me, that he was of a morose and haughty temper; that he was a severe censor of my conduct, from a spirit of discontent; that he asked me no favour, only because he disdained

temer; y que los demas hombres se habian hecho para ellos; y tenia por pura fabula á todos aquellos Reyes de quienes habia oido decir que habian sido el amor y delicias de sus vasallos. Ahora reconozco la verdad; pero quiero contaros de qué suerte, respecto á la real autoridad, ha estado lleno mi animo de perniciosas máximas desde mi edad mas tierna: lo qual sin duda ha sido la ocasion de todas las desgracias de mi vida.

Protesilao, que es un poco mas anciano que yo, fué á quien yo amaba mas que á todos los demas jóvenes, porque su natural vivo, y osado se conformaba mas con el mio. El hizo estudio de complacerme, aduló á mis pasiones, y me hizo sospechoso un otro jóven, á quien yo tambien estimaba, y se llamaba Filocles. Era este temeroso de los dioses: tenia una alma grande, mas moderada: ponía su grandeza, no en la elevacion, sino en el vencimiento de si mismo, y en no hacer cosa alguna que no fuera conforme á la sublimidad de su espiritu. Hablabame libremente de mis defectos, y aun quando no se atrevia á hablarme, el silencio y tristeza de su semblante me hacian harto entender lo que me deseaba reprehender.

Al principio me daba gusto semejante sinceridad; y frecuentemente le protestaba que le oiria amorosamente todo el tiempo que viviera. Decíame todo lo que habia yo de poner por obra para guardarme de los aduladores, para caminar sobre las huellas de Minos, y hacer feliz mi reino. No tenia él, como vos, tan profunda sabiduria; pero sus máximas eran buenas, y ahora poco á poco lo adyerto. Hicieronme perder el amor á Filocles los artificios de Protesilao, hombre rezeloso y soberbio. Era Filocles un hombre reposado, que dexaba prevalecer al otro, y se contentaba solo diciendome la verdad, quando yo le queria oír. Deseaba mi bien y no su fortuna.

Protesilao insensiblemente me dió á entender que era Filocles de un espiritu enfadoso y soberbio, que censuraba todas mis operaciones, y que no me pedía cosa alguna por otro motivo que por soberbia; porque

obligation, and aspired to the character of a man superior to any honours that could be conferred by his prince. He added, that this youth, who spoke so freely of my faults to myself, spoke of them also with the same freedom to others; that he insinuated, I was little worthy of esteem; and that, by thus rendering me cheap in the eyes of the people, and by the artful parade of an austere virtue, he intended to open himself a way to the throne.

At first I could not believe, that Philocles intended to deprive me of my crown; there is, in true virtue, something open and ingenuous, which no art can counterfeit, and which, if it is attended to, can never be mistaken. But the steadiness with which Philocles opposed my follies, began to weary me; and the flattering compliance of Protesilaus, and his indefatigable industry to procure me new pleasures, made me still more impatient of his rival's austerity.

« In the mean time, Protesilaus, perceiving that I did not believe all he had told me of Philocles: his pride disdaining the suspicion which his falsehood had deserved, resolved to say nothing more to me about him, but to remove my doubts, by stronger evidence than speculation and argument: he, therefore, advised me, to give him the command of some vessels that were fitted out against a fleet of the Carpathians, and supported his advice with great subtilty. « You know, » says he, « that my commendations of Philocles cannot be suspected of partiality; he is certainly brave, and has a genius for war; he is more fit for this service, than any other person you can send; and I prefer the advancement of your interest, to the gratification of my own resentment. »

« This instance of generous integrity in a man, to whom I had intrusted the most important affairs, delighted me; I embraced him in a transport of joy, and thought myself superlatively happy to have placed my confidence in a man, who appeared to be at once superior to passion and to interest. But, alas! how much are princes to be pitied! This man knew

no quería recibir nada de mí, y procuraba adquirirse reputacion de hombre superior á todas las honras que se pueden desear. Y me añadió, que aquel jóven, que me hablaba de mis defectos con tanta libertad, hablaba con los otros del mismo asunto de la misma manera: que él me daba á entender bastantemente, que no hacia aprecio de mí, y que menoscabando así mi reputacion, se queria abrir el camino al principado con la ostentacion de una virtud rigurosa.

Al principio no me podia persuadir que Filocles quisiera sacarme del Trono. Hay en la virtud un sosiego y una ingenuidad, que no pueden jamas fingirse, y no se puede padecer error en conocerla, con tal que se registre con atencion. Pero empezabame á dar enludo la constancia animosa de Filocles contra mi floxedad. A mas de esto, la conveniencia de Protesilao á todos mis desiguos y caprichos, y su industria inexhausta para hallarme siempre algun nuevo placer, me hacian sentir con mayor impaciencia la austeridad del otro.

En efecto, no pudiendo llevar Protesilao que no creyera yo quanto él me decia contra Filocles, tomó el partido de no hablarme mas, y persuadirme con alguna cosa mas fuerte que todas sus palabras. He aquí el modo con que me acabó de engañar. Aconsejóme que enviara á Filocles á mandar los baxeles que debian acometer á los de Carpacia; y para inducirme á ello, me habló en esta substancia: Vos sabeis que yo soy sospechoso en sus elogios: confieso sin embargo, que tiene gran corage, y es harto aprovechado en la guerra. Filocles os servirá mejor que qualquier otro, y yo antepongo el interes de vuestro servicio á todos mis odios contra él.

Tuve sumo placer de hallar esta entereza, y esta equidad en el corazon de Protesilao, á quien ya habia confiado la administracion de los mas importantes negocios. Abracélo arrebatado del gozo; y me tuve por sobrado feliz en haber dado toda mi confianza á un hombre, que se me figuraba tan superior á todas las pasiones y á qualquiera interes. Mas ¡ay! ; cuánto son



me better than I knew myself; he knew that kings are generally mistrustful and indolent; mistrustful by perpetually experiencing the artifices of the designing and corrupt; and indolent, by the pleasures that solicit them, and an habit of leaving all business to others, without taking the trouble so much as to think for themselves: he knew, therefore, that it would not be difficult to render me jealous of a man, who could not fail to perform great actions; especially, when he was not present to detect the fallacy.

« Philocles foresaw, at his departure, what would happen: — « Remember, » says he, « that I can now no longer defend myself; that you will be accessible only to my enemy; and that while I am serving you at the risk of my life, I am likely to obtain no other recompence than your indignation. — « You are mistaken, » said I: « Protesilaus does not speak of you, as you speak of him; he commends, he esteems you, and thinks you worthy of the most important trust; if he should speak against you, he would forfeit my confidence: go, therefore, upon your expedition without fear; and think only how to conduct it with advantage. » He departed, and left me in uncommon perplexity.

« I confess that I saw, very clearly, the necessity of consulting many understandings; and that nothing could more injure my reputation, or my interest, than an implicit resignation to the counsels of an individual. I knew, that the prudent advice of Philocles had preserved me from many dangerous errors, which the haughtiness of Protesilaus would have led me into; I was conscious, that in the mind of Philocles, there was a fund of probity and wisdom; that I did not find in Protesilaus; but I had suffered Protesilaus to assume a kind of dictatorial manner, which at length I found myself scarce able to resist. I grew weary of consulting two men, who could never agree; and chose rather to hazard something in the administration of my affairs, than continue the trouble of examining opposite opi-

dignos de compasion los Principes! El me conocia mejor que yo me conocia á mi mismo. Sabia que los Reyes por lo ordinario son disidentes y desaplicados: disidentes por la experiencia continua de los engaños de los hombres malvados, de que estan ceñidos: desaplicados, porque se dexan arrebatados de los gustos, y estan acostumbrados á tener ministros; que tienen cargo de discurrir por ellos sin que ellos mismos tomen ese cuidado. Conoció pues, que no habia menester mucho para meterme en desconfianza y rezelos de un hombre, que ciertamente hubiera hecho cosas grandes, ofreciendole especialmente la lejanía de Filocles una entera facilidad de ponerle asechanzas.

Previo esto en su partida Filocles, que podia sobrevenir. Acordaos, me dixo, que yo no podia ya defenderme: que vos no oíreis á otro que á mi enemigo; y que sirviendoo con riesgo de mi vida, iré al de no tener otra recompensa que vuestro enojo. Vos estais engañado, respondí yo: Protesilao no habla de vos, como vos hablais de él. El os alaba, os estima, os tiene por digno de los cargos mas importantes; y si empezase á hablarme mal de vos, perderia al instante toda mi confianza; no tengais miedo alguno: andad, y no penseis sino en servirme bien. Partióse él, y dexóme todo confuso y lleno de turbacion.

Ahora es menester confesarlo: bien veia yo qué necesario me era tener muchos con quienes aconsejarme, y que no habia cosa mas perniciosa á mi reputacion, ni para la buena salida de mis negocios, que meterme en las manos de un hombre solo. Habia experimentado, que los sabios consejos de Filocles me habian puesto en salvo de muchos peligrosos errores, en que cierto me hubiera hecho caer la altivez de Protesilao; y bien notaba, que habia en Filocles una bondad y entereza, que no resplandecian en el otro; pero yo habia dexado á Protesilao tomarse una autoridad de hablar imperiosamente, á que yo no podia resistir. Hallábame cansado de encontrarme siempre en medio de dos hombres, que no podia acordar uno con otro; y en mi cansancio queria antes por desa-

nions, and judging for myself which was the best. It is true, I did not dare to assign the motives of so shameful a choice, even to myself; but these motives still continued their secret influence in my heart, and directed all my actions.

« Philocles surprised the enemy, and having gained a complete victory, was hastening home to prevent the ill offices he had reason to fear; but Protesilaus, who had not had time to effect his purpose, wrote him word, that it was my pleasure he should improve his victory, by making a descent upon the island of Carpathus. He had, indeed, persuaded me, that a conquest of that island might easily be made; but he took care, that many things necessary to the enterprize should be wanting: he gave Philocles also such orders as could not fail to embarrass him in the execution of it.

In the mean time, he engaged one of my domestics, a man of very corrupt manners, who was much about me, to observe all that passed, even to the minutest incident, and give him an account of it; though they appeared seldom to see each other, and never to agree.

This domestic, whose name was Timocrates, came to me one day, and told me, as a great secret, that he had discovered a very dangerous affair. « Philocles, » says he, « intends, by the assistance of your forces, to make himself king of Carpathus. The officers are all in his interest; and he has gained the private men, partly by his liberality, but principally by the pernicious irregularities which he tolerates among them. He is greatly elated by his victory; and here is a letter, which he has written to one of his friends, concerning his project, which, after such evidence, it is impossible to doubt. »

« I read the letter, which appeared to me to be in the hand-writing of Philocles; but it was a forgery, concerted and executed between Protesilaus and Timocrates. This letter threw me into great astonishment. I read it again and again; and when I called to mind,

hiento arriesgar algo de mis negocios, que no respirar con libertad. No me hubiera atrevido á decir, ni aun tal vez entre mí, una tan vergonzosa razon de la resolucion que habia tomado; pero esta vergonzosa razon que no me atrevia á expresar, no dexaba de obrar secretamente dentro de mi corazon, y ser el verdadero motivo de todo lo que hacia.

Destrozó Filocles al enemigo, obtuvo una completa victoria, y apresuróse para volver á Creta, á fin de prevenir los malos oficios que debia temer. Pero Protesilao, que aun no habia tenido espacio para engañarme, le escribió, que yo deseaba que hiciera un desembarco en la isla de Carpacia, para coger el fruto de la victoria. En efecto él me habia persuadido, que facilmente podría conquistar aquella isla; pero obró de manera, que faltaron á Filocles muchas cosas precisas para la empresa, y le obligó á obedecer á ciertas comisiones, que en su execucion causaron varios desórdenes.

Entretanto se aprovechó de un doméstico mio malvadísimo, que asistia cerca de mi persona, y observaba las cosas mas menudas, para ser de ellas avisado, bien que parecia que nunca se veian los dos á solas, y que no concordaban jamas en cosa alguna.

Este doméstico, llamado Timócrates, vino un dia á decirme con gran secreto, que habia descubierto un peligrosísimo negocio. Filocles, dixo, quiere servirse de vuestra armada, para hacerse Rey de Carpacia. Los capitanes le son aficionados; todos los soldados estan cohechados con la prodigalidad de sus dádivas, y mas aun de la perniciosa licencia con que los dexa vivir: él se ha ensoberbecido con la victoria obtenida. He aquí una carta suya, que él ha escrito á un amigo sobre el asunto de hacerse Rey: no puede haber de ello duda con una prueba tan evidente.

Leí la carta, y la letra me pareció de Filocles, porque la habian remedado con perfeccion. Protesilao, y Timócrates habian sido artifices de esta maldad. Quedé extraordinariamente admirado, leyendola. Volvíla á leer varias veces, y no me podia persuadir que la hu-

how many affecting proofs Philocles had given me of disinterested fidelity, I could not persuade myself that he was the writer: yet, seeing the characters to be his, what could I determine?

« When Timocrates perceived that his artifice had thus far succeeded, he pushed it farther: « May I presume, » said he, hesitating, « to make one remark upon this letter? Philocles tells his friend, that he may speak in confidence to Protesilaus of one thing; but he expresses that one thing by a cypher. Protesilaus is certainly a party in the project of Philocles, and they have accommodated their differences at your expense. You know, it was Protesilaus that pressed you to send Philocles upon this expedition: and, for some time, he has desisted from speaking against him; as he has been used to do: he now takes every opportunity to excuse and commend him; and they have frequently met upon very good terms. There is no doubt, that Protesilaus has concerted measures with Philocles, to share his conquest between them. You see, that he urged you to this enterprize, against all rules of prudence and of policy; and that, to gratify his ambition, he has endangered the loss of your fleet: is it possible, that he would have rendered himself thus subservient to the ambition of Philocles, if there had been enmity between them? It is manifest, that they are associated in a design to aggrandize themselves, and perhaps to supplant you in the throne. I know, that, by thus revealing my suspicions, I expose myself to their resentment, if you shall still leave your authority in their hands! however, since I have done my duty, I am careless of the event. »

« The last words of Timocrates, sunk deep into my mind: I made no doubt, but that Philocles was a traitor, and I suspected Protesilaus as his friend. In the mean time, Timocrates was continually telling me, that, if I waited till Philocles had made a conquest of Carpathus, it would be too late to frustrate his designs: « you must, » says he, « secure him, while he is in your power. » — But I was struck with

biere escrito Filocles, recorriendo con mi turbado ánimo todas las afectuosas señales, que me habia dado de su sinceridad, y de su corazón, ageno de interés. Entretanto ¿quién podrá fiarse? ¿Qué modo habia de resistir á una carta, en la qual yo creia por cierto que se reconocia la mano de Filocles?

Quando advirtió Timócrates, que no podia yo resistirme mas á su engaño, le hizo pasar mas adelante. Atreveréme, me dixo muy suspenso, á haceros observar una palabra sola de esta carta. Filocles dice á su amigo, que puede hablar confiado á Protesilao de una cosa, que solamente insinua con una cifra. Ciertamente Protesilao es cómplice de los designios de Filocles: Protesilao ha sido quien os ha persuadido, que enviarais á Filocles contra Carpacia. De cierto tiempo acá ha dexado de hablaros contra él, como antes lo hacia con frecuencia: al contrario ahora, en todas ocasiones lo alaba mucho, lo anima, y algunos dias hace que se miran muy cortesmente uno á otro. Ciertamente Protesilao ha urdido con Filocles dividirse la isla de Carpacia. Vos mismo veis, que él ha querido que se hiciera esta conquista contra todas las reglas, y ha resuelto hacer perecer vuestra armada, por satisfacer su soberbia. ¿Creéis, que de esta suerte hubiera querido servir á la ambición de Filocles, si fueran todavía enemigos? No, no, no puede ya dudarse, de que no se hayan ellos reconciliado, para ascender juntos al Trono, y por ventura para abatir aquel en que dominais vos. Hablando de este modo, sé que me expongo á su indignacion, si á pesar de mi ingenuo consejo, dierais aun en sus manos vuestra potencia. Mas ¿qué importa, como os diga la verdad?

Estas palabras últimas de Timócrates hicieron en mi una grande impresion: ya no dudé de la traicion de Filocles, desconfiando de Protesilao, como de un su estrechísimo confidente. Entretanto Timócrates me decia continuamente: si esperais que Filocles haya conquistado á Carpacia, no será tiempo de impedirle la execucion de sus malos designios, daos prisa de tornarle á vuestra mano mientras podeis. Hacíame á

such horror at the deep dissimulation of mankind, that I knew not whom to trust: after having discovered Philocles to be a traitor, I knew no man whose virtue could preclude suspicion. I resolved to cut off Philocles immediately; but I feared Protesilaus; and with respect to him, I was in doubt what to do: I feared equally to find him guilty, and to trust him as innocent.

«Such was the perplexity of my mind, that I could not forbear telling him, I had some suspicions of Philocles: he heard me with an appearance of the greatest surprise: he reminded me of his integrity and moderation, in many instances: he exaggerated his services; and did every thing that could strengthen my suspicions of there being too good an understanding between them. Timocrates, at the same time, was equally diligent on his part, to fix my attention upon every circumstance that favoured the notion of a confederacy; and was continually urging me to destroy Philocles, while it was in my power. How unhappy a state, my dear Mentor, is royalty! and how much are kings the sport of other men, while other men appear to be trembling at their feet!

«I thought it would be a stroke of profound policy, and totally disconcert Protesilaus, to cut off Philocles immediately, by sending Timocrates secretly to the fleet for that purpose. Protesilaus, in the mean time, carried on his dissimulation with the steadiest perseverance, and most refined subtilty: he deceived me, by appearing to be himself deceived. I sent away Timocrates, who found Philocles greatly embarrassed in making his descent, for which he was wholly unprovided: Protesilaus, foreseeing that his forged letter might fail of its effects, had taken care to have another resource, by making an enterprise difficult which he had persuaded me would be easy, and the miscarriage of which, therefore, could not fail of exposing Philocles, who conducted it, to my resentment. Philocles, however, sustained himself under all difficulties by his courage, his genius, and his popularity among the troops. There was not a private soldier in the army, who did not see that the project of a descent

mi horror el profundo disimulo de los hombres, y no sabia de quien fiarme. Despues de descubierta la traicion de Filocles, no veia en el mundo hombre ninguno, á la virtud del qual pudiera prestar fe. Estaba resuelto á hacerle quitar la vida lo mas presto que pudiera; pero temia á Protesilao, y no sabia como contenerme con él, porque temia igualmente encontrarle culpado, y nó hacer de él confianza.

Finalmente, en mi turbacion no pude reportarme, sin decir á Protesilao que Filocles se me habia hecho sospechoso. Mostróseme él atonito: representóme su recto y moderado proceder: me amplificó sus servicios; y en una palabra hizo todo lo que era menester para darme á entender que demasiado se entendia con él. De una á otra parte Timócrates no perdió un momento para hacerme advertir su secreta correspondencia, y para inducirme á arruinar á Filocles, mientras seguramente podia tenerle á mi mano. Ved, mi caro Mentor, qué infelices que son los Reyes, y qué sujetos á ser juguete de los otros hombres, aun quando parece que estos tiemblan á sus pies.

Yo pensé hacer una acción de profunda política, y arruinar los designios de Protesilao, enviando con secreto á Timócrates á la armada en que estaba Filocles para matarlo. Fue grande el disimulo de Protesilao quanto podia ser; y tanto mejor me engañó, quanto mas naturalmente se mostró como un hombre que quiere dexarse engañar. Partióse pues Timócrates, y halló muy embarazado á Filocles en el desembarco de las milicias. El tenia falta de todo, porque Protesilao, no sabiendo si su carta fingida recabaria su intento, y haria perecer á su enemigo, queria al mismo tiempo tener á punto otra traza, para conducir al fin su designio, con el mal éxito de la empresa, de la qual el mismo me habia hecho tanto esperar, y que seguramente me hubiera movido á odio contra Filocles. Mantenian este con su corage, con su ingenio, y con el amor que le prestaban los soldados, una muy difícil guerra. Aunque conocian todos, que un desembarco tal era temerario y funesto á los Cretenses, sin

was rash and impracticable, yet, every one applied to the execution of it, with the same activity and zeal, as if his life and fortune depended upon its success; and every one was, at all times, ready to hazard his life, under a commander, who was universally revered for his wisdom, and loved for his benevolence.

« Timocrates had every thing to fear, from an attempt upon the life of a general, in the midst of an army, by which he was adored: but the fury of ambition is always blind; and he saw neither difficulty nor danger, in any measure that could gratify Protesilaus, in concert with whom, he hoped to govern me without controul, as soon as Philocles should be dead. Protesilaus could not bear the presence of a man, whose very looks were a silent reproach, and who could at once disappoint all his projects by disclosing them to me.

« Timocrates, having corrupted two of Philocles's officers, who were continually about his person, by promising them a great reward in my name, sent him word, that he had some private instructions to communicate to him from me, and that those two officers only must be present. Philocles immediately admitted them to a private room, and shut the door. As soon as they were alone, Timocrates made a stroke at him with a poignard, which entering obliquely, made but a slight wound. Philocles, with the calm fortitude of a man familiar with danger, forced the weapon out of his hand, and defended himself with it against the assassins, at the same time calling for assistance: some of the people that waited without, immediately forced the door, and disengaged him from his assailants, who, being in great confusion, had made a feeble and irresolute attack. They were immediately secured; and such was the indignation of the soldiers, that they would the next moment have been torn to pieces, if Philocles had not interposed. After the first tumult had subsided, he took Timo-

embargo afanaban por hacerlo surtir efecto, como si de su logro dependiera su vida y su fortuna. Estaba cada uno contento de arriesgar su vida todos los instantes, baxo de un capitan tan sabio y tan atento á hacerse amar de todos.

Timócrates tenia mucho que temer, queriendo hacer morir al capitan en medio de un ejército que le amaba con todas veras. Pero es ciega la furiosa ambicion. A Timócrates parecia que no habia cosa difícil para contentar á Protesilao, con quien se figuraba que habia de gobernar absolutamente, despues de muerto Filocles. No podia sufrir Protesilao á un hombre de bien, cuya vista sola era una secreta reprehension de sus delitos; y podia, haciendome abrir los ojos, arruinar sus ideas.

Ganó Timócrates el ánimo de los capitanes que estaban de continuo al lado de Filocles. Prometiéndoles de parte mia muy grandes recompensas: despues dixo á Filocles, como iba por mi orden á comunicarle algunos secretos, que no se los debia participar sino en presencia solo de aquellos dos capitanes. Cerróse en un sitio retirado Filocles con Timócrates, y sus compañeros. Entónces Timócrates dió una puñalada á Filocles; pero no acertó el golpe, y así no penetró. Filocles sin turbarse, le sacó de la mano el puñal, y sirvióse de él contra todos tres agresores: gritó en el mismo tiempo, acudió la gente, derribaron la puerta, y se libró Filocles de las manos de aquellos hombres que por turbados lo habian débilmente asaltado. Prendieronles, y luego les hicieron pedazos, segun era el enojo de los soldados, sino hubiera Filocles detenido á la muchedumbre. Tomó él despues á solas á Timócrates, y preguntóle placidamente lo que le habia obligado para cometer tan malvada accion. Timócrates, temiendo la muerte, mostró el orden que yo le habia dado por escrito para matarlo, y como los traidores

crates aside, and asked him, without any tokens of resentment, what had prompted him to so horrid an attempt. Timocrates, who was afraid of being instantly put to death, made haste to produce the written order which I had given him, for what he had done; and as every villain is a coward, he thought only of saving his life; and, therefore, without reserve, disclosed the whole treachery of Protesilaus.

Philocles, though he was unmoved at the danger of the project which had been formed against him, was yet terrified at its guilt; he thought himself not a match for the malice of mankind, and therefore determined no longer to struggle with it. He declared to the troops, that Timocrates was innocent; he took care to secure him from their resentment, and he sent him back in safety to Crete. He then gave up the command of the army to Polymenes, whom I had appointed, by written order, to succeed him, and having exhorted the troops to continue steadfast in the fidelity they owed me, he went on board a small bark in the night, which landed him upon the island of Samos, where he still lives, with great tranquillity, in poverty and solitude. He procures a scanty subsistence, by working as a statuary; and wishes not so much as to hear of men, who are perfidious and unjust; much less of kings, whom he believes to be the most deceived, and the most unhappy of men. »

Idomeneus was here interrupted by Mentor: « Was it long, » said he, « before you discovered the truth? » « No, » said Idomeneus; « but I discovered it by degrees. It was, indeed, not long before Protesilaus and Timocrates quarrelled; for it is with great difficulty that the wicked can agree: and their dissention at once discovered the depth of the abyss into which they had thrown me. » « Well, said Mentor, « and did you not immediately dismiss them both? » — « Alas! » said Idomeneus, « can you be so ignorant of my weakness, or the perplexity of my situation? When a prince has once delivered up himself with implicit confidence, to bold and designing men, who have the art of rendering themselves necessary, he must never more hope to be free. Those whom he most despises, he most dis-

siempre son viles, no pensó en otra cosa que en salvar su vida, descubriendo á Filocles toda la traicion de su contrario Protesilaos.

Espantado Filocles de ver tanta malicia en los hombres, tomó un partido de extraordinaria moderacion. Declaró á todo el ejército que Timócrates era inocente: puso en salvo, y remitiólo á Creta. Dexó el mando de las tropas á Polímenes, á quien en el orden escrito de mi propia mano habia yo destinado el empleo, despues de la muerte del mismo Filocles. Exhortó finalmente á los soldados á mantenerseme fieles como debian, y la siguiente noche pasó en una barca ligera, que lo conduxo á la isla de Samo, donde pasa su vida tranquila y pobremente, solo y trabajando en hacer estatuas para ganar con que mantener la vida; no queriendo ya oír hablar de los hombres engañosos é injustos; pero especialmente de los Reyes, que son los mas infelices y mas ciegos de todos.

En este paso interrumpió Mentor á Idomenéo. Bien, se dixo, ¿ Y os detuvisteis mucho en conocer la verdad? No, respondió Idomenéo, poco á poco advertí los engaños de Protesilaos y Timócrates. Á mas de que los dos entre sí se enemistaron, porque los malos padecen mucho en mantenerse unidos. Su division acabó de mostrarme el fondo de aquel abismo, en que me habian ambos precipitado. Bien, dixo otra vez Mentor, ¿ habeis tomado el partido de desembarazaros de los dos? Ay, mi caro Mentor! respondió Idomenéo, acaso vos no conoceis la debilidad de los príncipes, y la confusion de sus ánimos! Quando se han metido una vez en las manos de un hombre, que tiene arte de hacerse necesario, no pueden esperar de librarse de él. Ellos tratan mejor que á los demas á los que mas

tinguishes by his favour, and loads with benefits. I abhorred Protesilaus, and yet left him in the possession of all my authority. Strange infatuation! I was pleased to think that I knew him, yet I had not resolution enough to avail myself of that knowledge, and resume the power of which he was unworthy. I found him, indeed, pliant and attentive: very diligent to flatter my passions, and very zealous to advance my interests. I had, besides, some reasons, which enabled me to excuse my weakness to myself: having, unhappily, never chosen persons of integrity to manage my affairs, I doubted whether there was any such thing as integrity in the world. I considered virtue, rather as a phantom than a reality: and thought it ridiculous to get out of the hands of one bad man with great struggle and commotion, merely to fall into the hands of another, who would neither be less interested, nor more sincere.

In the mean time, the fleet commanded by Polymenes, returned to Crete: I thought no more of the conquest of Carpathus; and Protesilaus's dissimulation was not so deep, but that I could perceive he was greatly mortified, to hear that Philocles was out of danger at Samos.»

«But,» said Mentor, «though you still continued Protesilaus in his post, did you still trust your affairs implicitly to his management?»

«I was,» said Idomeneus, «too much an enemy to business and application, to take them out of his hands: the trouble of instructing another would have broken in upon the plan of life which my indolence had formed, and I had not resolution to attempt it. I chose, rather, to shut my eyes, than to see the artifices that were practised against me: and contented myself with letting a few of my favourites know, that I was not ignorant of his treachery. Thus knowing that I was cheated, I imagined myself to be cheated but to a certain degree. I sometimes made Protesilaus sensible, that I was offended at his usurpation; I frequently took pleasure in contradicting him, in blaming him publicly for something he had done, and

desprecian y los colman de beneficios. Yo tenia en horror á Protesilao, y no obstante dexaba todo mi poder en sus manos. ¡Extraña illusion! Me alegraba de conocerlo, y no tenia brio para recobrar de él la autoridad que le habia dexado. De otra parte le hallaba de mi genio, dispuesto á complacerme, industrioso en adular mis pasiones, fervoroso en solicitar mis ventajas. En fin no conociendo yo virtud verdadera en los hombres, me parecia tener motivo para excusar conmigo mismo mi flaqueza. Por no haber sabido escoger hombres de bien, que tuvieran el cargo de mis negocios, creia que en el mundo no los habia y que el buen corazon era una bella imaginacion. ¿Qué importa, decia entre mí mismo, el procurar librarse de las manos de un hombre malvado, para dar en las de algun otro, que no será, ni mas desinteresado, ni mas sincero que él?

Volvió entretanto la armada debaxo de la conducta de Polimenes. No pensé mas en la conquista de la isla de Carpacia, y no pudo Protesilao disimular tan profundamente, que yo no reparase cuánto le alligia que viviera Filocles en Samo fuera de peligro.

Quiso saber Mentor de Idomenéo, si despues de una traicion tan iniqua habia proseguido en fiarse de Protesilao para todos los negocios del Reyno. Y le satisfizo así Idomenéo:

Yo era sobrado enemigo de los negocios y sobrado desaplicado para poder librarme de sus manos. Me hubiera sido menester trastornar el orden, que yo habia establecido para mi comodidad, y hacer de mí mismo un nuevo hombre. Jamas tuve aliento de disponerme á esto, y mas presto quise cerrar los ojos para no ver sus fraudes. Consolabame solamente, declarando á algunas personas, mis confidentes, que no ignoraba su mala fé; y de esta forma me figuraba, que sabiendo que era engañado, era solamente engañado por mitad. Hacia tambien de quando en quando entender á Protesilao, que llevaba con impaciencia su yugo, y muchas veces tenia gusto de contradecirle, de reprobar públicamente alguna cosa que él habia hecho,

deciding contrary to his opinion : but he knew my supineness and sloth too well, to have any apprehensions upon this account ; he always returned resolutely to the charge , sometimes with argument and importunity , sometimes with softness and insinuation ; and , whenever he perceived that I was offended , he doubled his assiduity , in furnishing such amusements as were most likely to sooth and soften me , or to engage me in some affair which he knew would make his assistance necessary , and afford him an opportunity of shewing his zeal for my reputation.

« This method of flattering my passions , always succeeded , notwithstanding I was upon my guard against it. He knew all my secrets , he relieved me in every perplexity , and he made the people tremble at my name ; I could not , therefore , resolve to part with him : and yet , by keeping him in his place , I put it out of the power of honest men to shew me my true interest. No man spoke freely in my council ; truth withdrew far from me ; and error , the harbinger of the fall of kings , perpetually punished me for having sacrificed Philoctes to the cruel ambition of Protesilaus. Even those who were best affected to my person and government , thought themselves not obliged to undeceive me after so dreadful an example

I myself , my dear Mentor , even I myself was secretly afraid , that truth should burst through the cloud of flattery that surrounded me , and reach me with irresistible radiance ; for I should have been troubled at the presence of a guide , which I could not but approve , yet wanted resolution to follow. I should have regretted my vassalage , without struggling to be free ; for my own indolence , and the ascendancy which Protesilaus had gained over me , concurred to chill me with the torpor of despair. I was conscious to a shameful situation , which I wished alike to hide from others and myself. You know that vain pride and false glory , are hereditary to kings , who can never bear to acknowledge either an error or a fault : to conceal one , they will commit an hundred : and rather than acknowledge they have been once deceived , they

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y tomar alguna deliberacion no conforme á lo que él me habia aconsejado. Mas como él conocia mi lentitud y pereza , no se metia en cuidado , por mas que me mostraba enfadado de él : volvía obstinadamente á renovar las instancias , y ahora usaba de ser importuno , ahora de la docilidad é insinuacion , para ganar el corazon. Especialmente quando advertia que yo estaba enojado con él , renovaba sus diligencias , para darme nuevos entretenimientos , á propósito para enervar mi ánimo , ó para enredarme en algun negocio , en que tuviera ocasion de hacerse me necesario , y de mostrar su zelo por mi gloria.

Por mas que estaba resguardándome de sus engaños , me dexaba siempre vencer de esta manera de adular mis pasiones. El tenia noticia de mis secretos , esforzabame en mis negocios mas dificultosos , y con mi autoridad misma que yo le habia puesto en las manos , hacia temblar todo el mundo. En suma , no pude pensar en destruirlo , sino que conservándolo en su grado , puse á todos los hombres de bien en estado de no poderme representar mis mayores y mis verdaderas ventajas. Desde entónces acá no hubo quien , aconsejándome , se atreviera á hablarme libremente , y la verdad se fué léjos de mí. Aquellos mismos que tenian mas zelo del Estado y de mi persona , se creyeron fuera de la obligacion de desengañarme.

Despues de un exemplar tan funesto , mi caro Mentor , yo mismo tenia temor de que la verdad deshiciera las nubes ; y á pesar de los lisonjeros , me viniese por sus pasos á hallar ; porque no teniendo valor para seguirla , su luz me molestaba , y conocia acá en mi interior , que me ocasionaria cruelísimos remordimientos , sin poderme sacar de un embarazo tan ruinoso. Mi blandura y la autoridad que Prótesilaos habia tomado sobre mí mismo , me hacian dar en una especie de desesperacion de no poder jamas volver á mi libertad. No queria ver un estado tan vergonzoso , ni que le vieran tampoco los otros. ¿ Sabeis en qué vana altanería , y en qué falsa estima de sí son educados los Reyes , desde su edan mas tierna ? Ellos nunca quieren haber errado. Para ocultar un error , es mepester que se hagan ciento ; y mas presto que confesar el engaño , y

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will suffer themselves to be deceived for ever. Such is the condition of weak and indolent princes; and such was mine when I set out for the siege of Troy!

« I left the sole administration of my government to Protesilaus, and he behaved, during my absence, with great haughtiness and inhumanity. The whole kingdom groaned under his oppression; but no man dared to send information of it to me: they knew that I dreaded the sight of truth; and that I always gave up to the cruelty of Protesilaus, those that ventured to speak against him: but the mischief increased, in proportion to the fear that concealed it. He afterwards obliged me to dismiss Merion, who followed me to the siege of Troy, and acquired immortal honour in the expedition; he grew jealous of him after my return; as he did of every man who was distinguished, either by my favour, or his own virtue.

« This ascendancy of Protesilaus, my dear Mentor, was the source of all my misfortunes: the revolt of the Cretans, was not so much the effect of the death of my son, as of the vengeance of the gods whom my follies had provoked, and the hatred of the people which Protesilaus had drawn upon me. An oppressive and tyrannical government had totally exhausted the patience of my subjects, when I imbrued my hands in the blood of my son; and the horror of that action only threw off the veil from what had long lain concealed in their hearts.

« Timocrates went with me to the siege of Troy; and gave private intelligence to Protesilaus by letter, of all that he could discover. I was conscious, that I was in captivity; but instead of making any effort to be free, I dismissed the subject from my thoughts in despair. When the Cretans revolted at my return, Protesilaus and Timocrates were the first that fled; and would certainly have abandoned me, if I had not been obliged to fly almost at the same time. Be assured, my dear Mentor, that those who are insolent in prosperity, are passive and timid in distress: the

tomar el trabajo de enmendar la falta, conviene dexarse engañar por todo el tiempo que durare la vida. Este es el estado de los príncipes débiles y desaplicados, y tal era puntualmente el mio, quando fué necesario partirme para ir al asedio de Troya.

Al partirme, dexé todos los negocios en manos de Protesilao, y él en mi ausencia los manejaba con altivez y crueldad. Gemia todo el Reyno de Creta baxo su tiranía: mas no se hallaba ni aun uno, que se atreviera á avisarme de la opresion de los pueblos. Sabiase que yo tenia miedo de ver la verdad, y que abandonaba á la crueldad de Protesilao todos aquellos que se disponian á hablar contra él. Pero quanto ménos osaban los súbditos á explicarse, tanto el mal era mas violento y mas grave. Preciséme á que desechara al valiente Merion, que con tan grande gloria me había acompañado al asedio de Troya. Despues de nuestra vuelta, entró en zelos de él, como de los demas á quienes yo queria, y que mostraban alguna virtud.

Conviene que sepais, mi querido Mentor, que de este origen han procedido todas mis desventuras. No fué tanto la muerte de mi hijo la que ocasionó la reuuelta de los Cretenses, quanto la venganza de los dioses, irritados contra mis floxedades, y el odio de los pueblos que Protesilao habia concitado contra mí. Quando vertí la sangre de mi hijo, cansados los Cretenses del gobierno severo, habian acabado toda su paciencia; y no hizo mas la horrible iniquidad de aquella última accion, que mostrar extrinsecamente lo que de largo tiempo estaba oculto en lo mas interior de sus corazones.

Timocrates me siguió al asedio de Troya, y por cartas avisaba secretamente á Protesilao de quanto podia entender. Bien reparaba yo que era esclavo; mas procuraba no pensar en ello, desesperando poderlo remediar. Quando á mi arribo los Cretenses se rebelaron, los primeros que huyeron, fueron Protesilao y Timócrates. Ciertamente me hubieran abandonado, si no me hubiera visto obligado á huir luego, despues de ellos. Considerad, Mentor, que los hombres insolentes en las prosperidades son siempre desvalidos, y timidos en las adversidades. Quedan des-

moment they are dispossessed of their authority, all is consternation and despair: in proportion as they have been haughty, they become abject; and they pass, in a moment, from one extreme to the other.»

« But how comes it, » said Mentor, « that, notwithstanding you perfectly know the wickedness of these men, I still see them about you? I can account for their following you hither, because they had no prospect of greater advantage; and I can easily conceive, that you might afford them an asylum in this rising city, from a principle of generosity: but from what motive can you still deliver yourself up to their management, after such dreadful experience of the mischiefs it must produce?»

« You are not aware, » said Idomeneus, « how little experience itself can avail to the indolent, who are equally averse to business and reflection: they are, indeed, dissatisfied with every thing; but, for want of resolution, they reform nothing. An habitual connexion with these men, which many years had confirmed, at length bound me to them by shackles that I could not break. As soon as I came hither, they precipitated me into that excessive expence, of which you have been witness; they have exhausted the strength of this rising state; they involved me in the war, which, without your assistance, must have destroyed me; and I should soon have experienced at Salentum, the same misfortunes which banished me from Crete. But you have at once opened my eyes, and inspired me with resolution. In your presence, I am conscious to an influence for which I cannot account; my weaknesses drop from me like mortality from the soul, when she is dismissed to the skies; and I feel myself a new being in a more exalted state.»

Mentor then asked Idomeneus, how Protesilaus had behaved, during the change of measures which had lately taken place. « He has behaved, » replied Idomeneus, « with the most refined subtilty. When you first arrived, he laboured to alarm my suspicions by indirect insinuations: he alledged nothing against you himself; but now one, and then another, were perpetually coming to tell me, that the two strangers

mayados al punto que escapa de sus manos la autoridad absoluta: véñse tan abatidos, como han sido soberbios, y en un instante pasan de un extremo á otro.

¿ Pero de dónde nace, preguntó Mentor, que conociendo intrínsecamente á esos dos malvados, los tenéis todavía cerca de vos? Admirome de que os hayan seguido, no pudiendo hacer cosa que les haga aquí útiles. Soy también de dictámen, que habeis hecho una accion generosa, recibiéndoles en la ciudad que poco ha habeis fundado; pero ¿ por qué ponerlos aun en sus manos, despues de tantas bárbaras experiencias?

Sabeis, dixo Idomeneo, quán inútiles son todas las experiencias á los príncipes blandos y floxos, que viven sin cuidar de cosa alguna? Estan descontentos de todo, y no se atreven á corregir algun desórden. Tantos años de hábito eran cadenas de hierros que me tenían atado á esos dos hombres, y ellos continuamente me cercaban. Desde que estoy aquí, me han hecho hacer todos los excesivos gastos, que vos mismo habeis visto: han extenuado este estado al nacer, y me han echado á cuestras el peso de esta guerra, que sin vuestra asistencia, estaba cerca ya de oprimirme. Bien presto hubiera experimentado en Salento las desventuras mismas que padeci ántes en Crete. Pero vos finalmente me habeis abierto los ojos, y me habeis inspirado el esfuerzo, que me faltaba para librarme de la esclavitud. No sé qué cosa habeis obrado dentro de mí mismo; mas desde que estais aquí reparo, que soy un hombre totalmente diverso del que antes era.

Pidió despues Mentor á Idomeneo, que le dixese qual era el proceder de Protesilao en la mudanza que habia hecho de los negocios. No puede haber, respondió Idomeneo, mas cauteloso porte, que el que él ha practicado despues de vuestro arrivo. Primero no ha dexado artificio que no haya probado, para introducirme en el ánimo, bien que indirectamente, alguna desconfianza de vos. No decia contra vos algo; pero veia yo

were much to be feared. «One of them,» said they «is the son of the crafty and designing Ulysses; the other seems to have deep designs, and to be of a dark and involved spirit. They have been accustomed to wander from one kingdom to another, and who knows but they may have formed some design against this? It appears even by their own account, that they have been the cause of great troubles in the countries through which they have passed; and we should remember, that this state is still in its infancy, that it is not firmly established, and that a slight commotion will overturn it.»

«Upon this subject, Protesilaus was silent; but he took great pains to convince me, that the reformation, which, by your advice, I had begun, was dangerous and extravagant. He urged me by arguments drawn from my particular interest: — «If you place your people,» said he, «in a state of such ease and plenty, they will labour no more; they will become insolent, intractable, and factious: weakness and distress only, can render them supple and obedient.» He frequently endeavoured to gain his point, by assuming his former ascendancy over me; but he concealed it under an appearance of zeal for my service: «By easing your people,» said he, «you will degrade the regal authority; and this will be an irreparable injury, even to the people themselves: nothing but keeping them in the lowest subjection, can preserve them from the restlessness of discontent, and the turbulence of faction.»

To all this I replied, that I could easily keep the people to their duty, by making them love me; by exerting all my authority, without abusing it; by steadily punishing all offenders; by taking care, that children should be properly educated, and by maintaining such discipline among the people as should render life simple, sober, and laborious. «What,» said I, «can no people be kept in subjection but those that are perishing with hunger? Does the art of government exclude kindness, and must the politician be necessarily divested of humanity? How many nations do we see governed with a gentle hand, yet inflexibly loyal to their prince? Fac-

diferentes personas que venian á darme aviso de que de estos dos extrangeros se debia tener mucho recelo. El uno, me decian, es hijo del engañoso Ulises, el otro es hombre anciano y de entendimiento profundo: estan acostumbrados á ir vagueando de Reyno en Reyno, ¿quién sabe que no hayan formado algun designio en el vuestro? Estos aventureros refieren ellos mismos, que han ocasionado grandes turbaciones por todos los paises, por donde han pasado. Este es un estado que nace, y no está aun bien firme: qualquier mínimo movimiento lo podria arruinar.

Protesilao no hablaba, mas procuraba hacerme reparar el peligro, y el exceso de todas las reformas que me haciais emprender, y solicitaba ganarme con la consideracion de mi interes propio. Si vos, me decia, poneis en abundancia los pueblos, ya no trabajarán, se harán soberbios, intratables, y siempre estarán prontos para rebelarse contra vos. Solamente la debilidad y pobreza son las que les hacen flexibles, y las que los reducen á pasarse de no poder resistir á la autoridad. Procuraba frecuentemente recobrar su antiguo poder para dominarme á su arbitrio, y encubria este pensamiento con pretexto de zelo de mi servicio. Que- riendo, me decia él, aliviar los pueblos, se disminuye la autoridad Real, y haceis con eso un daño irreparable á los vasallos, porque han menester para su quietud estar oprimidos y humildes.

Respondia yo á todo esto, que sabia bien tener los vasallos á rienda, haciéndome amar de ellos no disminuyendo la autoridad en la parte mas mínima, aunque los aliviara de imposiciones: y al fin, dando á los niños buena educacion, y á todo el pueblo una regla perfecta, para mantenerlo en una vida llena, templada y exercitada en el trabajo. ¿Qué, le decia yo, no se puede sojuzgar un pueblo, sin hacerle perecer de hambre? ¿Qué inhumanidad! ¿Qué brutal política! ¿Quantos pueblos vemos tratados suavemente y fidelísimos á sus príncipes? Lo que ocasiona las revoluciones es la ambicion é inquietud de los grandes de un

tion and revolt are the effects of restlessness and ambition in the great, whose passions have been indulged to excess, and who have been suffered to abuse freedom into licentiousness: of the effeminacy, luxury, and idleness, of great numbers of all ranks; of too large a military establishment, which must consist of persons wholly unacquainted with every occupation that can be useful in a time of peace; and chiefly of the wrongs of an injured people, whom intolerable oppression has at last made desperate. The severity, the pride, and the indolence of princes, which render them incapable of that comprehensive vigilance, which alone can prevent disorder in the state, are the first causes of tumult and insurrection; and not the secure and peaceful repast of the husbandman, upon that bread which he has obtained by the sweat of his brow.

« When Protesilaus perceived that, in these principles I was inflexible, he totally changed his method of attack; he began to act upon those very maxims, which he had laboured in vain to subvert; he pretended to adopt them from conviction, and with a relish; and expressed great obligations to me, for removing his prejudices, and throwing new light upon his mind. He anticipates my very wishes: and in order to relieve the poor, he is the first to represent their necessities, and to exclaim against unnecessary expence. He is even, as you know, become eloquent in your praise; he expresses the greatest confidence in your wisdom and integrity: and neglects nothing that he thinks will give you pleasure. His friendship with Timocrates seems to decline; Timocrates is endeavouring to throw off his dependance; Protesilaus is become jealous of him; and it is partly by their disagreement, that I have discovered their treachery.»

« You have then, » said Mentor, with a smile, « been weak enough to suffer even by detected villany; and to continue subservient to traitors, after you knew their treason. » « Alas, » said Idomeneus, « you do not know the power of artful men, over a weak and indolent prince, who has put the whole management of his affairs into their hands: besides, Protesilaus,

estado, quando se les ha dado demasiada licencia, y quando a sus pasiones se les ha permitido que se extiendan sin límites: es la multitud de los grandes y de los pequeños que viven en la afeminacion, en el fausto y en el ocio: es la demasiada abundancia de hombres aficionados a la guerra, que han descuidado de todos los empleos provechosos, en que es menester que se ocupen en el tiempo de paz: es finalmente la desesperacion de los pueblos maltratados: es la aspereza: es la altivez y la afeminacion de los Reyes, que se hacen con el vicio incapaces de tener ojos a todos los miembros del estado, para prevenir los tumultos. Esto es lo que ocasiona las revueltas, y no el pan que se dexa comer en paz al labrador, despues que le ha ganado con el sudor de su propio rostro.

Quando Protesilao se ha desengañado de que yo estaba firme en estas máximas, ha tomado un partido del todo opuesto a su anterior proceder. Ha empezado a seguir el dictámen que no habia podido destruir: ha fingido que le gustaba, que quedaba de él convencido, y que me está en gran obligacion, porque le he dado luz sobre este punto. El hace mucho mas de lo que yo podia deseár para aliviar los pobres; porque él es el primero en representarme sus necesidades, y en exclamar contra los excesivos gastos. Sabeis tambien, que no dexa de alabaros, que os hace muchas demostraciones de amor, y que no omite cosa alguna para hacerse bien acepto con vos. Respecto de Timócrates, empieza ya a no estar tan acorde con Protesilao, y ha discurrido hacerse independiente. Protesilao le tiene zelos, y sus disensiones en parte son las que me han hecho conocer su perfidia.

Mentor, sonriéndose de esto, le dixo: Luego vos habeis sido tan floxo que hasta ahora os habeis dexado tiranizar tantos años de dos traidores, cuya infidelidad os era conocida? Ha! Vos no sabeis, replicó Idomeneo, ¡ cuánto pueden los hombres astutos en el ánimo de un Rey flaco que ha dexado en sus manos todos los negocios! De otra parte os he dicho, que Pro-

as I have just told you, now enters, with great zeal, into all your projects for the general advantage of the state.»

« I know but too well, » said Mentor, with a look of some severity, « that, of those that surround a prince, the wicked prevail over the good. Of this truth you are yourself a dreadful example: you say, that I have opened your eyes to your true interest: yet, you are still so blind, as to trust the administration of your government to a wretch that is not fit to live. It is time you should learn, that a man may perform good actions, and be still wicked: that men of the worst principles and disposition do good, when it serves their purpose, with the same facility as evil. It is true, that they do evil without reluctance, because they are withheld neither by sentiment nor principle; but it is also true, that they do good without violence to themselves, because the success even of their vices, depends upon appearances of virtue, which they do not possess: and because they gratify their own depravity, while they are deceiving mankind. They are, however, incapable of virtue, though they appear to practise it; they can only add, to every other vice, that which is more odious than all, hypocrisy. While you continue resolute and peremptory that good shall be done, Protesilaus will do good to preserve his authority; but if he perceives the least tendency to relaxation, he will seize, and with all his powers improve, the opportunity to bewilder you again in perplexity and error; and resume his natural dissimulation and ferocity. Is it possible that you should live, with honour or in peace, while you see such a wretch as Protesilaus for ever at your side; and remember, that Philocles, the faithful and the wise, still lives in poverty and disgrace at Samos?

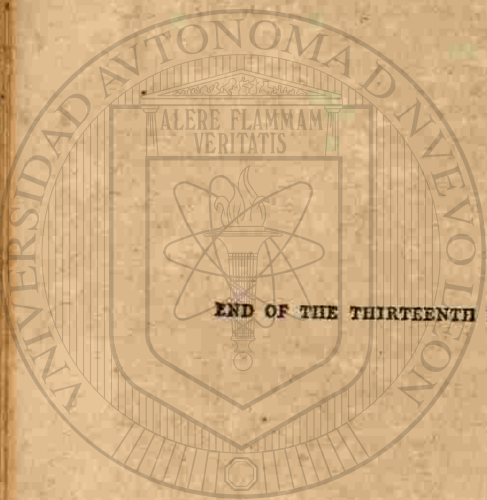
« You acknowledge, O Idomeneus! that princes are overborne and misled, by bold and designing men that are about them; but you should not forget, that princes are liable to another misfortune, by no means inferior, a propensity to forget the virtues and the services of those that are absent. Princes being continually surrounded by a multitude, are not forcibly

tesilao ahora tiene todos vuestros dictámenes, respecto del bien público.

Mentor entonces, con un semblante grato, volvió à hablar de este modo: Sé tal vez demasiado quanto cabe, que prevalecen los malos a los buenos, y sois de esto vos mismo un exemplar tremendo. Pero decís que os he abierto los ojos, para poder conocer los engaños de Protesilao, y los tenéis todavía cerrados, pues dexais à un tal hombre indigno de la vida, el gobierno de vuestros negocios. Entended que los malos no son incapaces de hacer bien, hacenle indiferentemente, no ménos que los buenos, quando puede servir à su soberbia. El hacer mal no les cuesta nada, porque no tienen dictámen alguno de bondad, ni algun principio de virtud que les tenga à raya; pero hacen tambien bien, porque su malicia les mueve à parecer buenos, y engañar à los demas hombres. Hablando propriamente, ellos son incapaces de la virtud, aunque muestren exercitarla, pero son capaces de unir a los otros vicios la hipocresia que es la mas horrible de todos. Miétras que queráis absolutamente obrar bien, Protesilao estara dispuesto à obrar bien con vos, por mantener la autoridad; pero à qualquiera leve disposicion que note en vos de amortiguar vuestro fervor, no dexará de usar todas sus artes para haceros recaer en los errores, y recobrar libremente su genio engañoso, y feroz. ¿Podeis vos vivir con honor y en reposo, miétras un rival de este tallo os asedia continuamente; y en tanto que sabéis que el sabio y fiel Filocles vive en la isla de Samo en pobreza y sin honra?

Sabéis, Idomenèo, y muy bien, que los hombres engañosos y osados que estan presentes, gobiernan à su gusto à los Principes floxos; pero debéis añadir que tienen igualmente los Principes otra desgracia no ménos grande, que es olvidar fácilmente la virtud y los servicios de un hombre ausente. La muchedumbre de aquellos que cercan à los Principes, es ocasion que no

impressed by any individual : they are struck only with what is present and pleasing : the remembrance of every thing else is soon obliterated ; virtue affects them less than any other object , for virtue can seldom please , as it opposes and condemns their follies . Princes love nothing but pomp and pleasure ; and who , therefore , can wonder , that princes are not beloved ! »



END OF THE THIRTEENTH BOOK.

haya alguno entre ellos que les haga en el ánimo una impresion profunda. No se imprime en ellos sino lo que tienen presente , y quien les adula , y todo lo demás se les olvida luego. Especialmente la virtud se hace amar poco de ellos ; porque en vez de adularles , les contradice y condena sus flaquezas. Es cosa , por ventura , de admirarse , que no sean amados , mientras que ciertamente no son amables , y de otra parte no aman sino su grandeza y sus gustos.

FIN DEL LIBRO DECIMO TERCIO.

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# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XIV.

### ARGUMENT.

Mentor prevails upon Idomeneus to banish Protesilaus and Timocrates to the Island of Samos, and recall Philocles to his confidence and councils. Hegesippus, who is charged with this order, executes it with joy. He arrives with his prisoners at Samos, where he finds his friend Philocles in great indigence and obscurity, but content: he at first refuses to return, but the gods having signified it to be their pleasure, he embarks with Hegesippus, and arrives at Salentum, where Idomeneus, who now sustains a new character, receives him with great friendship.

AFTER this conversation, Mentor persuaded Idomeneus immediately to dismiss Protesilaus and Timocrates, and recall Philocles. The king would immediately have complied, if there had not been a severity of virtue in Philocles, of which he feared the effects. « I confess, » said he, « that though I love and esteem him, I cannot perfectly reconcile myself to his return. I have, even from my infancy, been accustomed to praise, assiduity, and compliances, which, in Philocles, I shall not find. Whenever I took any measures that he disapproved, the dejection of his countenance was sufficient to condemn me; and when we were together in private, his behaviour was respectful and decent, indeed, but it was ungracious and austere. »

« Do you not see, » replied Mentor, « that to princes who have been spoiled by flattery, every thing that is sincere and honest, appears to be ungracious and austere? Such princes are even weak enough to suspect a want of zeal for their service, and respect for their authority, where they do not find a servility that is ready to flatter them in the abuse of their power; they are offended at all freedom of speech, all generosity of sentiment, as pride, censoriousness, and sedition; »

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XIV.

### SUMARIO.

ORRIGA Mentor á Idoméneo á que destierre á Protesilao y á Timócrates á la isla de Samo, sacando de ella á Filocles para que goze de los mismos honores y confianza que antes. Hegesipo, á cuyo cargo está executar la orden del rey, lo hace con alegría. Llega con aquellos dos hombres á Samo, donde vuelve á ver á su amigo Filocles contento con la vida solitaria y pobre que allí pasaba. Este no consiente sino con mucha dificultad en volver á su patria: pero despues de haber conocido que lo quieren así los Dioses, se embarca con Hegesipo, y llega á Salento, donde Idoméneo, que ya no es el mismo hombre, le recibe con amistad.

DESPUES de estas razones, Mentor persuadió á Idoméneo, que convenia, lo mas presto que se pudiese echar á Protesilao y Timócrates, para restituir despues á Filocles. Pero temia el Rey la severidad de aquel hombre, y esta era la única causa que le detenia. Confieso, decia, que por mas que lo estime, aunque lo ame, no puedo dexar de temer su vuelta. Desde mi edad mas tierna estoy acostumbrado á que me alaben, y á ser ciega y cuidadosamente servido y complacido: cosas que no puedo esperar que encontraré en Filocles. Luego que hacia yo alguna cosa que no aprobaba, él ayre melancólico de su semblante me daba hartó á entender que condenaba lo que yo hacia. Quando estaba á solas conmigo, eran respetosas sus maximas y moderadas; pero sobrado áusteras.

No veis, dixo Mentor, que á Príncipes viciados de la adulacion, parece áspero y austero todo lo que es libre é ingenuo? Llegan aun á imaginarse que no se tiene zelo para servirlos, ni tampoco aficion á su mando, si no tiene uno el alma servil, y dispuesta á adularlos, aun quando se valen de su autoridad del modo mas injusto. Qualquier palabra libre y generosa les parece altanera, crítica y sediciosa. Hacense delicados de suerte, que todo lo que no es adulacion les

and contract a false delicacy, which every thing, short of flattery, disappoints and disgusts. But let us suppose, that Philocles is really ungracious and austere; will not his austerity be preferable to the pernicious flattery of those that are now about you? Where will you find a man without fault? And is not that of speaking truth, in a manner something too rough and free, a fault from which you have less to fear than any other? Is it not, indeed, a fault which your own indiscretion has made necessary to your interest, as that only which can surmount the aversion to truth that flattery has given you? You stand in need of a man who loves only truth and you; who loves you better than you know how to love yourself; who will speak truth notwithstanding your opposition, and force a way for it through all your entrenchments. Such a man, and so necessary is Philocles. Remember, that the greatest good fortune a prince can hope is, that one man of such magnanimous generosity should be born in his reign: in comparison of such a man, all the treasures of the state are of no value; and a prince can suffer no punishment so dreadful, as that of losing him, by becoming unworthy of his virtue, and not knowing how to profit by his services.

You ought certainly to avail yourself of worthy men, though it is not necessary that you should be blind to their faults; in these never implicitly acquiesce, but endeavour to correct them. Give merit, however, always a favourable hearing; and let the public see, that you at once distinguish and honour it: but, above all things, strive to be no longer what you have been. Princes, whose virtues, like yours, have suffered by the vices of others, generally content themselves with a speculative disapprobation of corrupt men; and at the same time employ them with the utmost confidence, and load them with riches and honour; on the other hand, they value themselves upon discerning and approving men of virtue, but they reward them only with empty praise, and want magnanimity to assign them employments, to admit them to their friendship, or distinguish them by their favour. »

ofende, y les mueve á enojo. Ahora vamos adelante. Supongo que en efecto Filocles sea áspero y severo: ¿Su severidad, por ventura, no vale harto mas que no la perniciosa adulacion de vuestros Consejeros? ¿Dónde hallareis un hombre sin defectos? ¿Y el defecto de decirlos con sobrada osadía la verdad, no es acaso el que ménos debeis temer que todos los demas? ¿Pero qué digo? ¿No es este un defecto necesario para corregir los vuestros, y vencer aquella pesadumbre de la verdad, á que os ha conducido la lisonja? Vos habeis menester un hombre que ame la verdad sólida, y que os ame mas de lo que vos mismo sabeis amaros: que á mal de vuestro grado os la diga: que venza por fuerza todas vuestras repugnancias; y ese hombre necesario es Filocles. Acordaos que un Principe es felicísimo quando en su Reynado nace súbdito suyo un hombre solo de esa generosidad, que es el mas precioso tesoro del estado; y que el mayor castigo que puede temer de los dioses, es perder un tal hombre, si se hace de él indigno, por no haberlo sabido aprovechar.

En quanto á los defectos de los hombres de bien, conviene saber conocerlos, y no dexar de hacerlos servir. Corregid, y no desecheis jamas ciegamente su zelo indiscreto; sino escuchadle con atencion, honrad su virtud, mostrad al público que sabeis conocerla; y especialmente guardaos de ser como aquellos Príncipes, que contentándose con despreciar á los hombres malvados, no dexan de emplearlos con confianza y colmarlos de beneficios; y que presumiendo tambien de conocer á los hombres virtuosos, no les dan mas que vanas alabanzas, no osando de encargar á su fe los oficios, ni admitirlos á su familiaridad, ni beneficiarlos con abundancia.



Idomeneus then confessed, that he was ashamed of having so long delayed to deliver innocents from oppression, and to punish those that had abused his confidence; and all scruples about recalling Philocles being removed, Mentor had no difficulty in persuading the king to dismiss his favourite: for when once an opposition to a favourite has so far succeeded, that he is suspected, and becomes troublesome, the prince, feeling himself perplexed and uneasy, thinks only how to get rid of him: all friendship vanishes, and all services are forgotten. The fall of a favourite gives no pain to his master, if, as soon as he is undone, he is removed out of sight.

Idomeneus immediately gave private orders to Hagesippus, one of the principal officers of his household, to seize Protesilaus and Timocrates, and conduct them in safety to the isle of Samos; to leave them there; and to bring Philocles back to Salentum. Hagesippus, at the receipt of this order, burst into tears of surprise and joy: « You will now, » said he to the king, « make every heart in your dominions glad; for these men were the cause of all the misfortunes that have befallen you and your people. Good men have now groaned, twenty years, under an oppression so severe, that they scarce dared even to groan: to complain was impossible; for those who attempted to approach you, otherwise than by the favourites, were sure to be immediately crushed by their power.»

Hagesippus then acquainted the king with innumerable instances of their treachery and inhumanity, of which he had never heard, because nobody dared to accuse them; and told him also, that he had discovered a conspiracy against the life of Mentor. The king was struck with horror at the relation.

Hagesippus, that he might seize Protesilaus without delay, went immediately to his house. It was not so large as the palace; but it was better designed, both for convenience and pleasure: the architecture was in a better taste, and it was decorated with a profusion of expence, which the most cruel oppression had

Oído este discurso, dixo Idomenéo que era ignominia haber tardado tanto en librar la inocencia oprimida, y en castigar aquellos que le habian engañado. Ni aun le costó trabajo alguno á Mentor el lograr que el Rey perdiese á su favorito: pues, luego que se ha llegado á hacer que estos se vuelvan sospechosos é importunos á sus amos: los principes fastidiados y apurados no piensan ya sino en libertarse de ellos: se desvanece su amistad, olvidanse los méritos: y la caída de sus favoritos no les cuesta nada, con tal que dexen de verlos.

Ordenó luego el Rey secretamente á Egesipo, que era uno de los Oficiales primeros de su familia, que prendiera á Protesilaos y Timócrates, que los condujera seguros á la isla de Samos, que los dexase en ella, y que traxera á Filocles de aquel lugar adonde estaba desterrado. Espantado Egesipo de semejantes órdenes, no pudo contenerse de llorar de alegría. Ahora si, dixo al Rey, que satisfacedis llenamente los deseos de vuestros súbditos. Estos dos hombres han ocasionado todas vuestras desgracias y de vuestros vasallos. Ya hace veinte años que hacen gemir á todos los hombres de bien, y que apenas se encuentra quien se atreva á gemir: hasta tanto es cruel su tiranía. Ellos oprimen á todos aquellos que tratan de acercaseos como no sea por su medio.

Egesipo descubre despues á Idomenéo un gran número de perfidias, y de crueldades que habian cometido, de las quales el Rey nunca habia oido hablar, por no hallarse ninguno que tuviera aliento para acusarlas. Refirióle tambien lo que habia sabido de una conjuration secreta contra la vida de Mentor. Horrorizóse Idomenéo oyendo estas terribles maldades.

Apresuróse Egesipo en ir á prender en su casa á Protesilaos. Era ella ménos grande, pero mas cómoda y mas alegre que la de Idomenéo: era la arquitectura de mejor gusto, y el dueño la habia adornado con excesivo gusto, que todo era sangre de pobres. Estaba entonces él echado con descuido sobre un lecho de púr-

supplied. He was then in a marble saloon that opened to his baths, reclining negligently upon a couch, that was covered with purple embroidered with gold; he appeared to be weary, and even exhausted with his labours: there was a gloom of discontent upon his brow, and his eye expressed a kind of agitation and ferocity not to be described. The principal persons of the kingdom sat round him upon carpets, watching his looks even to the slightest glance of his eye, and reflecting every expression of his countenance from their own: if he opened his mouth, all was ecstasy and admiration; and, before he had uttered a word, they vied with each other, which should be loudest in the praise of what he had to say. One of them regaled him with an account of the services he had rendered to the king heightened with the most ridiculous exaggeration: another declared, that his mother had conceived him by Jupiter in the likeness of her husband, and that he was son to the father of the gods. In some verses, that were recited by a poet, he was said to have been instructed by the muses, and to have rivalled Apollo in all the works of imagination and wit; and another poet still more servile and shameless, celebrated him as the inventor of the polite arts, and the father of a people, among whom he had scattered plenty and happiness, from the horn of Amalthea, with a liberal hand.

Protesilaus heard all this adulation with a cold, negligent, and disdainful air, as if he thought his merit was without bounds, and that he honoured those too much from whom he condescended to receive praise. Among other flatterers, there was one who took the liberty to whisper some jest upon the new regulations that were taking place under the direction of Mentor: the countenance of Protesilaus relaxed into a smile; and immoderate laughter immediately shook the whole company, though the greatest part knew nothing of what had been said. The countenance of Protesilaus became again haughty and severe, and every one immediately shrunk back into timidity and silence: all watched for the happy moment, in which he would turn his eye upon them, and permit them

pura, recamada de oro, en una grande sala de mármol, cerca de sus baños. Parecía cansado y consumido de las fatigas; y sus ojos y sobrecejo mostraban no sé qué de inquieto y melancólico y aun de feroz. Los demas grandes del estado estaban sobre algunas alfombras distribuidos en orden al rededor de él, componiendo sus rostros á semejanza del de Protesilao, de quien observaban hasta la mas mínima vuelta de ojos. Apenas abria la boca, exclamaban todos, para admirar lo que queria decir. Uno de los principales del congreso referia con ciertas amplificaciones ridículas lo que Protesilao habia hecho en servicio del Rey; y otro atestiguaba que era hijo de Júpiter, y que el dios con engaño de su madre se habia dado ser. En aquel mismo punto le habia recitado un poeta algunos versos, en que decia, que habiéndole doctrinado las musas, habia en todo género igualado la ciencia y eloquencia de Apolo. Otro poeta, aun mas vil y desvergonzado, le llamaba en sus versos inventor de las buenas artes, y padre de los pueblos que él hacia felices, y los describia con la cornucopia en la mano.

Protesilao escuchaba todos estos elogios con un ayre de rostro rígido, abstracto, desdeñoso, como de hombre que sabe merecer mucho mayores, y que hace sumo gusto, permitiendo ser elogiado. Hubo allí un lisonjero, que se tomó licencia para hablarle al oido, y decirle alguna agudeza contra las buenas reglas del gobierno, que Mentor procuraba establecer. Sonrióse Protesilao, y toda la asamblea echó á reir, bien que la mayor parte no podia aun saber lo que habia dicho. Pero volviendo luego Protesilao su semblante rígido y orgulloso, volvió cada uno al temor y al silencio. Muchos nobles deseaban aquel momento en que Protesilao se queria volver á ellos, y escuchar sus razones. Parecian estos turbados y confusos, porque le habian de pedir gracias. Hablaban en lugar de estos, sus

to speak; and each, having some favour to ask, discovered the greatest agitation and perplexity; their supplicatory posture supplied the want of words; and they seemed to be impressed with the same humility and reverence, as a mother, who petitions the gods at their altar, for the life of an only son; every countenance expressed a tender complacency and admiration: but every heart concealed the most malignant envy, and implacable hatred.

At this moment, Hegesippus entered the saloon; and seizing the sword of Protesilaus, acquainted him, that he had the king's orders to carry him to Samos. At these dreadful words, all the arrogance of the favourite fell from him in a moment, like the fragment of a rock that is broken from the summit: he threw himself at the feet of Hegesippus: he wept, hesitated, faltered, trembled, and embraced the knees of a man, upon whom, an hour before, he would have disdained to turn his eye. At the same time, his flatterers, who saw that his ruin was complete and irreparable, insulted him with a meanness and cruelty worthy of their adulation.

Hegesippus would not allow him time even to take leave of his family, or to secure his private papers, which were all seized, and put into the king's hands. Timocrates was also arrested at the same time to his inexpressible surprise; for being upon ill terms with Protesilaus, he had not the least apprehension of being involved in his ruin; and they were both carried on board a vessel, which had been prepared to receive them. They arrived in safety at Samos, where Hegesippus left his prisoners; and, to complete their misfortunes, he left them together. Here, with a rancour natural to their circumstances and disposition, they reproached each other with the crimes that had brought on their ruin: here they were condemned to live, without the least hope of returning to Salentum, at a distance from their wives and children, no to mention friends, for a friend they never had: with the country they were wholly unacquainted; and

sumisiones, y parecian no ménos humildes que las madres al pie de los altares, quando exóran los dioses por la salud de un hijo único. Todos se mostraban contentos, aficionados á Protesilao, y en extremo admirados de él, bien que todos le profesaban un odio inextinguible.

Entra en este lance Egesipo, tómale la espada, y le notifica, que debe llevarle luego á Samo. A estas voces cayó toda la arrogancia de Protesilao, como un peñasco grande que se desprende de la eminencia de una inaccesible montaña. Hélo aquí, que se arroja temblando á los pies de Egesipo, llora, se suspende, no acierta á hablar, tiembla, abrázase á los pies del que una hora ántes no se dignaba honrar con mirarle. Todos aquellos, que le adulaban con tantas alabanzas, viéndolo ya perdido, sin esperanza de recobrase, trocaron sus lisonjas en desapasionadísimas injurias.

Egesipo no le quiso dar tiempo ni para despedirse de su familia, ni para tomar ciertas escrituras secretas: todo se le tomó y fué llevado al Rey. Fué preso al mismo tiempo Timócrates, y él se maravilló por extremo, porque le parecería que no habia de ser comprehendido en la ruina de Protesilao no siendo ya su amigo. Partieron pues entrambos en un baxel, prevenido para este fin, y llegaron con él á Samo. Dexa luego Egesipo á los dos miserables, y par hacer mayor su desgracia, los dexa á los dos juntos. Allí se improperan con rabia uno á otro las maldades que han hecho, y que son la ocasion de su fatal caída. Hallanse sin alguna esperanza de volver á Salento, condenados á vivir en ausencia léjos de sus mugeres y de sus hijos: no digo separados de sus amigos, porque no los tenian. Habian sido puestos en una tierra desconocida, donde no podian tener otro modo para pasar la vida sino el trabajo propio; y los que tantos años ha-

had no means of subsistence, but by their labour : a situation , of which the disadvantages were greatly aggravated by their luxury and splendour , which long habit had made almost as necessary to them , as food and rest. In this condition , like two wild beasts of the forest , they were always ready to tear each other to pieces.

In the mean time , Hegesippus enquired , in what part of the island Philocles was to be found : and he was told that he lived at a considerable distance from the city , upon a mountain , in which there was a cave that served him for a habitation. Every one spoke of him with the utmost admiration and esteem : « He has never given offence , » said they , « in a single instance , since he has been in the island ; every heart is touched at the patience of his labour , and the cheerfulness of his indigence ; he possesses nothing , yet is always content. Though he is remote both from the business and the pleasures of the world , without property and without influence ; yet he can still find means to oblige merit , and has a thousand contrivances to gratify his neighbours. »

Hegesippus immediately repaired to the cave , which he found empty and open ; for the poverty of Philocles , and the simplicity of his manners , made it unnecessary for him to shut his door when he went out. A mat of coarse rushes served him for a bed : he rarely kindled a fire , because his food was generally such as needed no dressing ; in summer he lived upon fruits fresh gathered , and upon dates and dried figs in winter , quenching his thirst at a clear spring , that fell in a natural cascade from the rock. His cave contained nothing but his tools ; and some books that he read at certain hours , which he appropriated to that purpose , no to decorate his mind or gratify his curiosity , but that , while he rested from his labour , he might gain instruction , and avoid being idle by learning to be good ; and he employed himself in sculpture , not to procure reputation or wealth , but merely to keep his body in exercise , and procure the necessities of life without contracting obligations.

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bían vivido en regalo y fausto , como si fueran fieras estaban siempre para despedazarse uno á otro.

Preguntó cuidadoso Egesipo , en qué parte de la isla habitaba Filocles. Dixéronle , que hacia su morada harto léjos de la ciudad , sobre un monte , donde una gruta le servia de habitacion. Todos le hablaron de este forastero con maravilla. Desde que está en esta isla , le decian , á ninguno ha hecho injuria , y todos se admiran de su paciencia , sus trabajos , y del sosiego de su corazon. No teniendo algo suyo , él se muestra siempre contento ; y sin embargo que aquí está léjos de los negocios , sin riquezas y autoridad , no dexa de hacer bien á quien lo merece y tiene mil maneras para beneficiar á sus vecinos.

Marchó Egesipo ácia aquella gruta. Hallóla sola y abierta , porque la pobreza y llaneza de las costumbres de Filocles hacian que saliendo no fuera necesario cerrar la puerta. Serviale de lecho una grosera estera de juncos : raras veces hacia fuego , porque no comia cosa cocida : y se alimentaba en el estio de algunas frutas recién cogidas , y en el Invierno de dátiles y higos secos. Quitabale la sed una bien clara fuente , que cayendo de un risco , hacia con mil juegos burla de su caída. No tenia en su gruta sino los instrumentos necesarios de la escultura , y algunos libros que leía á ciertas horas , no por adornar el ingenio , ni contentar la curiosidad , sino para instruirse , descansando en su trabajo , y aprender á ser bueno. A la escultura no se aplicaba mas que por exercitar el cuerpo , y ganar con que sustentar la vida , sin tener necesidad de cosa.

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When Hegesippus entered the cave, he admired the pieces of art that were begun. He observed a Jupiter, in whose countenance there was a serene majesty, by which he was immediately known to be the father of gods and men; he perceived also a Mars, well distinguished by a proud and menacing ferocity; but he was most struck with a Minerva, that was represented as encouraging the arts; the expression of her countenance was at once noble and gracious, her stature was tall, her shape easy, and her attitude so natural, that the spectator was almost persuaded she would move.

Hegesippus, having viewed these statues with great pleasure, retired: and as he was coming out of the cave, saw Philocles at a distance, sitting upon the grass, under the shade of a large tree, and reading. He immediately advanced towards him, and Philocles, who perceived him, scarce knew what to think: «Is not that Hegesippus,» said he to himself, «with whom I was so long familiar at Crete? But what can have brought him to an island so remote as Samos? Is he not dead, and is not this his shade which has returned from the banks of the Styx to revisit the earth?»

While he was thus doubting of what he saw, Hegesippus came so near, that his doubts were at an end. «Is it you then,» said he, «embracing him, my dear, my early friend? What accident, or what tempest, has thrown you upon this coast? Have you voluntarily deserted the island of Crete? or have you been driven from your country, by misfortune like mine?»

«It is not misfortune,» said Hegesippus, «but the favour of the gods, that has brought me hither.» He then gave his friend a particular account of the long tyranny of Protesilaus, of his intrigues with Timocrates, of the calamities which they had brought upon Idomeneus; of his expulsion from the throne, his flight to Hesperia, the founding of Salentum, the arrival of Mentor and Telemachus, the wisdom which Mentor had diffused into the mind of the king, and

Entrando Egesipo en la gruta, admiró las estatuas que no estaban aun concluidas. Vió un Júpiter, cuyo rostro estaba tan lleno de magestad, que fácilmente se conocia ser el padre de los dioses y de los hombres. A otra parte se veía Marte con una fiereza rigida y amenazadora. Pero lo que mas admiraba era una Minerva, que parecia viva y animada del arte. Era noble y apreciable su rostro: grande y ayroso el cuerpo: estaba tan viva la accion, que se podia creer que iba á caminar.

Habiéndose Egesipo recreado mirando las estatuas, salióse de la gruta, y á lo léjos vió que estaba Filocles debaxo de un grande árbol sentado sobre la yerba, y leyendo un libro. Fue ácia él, y Filocles que le vió, no sabia qué cosa creia. ¿No es este, decia entre sí mismo, Egesipo, con quien tan largo tiempo viví en Creta? Pero cómo puedo creer que venga á una isla tan apartada? Será acaso su alma, que despues de haber muerto volverá á este mundo otra vez?

En tanto que Filocles se estaba así dudando, se le llegó Egesipo tan cerca, que no pudo menos de conocerlo ni dexar de abrazarlo. ¿Luego vos sois, le dixo, mi amado y antiguo amigo? ¿Qué accidente, qué tempestad os ha echado á esta playa? ¿Con qué ocasion os habeis partido de Creta? Ha sido, por ventura, alguna desgracia como la mia, la que os ha sacado del seno de nuestra patria?

No es desgracia, le respondió Egesipo, sino favor de los dioses el que me ha traído á esta isla. Contóle luego la larga tiranía de Protesilao, sus tramas con Timócrates, las desgracias en que ellos habian precipitado á Idomeneo, la caída de este Príncipe, su fuga á las costas de Hesperia, la fundacion de Salento, el arribo de Mentor y Telémaco, las sabias máximas de que Mentor habia imbuido el ánimo del Rey, y la ruina de los dos pérfidos traidores. Añadió que los

the disgrace of the traitors by whom he had been abused. He added, that he had brought them in exile to Samos, whither they had banished Philocles; and concluded, that he had orders to bring him back to Salentum, where the king, who was convinced of his integrity, intended to intrust him with the administration of his government, and distinguish him by rewards adequate to his merit.

« You see that cave, » said Philocles, « which is more fit for the haunt of wild beasts, than the habitation of a man; and yet in that cave I have enjoyed more tranquillity and repose, than in the gorgeous palaces of Crete. I am no more deceived by man; for with man I have no more connexion: I neither see, nor hear, nor need him: my own hard hands which are now inured to labour, supply me with such simple food as nature has made necessary; and this slight stuff that you see, sufficing to cover me, I am without wants; and I enjoy a serene, perfect, and delightful freedom, of which the wisdom that is contained in my books teaches me the proper use. Why then should I again mix with mankind, and again suffer by their jealousy, fraud, and caprice? Envy not, my dear Hegesippus, the good fortune I possess. Protesilaus has betrayed the king, and would have murdered me; he is fallen into his own snare, but he has done me no hurt: he has eventually done me good, in the highest degree; he has delivered me from the tumult and slavery of public business; and to him I am indebted for this sweet solitude, and the pleasures I enjoy.

Return, then, my friend, to your prince; assist him under the necessary infelicities of grandeur, and do for him whatever you wish should be done by me: and since his eyes, which were so long shut against truth, have been at last opened, by the wisdom of a person whom you call Mentor, let him also keep that person about him. As for me, having once suffered shipwreck, it is by no means fit that I should forsake the port, in which the tempest has so fortunately thrown me, and tempt again the caprice of the

habia conducido á Samo, para que padecieran el destierro que él habia sufrido tanto tiempo por causa de ellos, y concluyó diciendo que tenia orden de llevarle á Salento, donde el Rey, que sabia su inocencia queria encomendarle los negocios del Reyno, y coimarlo de bienes y beneficios.

¿ Veis, le respondió Filocles, veis aquella gruta, mas propia para ser habitacion de fieras, que retiro de hombres? Allí por tantos años he gustado de mas dulzuras y mas reposo, que us en los dorados Palacios de Creta. Los hombres ya no me engañan, porque ya no veo á los hombres: no oigo ya su discursos lisonjeros, y venenosos, ni tengo ya necesidad de ellos. Mis manos encallecidas con el trabajo, me dan aquel simple alimento que me es preciso para vivir: ni he menester como veis, sino tener un poco de paño para cubrirme, no siéndome precisa otra qualquiera cosa, y disfrutando una paz tranquilísima, y una libertad dulce, de la qual la noticia de mis libros me enseña á que use bien. ¿ Qué cosa, pues, iré á buscar de nuevo entre los hombres zelosos, inconstantes y engañadores? No, no, mi caro Egesipo, no me envidieis la felicidad que aquí gozo. Protesilao, se ha hecho traicion á sí propio, mientras queria hacer traicion al Rey, y quitarme la vida. Pero él no me ha hecho algun mal; antes al contrario, me ha hecho el mayor de todos los bienes, porque me ha librado del tumulto y de la servidumbre de los negocios; yo le soy deudor de mi amable soledad, y de todos los gustos que percibo en ella.

Volved, Egesipo, volved al Rey, ayúdadlo á sollevár las miserias de su grandeza, y haced vos mismo con él lo que querriais que hiciera yo. Ya que ha abierto sus ojos cerrados tanto tiempo á la verdad ese sabio Mentor, téngasele consigo. Por lo que toca á mí, no me conviene ya dexar el puerto despues de mi naufragio, que me ha arrojado á él dichosamente, ni he de poner otra vez en poder de los vientos, que me lleven acá y allá á su discrecion. ¿ O quanto merecen los reyes que se apiaden de su desgracia! ¿ Quanto los

winds. Alas! how much are kings to be pitied! how worthy of compassion are those that serve them! If they are wicked, what misery do they diffuse among others, what punishment do they treasure up for themselves! If they are good, what difficulties have they to surmount, what snares to avoid, what evils to suffer! Once more, my dear Hegesippus, leave me poor that I may be happy.»

Philoetes expressed these sentiments with great vehemence, and Hegesippus looked upon him with astonishment. He had known him in Crete, when he conducted the business of the state; and he was then pale, languishing, and emaciated: the natural ardour of his temper, and his scrupulous regard to rectitude, made a public station fatal to his health. He could not see vice go unpunished without indignation; nor suffer even unavoidable irregularities, without regret; at Crete, therefore, he suffered a perpetual decay; but, at Samos, he was vigorous and lusty; and a new youth, in spite even of years, bloomed upon his countenance. A life of temperance, tranquillity, and exercise, seemed to have restored the constitution which nature had given him.

« You are surprised to see me so altered, » said Philoetes, with a smile; « but I owe this freshness, this perfection of health, to my retirement: my enemies, therefore, have given me more than fortune could bestow. Can you wish me to forsake substantial for imaginary good, and incur again the misfortunes, from which it is now my happiness to be free: You would not, surely, be more cruel than Protesilaus, you cannot envy me the good fortune that he has bestowed.»

Hegesippus then urged him from every motive, that he thought likely to touch his sensibility, but without effect: « Would the sight of your family and friends, then, » said he, « give you no pleasure; of those who languish for your return, and live but in the hope of once more pressing you to their bosom! And is it nothing in your estimation, who fear the gods and make conscience of your duty, to render

que les sirven son dignos de compasion! Si son malos, ¡ cuánto hacen padecer á los hombres, y qué tormentos les están allá prevenidos en del Infierno! Si son buenos, ¡ qué dificultades no tienen que vencer, qué asechanzas que desviar, qué males no deben padecer! Digooslo otra vez, Egesipo, dexadme en mi pobreza feliz.

Hablando así Filocles con gran vehemencia, le miraba Egesipo con grande asombro. Habiale visto en Creta por lo pasado, manejando los mayores negocios, flaco, desfallecido y acabado, porque lo consumia en el trabajo su complexion austera y ardiente. No podia él mirar al vicio sin castigo: queria en los negocios cierta diligencia que nunca se halla en ellos, y estas ocupaciones destruian su salud delicada. Pero en Samos le veia Egesipo grueso y robusto: á pesar de los años se habia renovado en su rostro la flor de la juventud; y la vida templada, tranquila y laboriosa le habia hecho como un nuevo temperamento.

Vos os quedais atónito al verme de esta suerte trocado, dixo entonces Filocles, sonriéndose. Mi soledad ha sido la que me ha dado esta frescura y salud tan entera. Mis enemigos me han dado lo que yo no hubiera podido hallar jamas en la mas elevada fortuna: ¿ quereis vos que pierda los verdaderos bienes, por seguir los falsos, y volverme á engolfar en mis antiguas miserias? No seais mas cruel que Protesilao, ¿ lo menos no me envidieis la felicidad que le debo.

Representóle entonces Egesipo, pero inútilmente, todas las razones que le parecieron mas fuertes para persuadirle. ¿ Sois vos pues, le decia, insensible al gusto de ver vuestros parientes y amigos, que suspiran por vuestra vuelta; y que están llenos de alegría con sola la esperanza de haberos de abrazar luego? Y vos, que sois temeroso de los dioses, y zeloso de satisfacer á vuestra obligacion ¿ teneis por nada servir á

service to your prince; to assist him in the exercise of virtue, and the diffusion of happiness? Is it blameless to indulge an unsocial philosophy, to prefer your own interest to that of mankind, and chuse rather to procure ease to yourself, than to give happiness to them? Besides, if you persist in your resolution not to return, it will be imputed to resentment against the king; and if he intended evil against you, it was only because he was a stranger to your merit. It was not Philocles the faithful, the just, the good, that he would have cut off, but a man of whom he had conceived a very different idea. He now knows you; and it being now impossible he should mistake you for another, his first friendship will revive with new force. He expects you with impatience: his arms are open to receive you; he numbers the days, and even the hours, of your delay. Can you then be inexorable to your king? Can your heart resist the tender solicitudes of friendship?»

Philocles, whom the first recollection of Hegesippus had melted into tenderness, now resumed a look of distance and severity: he remained immovable as a rock, against which the tempest rages in vain, and the roaring surge dashes only to be broken: neither intreaty, nor argument found any passage to his heart. But the piety of Philocles would not suffer him to indulge his inclination, however supported by his judgment, without consulting the gods: and he discovered, by the flight of birds, by the entrails of victims, and by other presages, that it was their pleasure he should go with Hegesippus.

He, therefore, resisted no more, but complied with the request of Hegesippus, and prepared for his departure. He did not, however, quit the solitude, in which he had lived so many years, without regret. «Must I then,» said he, «forsake this pleasing cell, where peaceful and obedient slumbers came every night to refresh me, after the labours of the day! where my easy life was a silken thread, which the sisters, notwithstanding my poverty, entwined with gold!» The tears then started to his eyes, and prostrating himself on the earth, he adored the Naiad of

vuestro Rey, ayudarle en todo lo bueno que quiere hacer, y hacer felices á tantos pueblos? Es por ventura lícito entregarse á una Filosofía salvaje, anteponerse á sí mismo á todo el resto del género humano, y amar mas su quietud que la felicidad de sus compatriotas? De allende se creará, que no quereis volver á ver el Rey por vengaros. Si él quiso haceros mal, la razón es, porque no os conocia. No quiso hacer morir al verdadero y justo Filocles: Idomeneo quiso castigar á un hombre harto diferente de vos. Mas ahora, que os conoce, y que ya no os toma por otro, siente reavivarse en su corazón toda la antigua amistad. El os espera con los brazos abiertos, para estrecharos tiernamente consigo, y esta contando los días, y las horas de su impaciencia; por volveros á ver. ¿Tendreis corazón tan duro, que podais ser inexorable á vuestro Rey, y á todos vuestros mas afectuosos amigos?

Philocles, que al principio se habia enternecido reconociendo á Egesipo, recobró el ayre obscuro de ántes, oyendo tal razonamiento, semejante á una roca, contra quien combaten los vientos, y donde van á estrellar las hondas el herbor furioso de sus enojos. Estaba inmóvil á ruegos y razones, que no hallaban algun portillo por donde penetrar en su corazón. Pero en aquel instante en que ya empezaba Egesipo á desconfiar de poderlo vencer, habiéndose Filocles aconsejado con los dioses, entendió por el vuelo de las aves, por las entrañas de las víctimas, y por otros muchos agüeros que debía seguir á Egesipo, que le llamaba.

Entonces no hizo mas resistencia, y previnose á la partida; pero no sin sentir dolor de haber de dexar el desierto, en que habia vivido tanto tiempo. ¡Ay! decía, conviene que te dexes, amable gruta, donde todas las noches venia el apacible sueño á recrearme de las fatigas del día! Aquí en mi pobreza las Parcas me hilaban de oro y seda los días. Postrose derramando muchas lágrimas, para adorar la Nayade, que tanto tiempo le habia aligerado la sed con la agua cristalina de su fuente, y á las Ninfas, que tenian su habitacion en aquellos montes vecinos. Oyó Eco sus lamentos,



the translucent spring that had quenched his thirst, and the nymphs of the mountains that surrounded his retreat. Echo heard his expressions of tenderness and regret; and with a gentle and plaintive voice, repeated them to all the sylvan deities of the place.

Philocles then accompanied Hegesippus to the city, in order to embark. He thought that Protesilaus, overwhelmed with confusion, and burning with resentment, would be glad to avoid him; but he was mistaken: men without virtue are without shame, and always ready to stoop to any meanness. Philocles modestly concealed himself, for fear the unhappy wretch should see him: for he supposed, that, to see the prosperity of an enemy, which was founded on his ruin, would aggravate his misery: but Protesilaus sought him out with great eagerness, and endeavoured to excite his compassion, and engage him to solicit the king for permission to return to Salentum. Philocles, however, was too sincere to give him the least hope that he would comply; and he knew, better than any other, the mischiefs that his return would produce: but he soothed him with expressions of pity, offered him such consolation as his situation would admit, and exhorted him to propitiate the gods by purity of manners, and resignation to his sufferings. As he had heard that the king had taken from him all the wealth that he had unjustly acquired, he promised him two things, which he afterwards faithfully performed: to take his wife and children, who remained at Salentum, exposed to all the miseries of poverty, and all the dangers of popular resentment, under his protection; and to send him some supplies of money, to alleviate the distress he must suffer in a state of banishment so remote from his country.

The wind being fair, Hegesippus hastened the departure of his friend. Protesilaus saw them embark: his eyes were directed invariably towards the sea; and pursued the vessel, as she made her way through the parting waves, and the wind every moment increased her distance: when his eye could distinguish it no

y los repitió con triste acento á todos los bosques de aquel contorno.

Pasó despues Filocles con Egesipo, á la ciudad, para embarcarse: pensó que el infeliz Protesilao, lleno de rubor y de saña, no le quería ver; mas se engañaba, porque los hombres facinorosos no tienen vergüenza alguna, y estan siempre dispuestos para qualquiera villanía. Para no ser visto de aquel infelice, se escondia Filocles modestamente, porque tenia miedo de aumentar su desgracia con la vista de un enemigo, cuya prosperidad estaba ya á punto de levantarse de sus mismas ruinas. Pero Protesilao buscaba cuidadosamente á Filocles, porque le queria mover á compasion, y obligarle á que pidiera al Rey, que le permitiera volver á Salento. Filocles era demasiado sincero, para poder prometerle el trabajar, para hacer que Idomeno le volviera á llamar, porque sabia mas bien que otro ninguno quan dañosa fuera su vuelta. Pero le habló apaciblemente, mostróle compasion, le procuró consolar, y le exhortó á aplacar á los dioses con la pureza de las costumbres, y con la paciencia de sus propios males. Habiendo tenido noticia de que el Rey le habia quitado todos los intereses injustamente adquiridos, le ofreció dos cosas, que despues fielmente puso en execucion: la una fue, de tener cuidado de su muger, y hijos, que habian quedado en Salento en una horrorosa pobreza, expuestos á la pública indignacion: la otra de remitirle á aquella isla distante algun socorro de dinero, para aligerar su miseria.

El viento favorable hinchaba ya las velas del baxel de Egesipo, convidando á levar las anclas para Salento, y dió él prisa á partirse con su amigo Filocles. Violes embarcar Protesilao, y quedó con los ojos fixos é inmóviles sobre la playa, hasta que con ellos empezó á seguir el baxel, que surcando las aguas, se

more, its image was still impressed upon his mind : at last ; seized with the phrensy of despair, he rolled himself in the sands, tore his hair, and reproached the gods for the severity of their justice ; he called at last upon death, but even death rejected his petition to die, and disdained to deliver him from the misery, from which he wanted courage to deliver himself.

In the mean time, the vessel, favoured by Neptune and the winds, soon arrived at Salentum. When the king was told that it was entering the port, he ran out with Mentor to meet Philocles, whom he tenderly embraced, and expressed the utmost regret at having so injuriously authorized an attempt upon his life. This acknowledgment was so far from degrading him in the opinion of his people, that every one considered it as the effort of an exalted mind, which, as it were, triumphed over its own failings, by confessing them with a view to reparation. The public joy at the return of Philocles, the friend of man, and at the wisdom and goodness expressed by the king, was so great, that it overflowed in tears.

Philocles received the caresses of his prince with the most respectful modesty, and was impatient to escape from the acclamations of the people. He followed Idomeneus to the palace ; and though Mentor and he had never seen each other before, there was immediately the same confidence between them as if they had been familiar from their birth ; as if the gods, who have withheld from the wicked the power of distinguishing the good, had imparted to the good a faculty of immediately distinguishing each other ; those who have a love for virtue, cannot be together without being united by that virtue which they love.

Philocles, after a short time, requested the king to dismiss him to some retirement near Salentum, where he might live in the same obscurity that he had enjoyed at Samos. The king granted his request ; but went almost every day with Mentor to visit him

alexaba continuamente á impulso del ayre suave. Aun quando ya no lo podia ver, volvía á representarsele su imagen otra vez en su fantasía. Finalmente, turbado, rabioso, y entregado á su propio despecho, se arrancó los cabellos, se revolcó en la arena, acusó de crueles á los dioses, llamó en vano la muerte á socorrerle ; la qual sorda á sus ruegos, no quería librarle de tantos males, ni él tenia valor para forzarla, dándosela á sí propio.

Llegó el baxel bien á prisa á Salento con el favor del mar y de los vientos. Avisaron al Rey, que ya entraba en el puerto, y acudió luego junto con Mentor á encontrar á Filocles : abrazóle amorosamente, y mostróle amarguisimo disgusto de haberlo injustamente perseguido. Esta confesion, en lugar de parecer flaqueza del Rey, la miraron los Salentinos como esfuerzo de una grande alma, que se eleva sobre los yerros que ha cometido, confesandolos con aliento para emendarlos. Toda la gente lloraba de alegría, viendo á aquel hombre de honra, que habia tenido al pueblo tanto amor, y oyendo hablar á Idomeneo con una prudencia y bondad tan grande.

Recibia Filocles las demostraciones afectuosas del Rey con modo respetoso y moderado, y estaba impaciente por quitarse de las aclamaciones del pueblo ; mas siguió á Idomeneo, y le acompañó hasta Palacio. Bien presto Mentor y Filocles tuvieron la misma confianza, que si hubieran siempre vivido juntos, aunque no se habian visto jamas ; y es la razon, porque los dioses, que no han querido dar á los malos tan perspicaces ojos, que pudieran conocer á los buenos, han concedido á los buenos el modo de penetrarse unos á otros. Los que han gustado de la virtud, no pueden estar juntos, sin que esten unidos, porque luego se aman.

Filocles pidió al Rey la licencia de retirarse cerca de Salento en una soledad, para poder continuar en vivir pobremente, como habia vivido hasta entonces en Samo. Iba el Rey con Mentor casi todos los dias á visitarlo en su soledad. Allí se examinaban los modos

in his retreat, where they consulted how the laws might best be established, and the government fixed upon a permanent foundation for the advantage of the people.

The two principal objects of their consideration, were the education of children, and the manner of life to be prescribed during peace.

As to the children, Mentor said, that they belonged less to their parents than to the state: «They are the children of the community,» said he, «and they are, at once, its hope, and its strength. It is too late to correct them, when habits of vice have been acquired; and it is doing little to exclude them from employments, when they are become unworthy of trust. It is always better to prevent evil than to punish it. The prince, who is the father of his people, is more particularly the father of the youth, who may be considered as the flower of the nation; and it is in the flower, that care should be taken of the fruit: a king, therefore, should not disdain to watch over the rising generation, nor to appoint others to watch with him. Let him enforce, with inflexible constancy, the laws of Mines, which ordain: that children shall be so educated as to endure pain without impatience, and expect death without terror; that the contempt of luxury and wealth shall be honour; and injustice, ingratitude, and voluptuous idleness, infamy; that children, from their tenderest youth, shall be taught to commemorate the achievements of heroes, the favourites of heaven, who have sacrificed private interest to their country, and signalized their courage in battle; by joining in songs to their honour, at once to animate them by examples of heroic virtue, and harmonize their souls by music: that they should learn to be tender to their friends, faithful to their allies, and equitable to all men, their enemies not excepted: above all things, that they should be taught to dread the reproach of conscience, as an evil much greater than torture and death. If these maxims are impressed early upon the heart, with all the power of eloquence, and the charms of music, there will be few, indeed, in whom they will not kindle the love of virtue and of fame.

de establecer las leyes, y de dar al gobierno una forma sólida para mantener la pública felicidad.

La principal materia que allí se examinó, fué la educacion de los hijos; y el modo de vivir en tiempo de paz.

Por lo que toca á los hijos, mas pertenecen á la república, decia Mentor, que no á sus propios padres: son hijos del pueblo, y esperanza suya, y son tambien su esfuerzo. No es el tiempo de corregirlos, quando se hayan ya viciado: es poco el excluirllos de los officios, quando se han hecho indignos de ellos; y mucho mejor es prevenir el mal, que verse reducido á castigarlo. Añadia, que el Rey, que es el padre de todo el pueblo, es tambien mas particularmente padre de los mancebos, que són la flor de la Nación, supuesto que los frutos toman ser de las flores. No desdeñe el Rey pues velar él mismo, y hacer que velen otros sobre la educacion que se da á los niños. Manténgase constante en hacer observar las leyes del Rey Mines, que ordenan que se crien los niños con el desprecio del dolor y la muerte: que se les ponga la honra en huir de las delicias y riquezas: que la injusticia, la mentira y la afeccion se les representen como vicios infames: que se les enseñe desde su mas tierna infancia á cantar los loores de los héroes, que han sido amados de los dioses, que han hecho por su patria acciones generosas, y que han en las batallas hecho públicamente conocer su esfuerzo: que se les haga tomar aficion á la música, para que sus costumbres se hagan mucho mas apacibles y puras: que aprendan á ser carinosos acia los amigos, y fieles á sus aliados: justos con los nobles, y aun con sus mas crueles enemigos: y que teman ménos la muerte y los castigos, que el mas pequeño remordimiento de la propia conciencia. Si con el tiempo los niños se imbuyen de estas maximas, y se les introducen suavemente en los corazones, habra pocos que no se enciendan en amor de la gloria y de la virtud.

«It is,» added Mentor, «of the utmost importance to establish public schools for inuring youth to the most robust exercises, and preserving them from effeminacy and idleness, which render the most liberal endowments of nature useless.» He advised the institution of public games and shews, with as much variety as could be contrived, to rouse the attention, and interest the passions of the people; but, above all, to render the body supple, vigorous, and active: and he thought it proper to excite emulation, by giving prizes to those that should excel. He wished also, as the most powerful preservative against general depravity of manners, that the people might marry early; and that parents, without any views of interest, would leave the young men to the free choice of such wives, as their inclination naturally led them to prefer.

But while these measures were concerted, to preserve a blameless simplicity among the rising generation, to render them laborious and tractable, and, at the same time, to give them a sense of honour; Philocles, whose military genius made him fond of war, observed to Mentor, that it would signify little to institute public exercises, if the youth were suffered to languish in perpetual peace, without bringing their courage to the test, or requiring experience in the field: «The nation,» says he, «will be insensibly infebled: courage will relax into effeminate softness: and a general depravity, the necessary effect of uninterrupted abundance and tranquillity, will render them an easy prey to any warlike nation that shall attack them; and to avoid the miseries of war, they will incur the most deplorable slavery.»

«The calamities of war,» said Mentor, «are more to be dreaded than you imagine. War never fails to exhaust the state, and endanger its destruction, with whatever success it is carried on. Though it may be commenced with advantage, it can never be finished without danger of the most fatal reverse of fortune: with whatever superiority of strength an engagement is begun, the least mistake, the slightest accident, may turn the scale, and give victory to the enemy.

Decía mas Mentor: que era cosa utilísima fundar escuelas públicas, para habituar á los jóvenes en los mas fatigosos ejercicios del cuerpo, para que huyeran de la afeminacion y el ocio, que vician aun las indoles mas floridas. Quería que tuvieran una gran variedad de juegos, y espectáculos los quales animasen á todo el pueblo; pero que especialmente exercitaran los cuerpos, para hacerlos ágiles, flexibles y vigorosos, y disponia premios para mover la noble emulacion. Pero lo que mas deseaba que todo lo demas, para conservar las buenas costumbres, era que los mancebos se casaran á su tiempo, y que sus padres, sin atender en cosa al interes, dexaran que ellos propios escogieran muger, bella de cuerpo y alma, á quien se pudieran aficionar.

Pero mientras de esta manera se disponia el modo de conservar los jóvenes puros é inocentes, laboriosos, dóciles, y apasionados de gloria, Filocles, que era inclinado á la guerra, le decía á Mentor: En vano ocuparéis á los jóvenes en todos esos ejercicios, si los dexais desfallecer en una paz continua, en que no tendrán experiencia alguna de la milicia, ni necesidad de hacer prueba de su valor. Debilitaréis con eso la nacion insensiblemente: se afeminarán los corazones: las delicias gastarán las costumbres, ni á otros pueblos guerreros sera dificultoso vencerlos, y por haber querido évitár los males que arrastra consigo la guerra, vendrán ellos á dar en una servidumbre horrosa.

Los males de la guerra, respondió Mentor, consumen á un estado; y aun quando se llegan á obtener las mayores victorias, le ponen sempre á riesgo de perecer. Comiencese la guerra con qualquiera ventaja, jamas es cierto que se acabará, sin que quede sujeto á las mutaciones mas trágicas de la fortuna. Con qualesquiera superioridad de fuerzas que se entre en una batalla, qualquier minimo error, un terror pánico, un no nada se os lleva la victoria que

Nor can a nation, that should be always victorious, prosper; it would destroy itself by destroying others: the country would be depopulated, the soil untill'd, and trade interrupted; and what is still worse, the best laws would lose their force, and a corruption of manners insensibly take place. Literature will be neglected among the youth; the troops, conscious, of their own importance, will indulge themselves in the most pernicious licentiousness with impunity, and the disorder will necessarily spread through all the branches of government. A prince who, in the acquisition of glory, would sacrifice the life of half his subjects, and the happiness of the rest, is unworthy of the glory he would acquire; and deserves to lose what he rightfully possesses, for endeavouring unjustly to usurp the possessions of another.

It is, however, easy to exercise the courage of the people in a time of peace. We have already instituted public exercises, and assigned prizes to excite emulation; we have directed that the achievements of the brave shall be celebrated in songs to their honour, which will kindle, in the breasts even of children, a desire of glory, and animate them to the exercise of heroic virtue; we have also taken care that they shall be inured to sobriety and labour: but this is not all. When any of your allies shall be engaged in war, the flower of your youth, particularly those who appear to have a military genius, and will profit most by experience, should be set as auxiliaries into the service: you will thus stand high in the estimation of the states with which you are connected: your friendship will be sought, and your displeasure dreaded; and, without being engaged in war in your own country, and at your own expence, you will always have a numerous youth of habitual courage and experimental skill. Though you are at peace yourselves, you should treat, with great honour, those who have distinguished abilities for war: for the best way of keeping war at a distance is to encourage military knowledge; to honour those who excel in the profession of arms, and to have some of your people always

teniais ya entre las manos, y la pasa á las de vuestros contrarios. Aun quando tuviera un Príncipe la victoria como prisionera en su campo, se destruye á sí mismo, destruyendo á los enemigos: despuebla su pais, dexa incultas casi todas sus tierras, altera el comercio, pero lo peor es, que debilita sus mejores leyes, y dexa viciár las costumbres de los vasallos propios. Los jóvenes no se aplican mas á las letras: la necesidad urgente hace que se tolere una perniciosa licencia en las milicias: la justicia, el mejor gobierno, y todas las cosas reciben algun daño del general desorden. Un Rey, que derrama la sangre de tantos hombres, y ocasiona tantas desgracias, por conseguir una poca gloria, ó extender los confines del Reyno, es indigno de la gloria á que aspira, y merece perder lo que posee, por haber querido usurpar lo que no le tocaba segun razon.

Mas he aqui el modo de exercitar en tiempo de paz el esfuerzo de una nacion. Habeis ya visto los exercicios del cuerpo, que hemos establecido: los premios, que exercitarán la emulacion: las máximas de gloria y virtud, de las cuales desde la cuna se llenarán los ánimos de los niños, y mas cantando y oyendo cantar las acciones sublimes de los héroes: venid con estos medios al de su vida sobria y laboriosa; mas aun esto no es todo. Luego que alguna gente, aliada de vuestra nacion se empeñare en alguna guerra, conviene enviar á ella la flor de vuestros juvenes, y especialmente aquellos en quienes descubrierais amor á la milicia, y serán mas capaces de aprovecharse de sus experiencias. De esta suerte conservaréis una alta reputacion con vuestros aliados, será deseada vuestra alianza, y se temerá perderla, y sin tener la guerra en vuestra casa, y sin costa vuestra, tendréis siempre muchos mancebos intrépidos y adiestrados en la arte militar. Aunque tengais en vuestro reyno paz, no dexéis de hacer grandes honras á los que se aplicaren á la guerra, porque el verdadero modo de apartar este monstruo, y conservar una larga paz, es el tener cuidado de que se conserve la profesion de las armas, y honrar aquellos hombres que en ese ministerio son excelentes, y tener siempre de aquellos que se hayan

in foreign service, who will know the strength and discipline of the neighbouring states, and the manner of their military operations, to be, at once, superior to the ambition that would court war, and to the effeminacy that would fear it. Thus being always prepared for war when you are driven into it by necessity; you will find, that the necessity of making war will seldom happen.

«When your allies are about to make war upon each other, you should always interfere as mediator. You will thus acquire a genuine and lasting glory, which sanguinary conquest can never give; you will gain the love and esteem of foreign nations, and become necessary to them all: you will rule other states by the confidence they place in you, as you govern your own by the authority of your station; you will be the common repository of their secrets, the arbiter of their differences, and the object of their love: your fame will then fly to the remotest regions of the earth, and your name, like incense from the altars of the gods, shall be wafted from clime to clime, as far as virtue can be known and loved. If, in possession of this influence, and this honour, a neighbouring nation should, contrary to all the rules of justice, commence hostilities against you, it will find you disciplined and ready; and, which is yet more effectual strength, beloved and succoured when you are in danger: your neighbours will be alarmed for themselves, and consider your preservation as essential to public safety. This will be your security, in comparison of which walls and ramparts are no defence; this is true glory; the bright reality, which few kings have distinguished and pursued; which few kings have not left unknown behind them, to follow an illusive phantom, still distant from the prize, in proportion to their speed!»

When Mentor had done speaking, Philocles fixed his eyes upon him with an astonishment that prevented reply; then, looking upon the king, he was delighted to perceive that he drank the wisdom which flowed from the lips of the stranger, as the traveller, thirsting in the desert, drinks of an unexpected spring.

en él exercitado en los países distantes, que conozcan las fuerzas, la disciplina, y la forma con que los pueblos vecinos hacen la guerra, y el ser incapaz igualmente de hacerla por ambicion, y temerla por debilidad. Estando siempre pronto para hacerla, quando la necesidad lo requiera, se llega á no tenerla casi jamas.

Respecto de los confederados, quando ellos se disponen á hacerse entre sí guerra unos á otros, á vos toca el hacerlos medianero. Con eso os adquirís una gloria mas sólida y mas segura que aquella que consiguen los conquistadores: ganad la estima y el amor de los estrangeros, todos tendrán necesidad de vos, reynaréis sobre vuestros vasallos con autoridad, seréis el depositario de los secretos, el árbitro de los tratados, el dueño de los corazones: volará vuestra reputacion por todos los países; y vuestro nombre será como un delicioso perfume, que se percibirá de todas partes. Quando vos os hallareis en semejante estado, y os invada un pueblo vecino contra las reglas de la justicia, os hallará adiestrado en la guerra y prevenido para ella; pero lo que mas debe estimarse, os encontrará amado y socorrido. Todos vuestros vecinos se armarán por vos, y se persuadirán, que de vuestra conservacion depende la utilidad pública. He aquí un reparo mas seguro que las murallas de las ciudades y plazas mejor fortificadas. Esta es la gloria verdadera de un príncipe; pero, ó quan pocos son los Reyes que la saben buscar, y que no huyan de ella! Corren tras una engañosa sombra, y se dexan á las espaldas el verdadero honor, porque no saben conocerlo.

Despues que habló Mentor de esta suerte, Filocles, asombrado le miraba y tenia extremado gusto de la ansia con que recogia Idomenéo en lo intimo de su corazon todas las palabras, que como un rio caudaloso de sabiduría salian de la boca del extrangero.

Thus Minerva, under the figure of Mentor, established the best laws, and the wisest principles of government, at Salentum; not so much that the kingdom of Idomeneus might flourish, as to shew Telemachus, at his return, by a striking example, what may be effected by a wise government, with respect to the happiness of the people, and the honour of the prince.



END OF THE FOURTEENTH BOOK.

Así Minerva, debaxo del aspecto de Mentor, establecia en Salento las mejores leyes, y las máximas mas felices de reynar, no tanto para hacer florecer el Reyno de Idomenéo, quanto para mostrar á Telémaco, quando volviera, un exemplar patente de lo que puede hacer un prudente gobierno para la felicidad de los pueblos, y para dar á un Rey gloria inmortal.

FIN DEL LIBRO DECIMO QUARTO.

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# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XV.

### ARGUMENT.

**TELEMACHUS**, in the camp of the allies, gains the friendship of Philoctetes, who was not at first favourably disposed to him, on his father's account. Philoctetes relates his adventures; and introduces a particular account of the death of Hercules, by the poisoned garment which the Centaur Nessus had given to Dejanira; he relates how he obtained from that hero his poisoned arrows, without which the city of Troy could not be taken; how he was punished for betraying his secret, by various sufferings in the island of Lemnos; and how Ulysses employed Neoptolemus to engage him in the expedition against Troy, where he was cured of his wound.

**TELEMACHUS**, in the mean time, was displaying his courage among the perils of war. As soon as he had quitted Salentum, he applied himself with great diligence to gain the esteem of the old commanders, whose reputation and experience were consummate. Nestor, who had before seen him at Pylos, and who had always loved Ulysses, treated him as if he had been his son; he gave him many lessons of instruction, and illustrated his precepts by examples. He related all the adventures of his youth, and told him the most remarkable achievements which he had seen performed by the heroes of the preceding age; for the memory of Nestor, who had lived to see three generations, contained the history of ancient times, with the same fidelity as an inscription upon marble or brass.

Philoctetes did not at first regard Telemachus with the same kindness: the enmity, which he had so long cherished in his breast against Ulysses, prejudiced him against his son, and he could not see without pain that the gods appeared to interest themselves in

TELEMACHO.

# TELEMACHO.

## LIBRO XV.

### SUMARIO.

**TELEMACHO**, en el campo de los aliados, se hace querer de Filoctetes, antes animado contra él por motivo de Ulises su padre. Filoctetes le cuenta sus aventuras, con las particularidades de la muerte de Hercules, ocasionada por la túnica envenenada que el Centauro Neso había dado á Dejanira. Le explica como logró de aquel héroe sus fatales saetas, sin las quales la ciudad de Troya no podía ser tomada; como fue castigado por haber revelado su secreto, por todos los males que padeció en la isla de Lemno, y como Ulises se valió de Neoptolemo para llevarle al sitio de Troya, donde curaron su herida los hijos de Esculapio.

**TELEMACHO** en los riesgos de la guerra daba á conocer su valor. Partido de Salento, se aplicó todo á procurar ganarse el afecto de los capitanes ancianos, los quales se tenian en gran precio, y habian alcanzado perfecta experiencia. Nestor, que ya antes le había visto en Pilo, y siempre había querido á Ulises, le trataba como á su propio hijo: dabale muchos documentos, que autorizaba con diversos exemplos, y contábale los sucesos de su juventud, y las mas notables acciones, que había visto obrar á los héroes de los tiempos pasados. La memoria del sabio viejo, que había vivido tres siglos, era como una historia de los tiempos antiguos, entallada en el mármol, ó grabada con buril en el bronce.

No tuvo Filoctetes al principio la misma inclinacion de amar á Telémaco. El odio, que en su pecho había largo tiempo alimentado contra Ulises, le hacia aborrecer tambien á su hijo; y no podía verlo, sin que se afligiera de ello algun tanto, representándose aquella

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his fortunes, and to intend him a glory equal to that of the heroes by whom Troy had been overthrown. But the unaffected modesty of Telemachus at length surmounted his resentment, and he could not but love that virtue which appeared so amiable and sweet. He frequently took him aside, and talked to him with the most unreserved confidence: « My son » said he, « for I now make no scruple to call you so, I must confess that your father and I have been long enemies to each other. I acknowledge also that my enmity was not softened by mutual danger and mutual success, for it continued unabated after we had laid Troy in ruins; and when I saw you, I found it difficult to love even virtue in the son of Ulysses; I have often reproached myself for this reluctance, which, however, I still felt: but virtue, when it is gentle, placid, ingenious, and unassuming, must at last compel affection and esteem. » Philoctetes, in the course of these conversations, was insensibly led to acquaint Telemachus with what had given rise to the animosity between him and Ulysses.

« It is necessary, » said he, « that I should tell my story from the beginning. I was the inseparable companion of Hercules, the great example of divine virtue, the destroyer of monsters, whose prowess was a blessing to the earth; and compared with whom, all other heroes are but as reeds to the oak, or sparrows to the eagle. Love, a passion that has produced every species of calamity, was the cause of his misfortunes; and his misfortunes were the cause of mine. To this shameful passion the virtues of Hercules were opposed in vain; and, after all his conquests, he was himself the sport of Cupid. He never remembered, without a blush of ingenuous shame, his having laid by his dignity, to spin in the chamber of Omphale, like the most abject and effeminate of men: he has frequently deplored this part of his life, as having sullied his virtue, and obscured the glory of his labours.

grande gloria, que se dexaba ver, que propicios los dioses disponian para aquel jóven, queriendole igualar con los héroes, que habian arruinado á la soberbia Troya. Pero venció por fin la moderacion de Telémaco los enojos de Filotetes, y no pudo éste hacer menos, que amar aquella virtud tan suave, y tan modesta. Tomaba muchas veces á Telémaco á solas, y le decia: Confiesoos hijo mio, no tengo ya reparo de llamarnos con este nombre, que vuestro padre y yo hemos sido enemigos largo tiempo. Confiesoos igualmente, que desde que arruinamos la ciudad de Troya, no se habia todavia aplacado mi corazon; y que desde que os vi, he habido de pasar harta pena para llegar á amaros: mas quando es apacible la virtud, llana, ingénuo y modesta, todo lo vence. Despues le descubrió la resolucion que tenia de referirle qual habia sido el motivo, que en su corazon encendió un odio tenaz contra Ulises.

Convienes, dixo, que yo tome mi historia de muy arriba. Seguia yo por todo el grande Hércules, que descargó á la tierra de tantos monstruos, y en cuyo parangon no eran los otros héroes sino ligeras cañas, respecto de una elevada encina, ó como páxarillos, en cotejo de la aguilta. De amor se originaron sus desgracias, y por consecuencia las mias, que es quanto se puede decir de una pasion, que causa los desórdenes mas espantosos. Hércules se hizo esclavo de esa vergonzosa aficion, y el tirano Cupido hacia burla de él. No podia aquel héroe grande acordarse, sin colorirse con la vergüenza, por haberse olvidado tanto de su gloria, que en aquel tiempo, en que fue arrebatado de un ciego afecto, habia llegado hasta á hilar al lado de Onfale, Reyna de Lidia, como el hombre mas vil y afeminado. Cien veces me confesó que esta postrera parte de su vida habia obscurecido su virtud, y casi totalmente ofuscado la gloria de sus trabajos. Sin embargo, ó Dioses! tal es la debilidad é inconstancia de los hombres, que todo lo esperan de sus propias fuerzas, y á nada resisten.

Yet, such is the weakness and inconsistency of man, who thinks himself all-sufficient, and yet yields without a struggle, the great Hercules was again taken in the snare of love, and sunk again into a captivity which he had so often remembered with indignation and contempt. He became enamoured of Deianira, and would have been happy if he had continued constant in his passion for this woman, whom he made his wife; but the youthful beauty of Iole, to whom the graces had given all their charms, soon seduced him to a new passion. Deianira became jealous, and unhappily recollected the fatal garment, which had been given her by Nessus, the Centaur, when he was dying, as a certain means of reviving the love of Hercules, if he should ever neglect her for another. This garment had imbibed the blood of the Centaur, to which the arrow that slew him had communicated its poison: for the arrows of Hercules were dipped in the blood of the Lernaean Hydra, which gave them a malignity so powerful, that the slightest wound they could make was mortal.

« As soon as Hercules had put on the garment, he felt the poison burn even to the marrow in the bone: he cried out, in his agony, with a voice more than human; the sound was returned by mount Oeta, the echo deepened in the vallies, and the sea itself seemed to be moved. The roar of the most furious bulls when they fight, was not so dreadful as the cries of Hercules. Lycas, who brought him the garment from Deianira, happening unfortunately to approach him: he seized him in the distraction of his torments, and whirling him round, as a slinger whirls a stone that he would dismiss with all his strength, he threw him from the top of the mountain; and falling into the sea, he was immediately transformed to a rock: which still retains the figure of a man, and which still beaten by the surge, alarms the pilot, while he is yet distant from the shore.

« After the fate of Lycas, I thought I could trust Hercules no more; and, therefore, endeavoured to

Ay! el grande Hercules cayó sin embargo en los lazos de amor, que tan frecuentemente habia detestado. Aficiónose de Deyanira, y hubiera sido llenamente feliz, si hubiera sido constante, amando á una muger, que fué su esposa. Bien prestó le llevó el corazon la juventud de Iole, que llevaba en el rostro á todos los alhagos de la belleza. Ardíó Deyanira de zelos, y acordóse de aquella fatal túnica que le dexó al morir el Centauro Neso, como un medio seguro de reavivar la Hama en el seno de Hércules, siempre que mostrara no tener de ella cuenta, por haberse preudado de alguna otra muger. ¡ Ay de mí! que empapada aquella túnica en la apesada sangre del Centauro, ocultaba el veneno de las flechas, con que el héroe grande habia atravesado aquel monstruo. Bien sabeis que las flechas de Hércules se habian teñido con la sangre de la Hidra Lernea, y que con ellas quitó la vida al pérfido Centauro, como tambien que la sangre de la Hidra habia envenenado de manera las flechas, que no tenian cura sus heridas.

Habiéndose Hércules vestido aquella túnica, percibió luego el fuego abrasador, que se le introducía en los huesos. Levantaba horrosos gritos, que estremecian al monte Oeta: hacia retumbar los mas profundos valles, y hasta el mar se sentia con ellos conmovido. Los mas furiosos toros, que combatiendo, hubieran levantado sus feroces bramidos, no hubieran hecho tan espantoso estruendo. Habiéndose arriesgado á acercarse á él el miserable Licas, que de parte de Deyanira le ofreció aquella túnica, arrebatado de su dolor, le hizo volar al ayre, como una piedra desprendida con fuerza de la honda de un diestro tirador. Así Licas escapó de la mano poderosa de Alcides: desde lo alto del monte cayó en las aguas del golfo, donde en el mismo punto se transformó en escollo, que conservando aun su primera figura, tiene semejanza de un hombre, y que siendo azotado continuamente del furor de las hondas, amedrenta de lejos á los pilotos mas experimentados.

Después de la desgracia de Licas, creí que no podia fiarme mas de Hércules, y solo pensé en ocultarme

conceal myself in the caverns of the rock. From this retreat I saw him, with one hand, root up the lofty pines that towered to the sky, and oaks which had repelled the storms of successive generations; and with the other, endeavour to tear off the fatal garment which adhered like another skin, and seemed to be incorporated with his body: in proportion as he tore it off, he tore off also the flesh: his blood followed in a torrent, and the earth was impurpled round him. But his virtue at length surmounted his sense of pain, and he cried out, «Thou art witness, O Philoctetes! to the torments which the gods inflict upon me, and they are just: I have offended heaven, and violated the vows of connubial love: after all my conquests, I have meanly given up my heart to forbidden beauty: I perish, and am content to perish, that divine justice may be satisfied. But alas! my dear friend! whither art thou fled! Transported by excess of pain, I have, indeed, destroyed unhappy Lycas, by an act of cruelty for which I abhor myself: he was a stranger to the poison that he brought me; he committed no crime, he deserved no punishment. But could the sacred ties of friendship be forgotten! could I attempt the life of Philoctetes! my love for him can cease only with my life; into his breast will I breathe my departing spirit, and to his care will I confide my ashes. Where art thou, then, my dear Philoctetes? where art thou, Philoctetes, the only object of my hope on earth?»

«Struck with this tender expostulation, I rushed towards him, and he stretched out his arms to embrace me: yet, before I reached him, he drew them back, lest he should kindle in my bosom the fatal fires that consumed his own. — «Alas,» said he, «even this consolation is denied me!» He then turned from me; and collecting all the trees that he had rooted up, into a funeral pile, upon the summit of the mountain, he ascended it with a kind of dreadful tranquillity: he spread under him the skin of the Nemean lion, which, while he was traversing the earth from one extremity

en las retiradas cavernas. Véale arrancar sin trabajo con la una mano los altos árboles, y las viejas encinas que muchos años habian despreciado el furor de las vientos, y de las tempestades, mientras que con la otra procuraba en vano desasirse la fatal túnica. Se habia pegado ella á sus espaldas, y como incorporándose con sus miembros: quanto rompía de ella, otro tanto destrozaba su piel y su carne, y brotaba de aquellos trozos en gran copia la sangre, como en arroyos, que regaban la tierra mas vecina. Finalmente: quedando contrastada del dolor su virtud, tú ves, mi querido Filotetes, exclamó, los males que los dioses me hacen padecer: ellos son justos, porque han sido de mí ofendidos, que he violado el amor conyugal. Despues de haber vencido á tantos enemigos, me he dexado vencer vilmente del amor de una extraña beldad. Yo muero, yo muero contentisimo para aplacar la cólera de los dioses. ¡Mas ay de mí! ¿Donde huyes, amantísimo amigo? El exceso de mi dolor me ha hecho executar, es así, una crueldad contra el mísero Licas, la qual yo mismo llevo ahora mal. No supo el veneno que me ofrecia, ni era digno de la desgracia, que ha tenido á mis manos. ¿Pero piensas tú que me puedo olvidar de aquel amor que tengo obligacion de tener, y que te quiera quitar la vida? No, no: jamas será verdad, que dexé de amar Hércules á Filotetes. Filotetes acogerá en su seno mi espíritu, que está á punto de volar á otra esfera: Filotetes recogerá mis cenizas. ¿Dónde estas, pues, mi amado Filotetes? ¡Filotetes, la única esperauza que me queda sobre la tierra!

A estas palabras me di priesa de correr á encontrarle, y él extendió los brazos para apretarme amorosamente; pero le detuvo el temor de encender en mi seno aquel fuego cruel, de que él mismo se sentia abrasar. ¡Ay de mí! dixo: yo no oso abrazarte, ni aun se me concede este ligero alivio. Hablando de esta forma; juntó todos los árboles que habia abatido antes: construyó de ellos una pira en la cumbre del monte, y subió sobre ella tranquilamente: tendió la piel del leon Neméo, con la qual tanto tiempo habio cubierto sus hombros, quando andaba por todo el mundo á destrozár

to the other, destroying monsters, and succouring distress, he had worn as a mantle; and reclining upon his club, he commanded me to set fire to the wood.

This command, though I trembled with horror, I could not refuse to obey; for his misery was so great, that life was no longer a bounty of heaven: and I feared, that in the extremity of his torment, he might do something unworthy of the virtue which had astonished the world. «When he perceived that the pile had taken fire, «Now,» said he, «my dear Philoctetes! I know that thy friendship is sincere: for my honour is dearer to thee than my life; may thy reward be from heaven! I give thee all I can bestow: these arrows, dipped in the blood of the Lernean Hydra, I valued more than all that I possessed; and they are thine. Thou knowest, that the wounds which they make are mortal; they rendered me invincible, and so they will render thee; nor will any man dare to lift up his hand against thee. Remember that I die faithful to our friendship, and forget not how close I held thee to my heart. If thou art, indeed, touched with my misfortunes, there is still one consolation in thy power; promise to acquaint no man with my death, and never to reveal the place where thou shalt hide my ashes.» I promised, in an agony of tenderness and grief, and I consecrated my promise by an oath. A beam of joy sparkled in his eyes; but a sheet of flame immediately surrounded him, stifled his voice, and almost hid him from my sight: I caught, however, a glimpse of him through the flame, and I perceived that his countenance was as serene as if he had been surrounded with festivity and joy at the banquet of a friend, covered with perfume, and crowned with flowers.

«The flames quickly consumed his terrestrial and mortal part: of that nature which he had received from his mother Alcmena, there were no remains; but he preserved, by the decree of Jove, that pure and immortal essence, that celestial flame, the true prin-

los monstruos, y librar á los infelices: apoyóse sobre su clava, y mandóme aplicar fuego á la pira.

No pudieron mis manos temerosas y sorprendidas de un repentino horror, negarle este obsequio cruel: porque ya la vida no le era dádiva y gracia del cielo: tanto el vivir le era funesto, y de extremada pena. Temi tambien, que del dolor excesivo se dexase de suerte arrebatarse, que hiciera alguna cosa indigna de aquella virtud, que habia dexado asombrado al mundo. Quando vió que la llama ya se empezaba á prender en la pira: Ahora sí, mi querido Filoctetes, exclamó, que hago prueba de tu verdadera amistad; porque eres mas amante de mi honor, que de mi misma vida; ruego á los dioses que te den ellos el galardón. Para tí dexo esas flechas, teñidas en la sangre de la Hidra de Lerna, que son lo mas precioso que tengo acá en el mundo. Bien sabes, que sus heridas son incurables; así te harán invencible, como lo he sido yo, ni habrá alguno que se atreva á pelear contigo. Acuérdate que muero fiel á nuestra amistad, y no olvides jamas quan crecido sea el amor que te he tenido siempre. Si es verdad que tu corazón siente alguna piedad de mis males, bien puedes darme por último un consuelo; prométeme no descubrir jamas á persona ni mi muerte, ni el sitio en donde se ocultaren mis cenizas. ¡Ay de mí! yo se lo prometí, y aun á mas de eso se lo juré, bafiando con mis lágrimas la pira. Brilló en aquel momento en sus ojos un rayo de alegría: pero en otro instante, un tropel de llamas, que le embistió de todos los costados, le ahogó dentro las faldas la voz, y me le hizo casi del todo perder de vista. Yo sin embargo le miraba aun al traves de las llamas con rostro tan sereno, como si estuviera en medio de la tropa de sus amigos cubierto de perfumes, y coronado de flores, entre las alegrías de un regalado convite. Luego le consumieron las llamas todo lo que tenia de terreno y mortal en sí mismo; y bien presto no le quedó nada de lo que de su madre Alcmena habia recibido en su nacimiento; mas conservó por orden del padre omnipotente aquella delicada é inmortal

ciple of life which he had received from the father of the gods; therefore, he drank immortally under the golden roofs of Olympus, and they gave him Hebe to wife; the lovely Hebe, the goddess of Youth, who had filled the bowl of nectar to Jupiter, before that honour was bestowed upon Ganymede.

« In the mean time, the arrows that had been given me as a pledge of superior prowess and fame, proved an inexhaustible source of misfortune. When the confederate princes of Greece undertook to revenge the wrong done to Menelaus by Paris, who had basely stolen away Helen, and to lay the kingdom of Priam in ruins, they learned from the oracle of Apollo, that in this enterprise they would never succeed, if they did not take with them the arrows of Hercules.

« Your father Ulysses, whose penetration and activity rendered him superior in every council, undertook to persuade me to accompany them to the siege of Troy; and to take the arrows of Hercules, which he believed to be in my possession, with me. It was now long since Hercules had appeared in the world; no exploit of the hero was related; and monsters and robbers began to appear with impunity. The Greeks knew not what opinion to form concerning him; some affirmed that he was dead; others, that he was gone to subdue the Scythians under the frozen bear; but Ulysses maintained that he was dead, and engaged to make me confess it. He came to me, while I was still lamenting the loss of my illustrious friend with inconsolable sorrow; he found it extremely difficult to speak to me, for I avoided the sight of mankind; I could not think of quitting the deserts of mount Oeta, where I had been witness to the death of Alcides: and was wholly employed in forming his image in my mind, and weeping at the remembrance of his sufferings, which every view of these mournful places renewed. But, upon the lips of your father, there was a sweet and irresistible eloquence: he seemed to take an equal part in my affliction, and when I wept, he wept with me; he gained upon my heart by an insensible approach, and he obtained my confidence even

naturaleza; aquel fuego celeste, que es verdadera causa de la vida, y que le habia dado el mismo Jove. De esta manera fué Hércules á vivir inmortal felizmente en el cielo entre los dioses, donde le dieron ellos por esposa á la apreciable Ebe, que es la diosa de la juventud, y servia el néctar á Jupiter, antes que Ganymedes mereciere este honor.

Respecto á mí, las flechas que él me dió para que me sirvieran de exceder á los héroes en la gloria, me fueron el origen de males y dolores infinitos. Dispusieron de allí á poco los Reyes coligados abatir la potencia de Priamo, y tomar venganza por Menelao del infame Paris, que le habia robado su esposa. Declaróles el Oraculo de Apolo, que no tenian que tener esperanza de concluir felizmente la guerra menos que no tuvieran las flechas de Hércules.

Ulises vuestro padre, que era el mas advertido en dar consejos, y el mas industrioso en ponerlos por obra, tomó el encargo de persuadirme, que fuera al asedio de Troya en su compañía, y que llevara las flechas, que se persuadia de cierto estar en mi poder. Ya habia mucho tiempo que Hércules no se veia en el mundo; no se oia ya hablar de alguna nueva empresa de aquel héroe, y comenzaban de nuevo á parecer los monstruos y los malvados. No sabian los Griegos qué creerse: unos decian que habia muerto; y otros aseguraban que habia ido al elado Septentrion á alguna grande hazaña; pero Ulises mantuvo que habia muerto, y se metió en la idea de hacermelo decir. Vino pues á encontrarme en tiempo en que yo aun no podia consolarme de la pérdida del grande Alcides. Pasó mucho trabajo para acercarse á mí, porque aborrecia la vista de qualquier hombre. Sentia sumo disgusto en que otro me quisiera sacar de los desiertos del monte Oeta, donde habia visto morir á mi amantísimo amigo: ni me aplicaba á otro, que á representarme de nuevo con el pensamiento la imagen de aquel héroe, y llorar á la vista de aquellos sitios tan funestos, y melancolicos. Pero vuestro padre tenia en sus labios el arte poderosa, y suave de persuadir. Mostró un dolor, poco ménos que igual al mio: derramó lagrimas: supo ganarse insensiblemente mi corazon, y adquiri-

before I knew it. He interested my tenderness for the Grecian princes, who had undertaken a just war, in which, without me, they could not be successful: he could not, however, draw from me the secret that I had sworn to keep; but though I did not confess it, he had sufficient evidence that Hercules was dead, and he pressed me to tell him where I had concealed his ashes.

« I could not think of perjury without horror: and yet, alas! I eluded the vow that I had made to Hercules and to heaven. I discovered the place where I had deposited the remains of the hero by striking it with my foot; and the gods have punished me for the fraud. I then joined the confederates, who received me with as much joy as they would have received Hercules himself. When we were on shore at the island of Lemnos, I was willing to show the Greeks what my arrows would do; and, therefore, prepared to shoot a deer, which I saw rush into the forest; but, by some accident, I let the shaft slip out of my hand, and falling on my foot, it gave me a wound, of which I still feel the effects. I was immediately seized with the same pains that had destroyed Hercules, and the echoes of the island repeated my complaints day and night. A black and corrupted blood flowed incessantly from my wound, infected the air, and filled the camp with an intolerable stench: the whole army was struck with horror at my condition, and concluded it to be the just punishment of the gods.

« Ulysses, who had engaged me in the expedition, was the first to abandon me, as I have since learned, because he preferred victory and the common interest of Greece, to private friendship and the punctilios of decorum. The horror of my wound, the infection that it spread, and the dreadful cries that it forced from me, produced such an effect upon the army, that it was no longer possible to sacrifice in the camp. But when the Greeks abandoned me by the counsel of Ulysses, I considered his policy as the most aggravated

rirse mi confianza, y me movió á compasion de los Reyes de Grecia, que iban á pelear por una causa justa, y que sin mí no podian tener feliz suceso. No pudo sin embargo jamas sacarme de la boca el secreto de la muerte de Hércules, que yo habia jurado no declarar: pero Ulises no la dudaba, y requeriamme con instancia, para que le dixera el lugar en que habia ocultado sus cenizas.

¡ Desdichado de mí! Temí hacerme perjuro, diciendole un secreto, que habia ofrecido al cielo no descubrir jamas; y fui de ánimo ligero, que me induxe á burlar, y á hacer vano mi juramento, no teniendo osadía de violarlo. Pero los dioses me diéron el castigo de mi culpa. Herí con el pie aquel lugar en que habia ocultado las cenizas de Hércules, fui despues á encontrar los Reyes coligados, y ellos me recibieron con la alegría misma, con que hubieran podido recibir á Alcides. Al pasar por la Isla de Lemnos quise mostrar á todos los Griegos lo que podian obrar mis flechas, poniendome en parage de atravesar un ciervo, que se emboscaba. Inadvertido me dexé caer la flecha del arco, ya flechado, sobre un pie, y ella me hizo una herida, cuyo dolor aun siento; y percibi al instante aquellas mismas ansias, que habia padecido primero Hércules mismo. Llenaba noche y dia toda la isla con mis suspiros; y la negra y podrida sangre, que brotaba en la llaga, inficionaba el ayre, y esparcia un hedor en todo el campo Griego, que bastaria á ahogar los hombres mas robustos. Horroricé á todo el ejército viéndome en aquella suma desdicha, y concluyéron todos, que mi mal era pena enviada de los dioses justicieros á castigar mi culpa.

Ulises, que me habia persuadido partir para la guerra, fué el primero en dexarme. Bien coroci despues que habia obrado así, porque anteaonia el comun interes de Grecia, y la victoria, que pretendian los coligados á todas las razones de la amistad ó de la conveniencia particular. Los Griegos no podian sacrificar mas en el campo: tal turbacion causaban en el ejército la infeccion de mi herida, el horror producido de ella en todos los ánimos de los que la miraban, y la violencia de mis alaridos. Pero en aquel momento,

inhumanity, and the basest breach of faith: I was blinded by prejudice and self-love; and did not perceive that the wisest men were most against me, and that the gods themselves were become my enemies.

« I remained, during almost the whole time that Troy was besieged, alone, without succour, without consolation, without hope; the victim of intolerable anguish, in a desolate island, where I saw no object but the rude productions of uncultivated nature, and heard only the roaring of the surge that was broken against the rocks. In one of the mountains of this desert, I found a cavern; the summit, which towered to the skies, was divided into a fork; and, at the bottom, was a spring of clear water. This cavern, my only dwelling, was the retreat of wild beasts of various kinds, to whose fury I was exposed night and day: I gathered a few leaves into an heap for my bed; and my whole possessions were a wooden vessel of the rudest workmanship, and a few tattered garments, which I wrapped round my wound to staunch the blood, and used also to clean it. In this place, forsaken of man, and hateful to the gods, I sometimes endeavoured to suspend the sense of my misery by shooting at the pigeons and other birds that flew round the rock: When I had brought one to the ground, I crawled with great pain and difficulty to take it up, that it might serve me for food; and thus, my own hands provided me subsistence.

« The Greeks, indeed, left me some provisions, when they quitted the island; but these were soon exhausted. I dressed such as I procured, at a fire which I kindled by striking a flint; and this kind of life; rude and forlorn as it was, would not have been displeasing to me, the ingratitude and perfidy of man having reconciled me to solitude, if it had not been for the pain that I endured from my wound, and the

en que por consejo de Ulises me vi desamparado de todos los Griegos, me pareció esta política llena de la mas horrorosa inhumanidad, y de la traicion mas malvada. ¡ Desdichado de mí! Estaba ciego, y no prevenia, que era mucha razon, que los hombres mas sábios se me hicieran contrarios, á imitacion de los dioses, á quienes con mis culpas habia provocado á indignacion.

Casi todo aquel tiempo que duro el asedio de Troya, quedé solo, sin socorro, sin esperanza, sin alivio; abandonado á dolores horribles en aquella isla despeblada é inculta, donde no escuchaba otro, que el estuendo que las ondas hacian, viniéndose a romper contra los escollos. Hallé en aquel desierto una caverna, formada de una peña, que levantaba al cielo dos puntas semejantes á dos tabeas; de cuyos peñascos brotaba una apacible fuente de cristalinas aguas. Era aquella caverna albergue de las fieras; y por eso continuamente estaba yo arriesgado a quedar hecho presa de su furor. Recogí algunas hojas para echarme en ellas; y todas las riquezas, que me habian quedado era un vaso grosero de madera, sin primor trabajado, y algunos destrozados, que me servian de abrigar mi herida, para restañar la sangre, que de ella me corria, y limpiarla de su hediondez. Allí desamparado de los hombres, y dexado a la cólera de los dioses, pasaba el tiempo en atravesar las ligeras palomas con mis saetas, y las diversas aves que volaban en torno de aquella roca. Quando habia muerto alguna ave para que me sirviera de alimento, y conservar la vida, era menester, que a pesar del dolor, fuera arrastrando sobre mis pies, y manos á recoger la presa; y de esta suerte me servian mis manos lo que era necesario á mi sustento.

Es verdad que al partirse, me dexaron los Griegos alguna provision de viandas, pero la consumí en poco tiempo. Encendia fuego de algunos pedernales; y no obstante, si no me hubiera oprimido el dolor, y no me hubiera continuamente traído á la memoria mi funesta desgracia una tal vida, por mas que fuera horrible, me hubiera parecido suave, léjos de los hombres ingratos, y engañadores. ¿Qué modo es este

perpetual review of my singular misfortunes. «What!» said I to myself, «seduce a man from his country, upon pretence that he alone can avenge the cause of Greece; and then leave him in an uninhabited island, when he is asleep! for I was asleep when the Greeks deserted me: and you may judge in what an agony of consternation and grief I awaked, and saw their fleet standing from the shore. I looked round me, to find some gleam of comfort; but all was desolation and despair

« This island had neither port nor commerce; and was not only without inhabitants, but without visitors, except such as came by force. As no man set foot on the shore, but those who were driven there by tempests, I could hope for society only by shipwreck; and I knew, that if distress should force any unfortunate mariners upon the island, they would not dare to take me with them when they left it, lest they should incur the resentment, not of the Greeks only, but the gods. I suffered remorse, and pain, and hunger, ten years; I languished with a wound that I could not cure; and hope itself was extinguished in my breast.

« One day, as I returned from seeking some medicinal herbs for my wound, I was surprised to find, at the entrance of my cave, a young man of a graceful appearance, but a lofty and heroic port. I took him, at the first glance, for Achilles, whom he greatly resembled in his features, aspect, and deportment; and I was convinced of my mistake only by his age. I observed that his whole countenance expressed perplexity and compassion: he was touched to see with what pain and difficulty I crawled along; and his heart melted at my complaints; which the echoes of the shore returned.

« I called out, while I was yet at a distance, « O stranger! what misfortune has cast thee upon this island, forsaken of men? I know thy habit to be Grecian! an habit, which, in spite of my wrongs, I love. O! let me hear thy voice; and once more find, upon thy lips, that language which I learned in infancy,

de proceder? decia entre mí mismo: sacar á un hombre del seno de su patria, como al único que pudiera vengar la Grecia, y despues, mientras duerme, abandonarlo en esta isla desierta? Sabed, pues, que se partiéron los Griegos mientras que yo dormia. Juzgad cómo quedaria asombrado, y qué lágrimas verteria en despertandome, viendo los baxeles, que sulcando los mares, se iban alejando de Lemnos. ¡ Infelice de mí! buscando á todas partes de aquella isla erizada y horrible, no hallé sino al dolor.

No hay puerto en ella, ni comercio, ni albergue, ni hombre que allá se llegué voluntario: no se advierten allí otros, que los que haya arrojado una tormenta; ni alguno puede esperar compañía, sino la que le ofrecen los naufragios, que indultan á los hombres con pension de vivir muchas veces como fieras. Y aun los que se acercaban á aquel lugar, no osaban recibirme en sus naves para restituirme á la patria; porque temian de provocar no ménos que el enojo de los dioses, el de los Griegos contra sí propios. Hacia ya diez años que padecia el dolor y la hambre: que alimentaba una llaga que me consumia; y que en mi corazon habia fenecido aun la esperanza.

De improviso volviendo de buscar ciertas yervas medicinales que me suavizaban la herida, vi en mi caverna á un jóven agraciado y galan, de un espíritu vivo, y de la estatura de un héroe. Parecióme al mirarle el mismo Aquiles: tan del todo le semejava en las facciones, en el mirar y andar; solamente la edad me hizo entender que no podia ser él. Advertí que en su rostro se descubrian dos diversos afectos, la compasion, y juntamente la perplexidad. Viendo con qué trabajo, y con qué lentitud me arrastraba á mí propio, se movió á la piedad de mi desgracia, y le enterrecieron el corazon los dolorosos y agudos gritos, con los quales hacia resonar la playa.

¿ Qué desventura, le dixé, ó forastero, te ha conducido á esta isla no habitada? Conozco bien el traje de Griego: traje á quien todavia estimo tanto. ¡ O con quanta impaciencia deseo oír tu voz, y hallar en tu boca el idioma que aprendí en mi niñez, y del qual ha tan largo tiempo que no he podido usar en



and which this dreadful solitude has so long forbidden me to speak. Let not my appearance alarm you, for the wretch whom you behold, is not an object of fear, but of pity.

The stranger had no sooner answered, « I am a Greek, » than I cried out, « After such silence without associate, such pain without consolation, how sweet is the sound! O my son! what misfortune, what tempest, or rather, what favourable gale, has brought thee hither, to put an end to my sufferings? » He replied, « I am of the island of Scyros, whither I am about to return; and it is said, that I am the son of Achilles: I have now answered your enquiries. »

So brief a reply left my curiosity unsatisfied: « O son of Achilles, » said I, « the friend of my heart, who wert fostered by Lycomedes with the tenderness of a parent, whence art thou come, and what has brought thee to this place? » — « I come, » he replied, « from the siege of Troy. » — « Thou was not, » said I, « in the first expedition. » — « Wast thou in it, then? » said he. « I perceive, » said I, « that thou knowest neither the name, nor the misfortunes of Philoctetes. »

Wretch that I am! my persecutors insult me in my calamity. Greece is a stranger to my sufferings, which every moment increase. The Atreides have reduced me to this condition: may the gods reward them as they deserve!

« I then related the manner in which I had been abandoned by the Greeks: and, as soon as Neoptolemus had heard my complaints, he made me the confidant of his own. » — « After the death of Achilles, » said he, — « How! » said I, « is Achilles dead? Forgive the tears that interrupt you, for I owe them to the memory of your father. » — « Such interruption, » replied Neoptolemus, « is soothing to my sorrow: what can so much alleviate my loss as the tears of Philoctetes? »

« Neoptolemus then resumed his story. — « After the death of Achilles, » said he, « Ulysses and Phenix came to me, and told me that Troy could not be ta-

esta soledad con alguno de los mortales! No te espantes de ver á un hombre tan desgraciado; pues mas presto deberias moverte á compasion.

Apénas me dixo Neoptolemo: Yo soy Griego: quando prontamente exclamé: ¡O palabra dulce, despues de tantos años de silencio, y de dolor sin consuelo! ¿Qué desgracia, hijo mio, qué tempestad, ó por mejor decir, qué viento favorable te ha traído á este sitio á fenecer mis males? Yo, me respondió, soy de la isla de Scyro, y ahora me restituyo á la patria: dicen que soy hijo de Aquiles: me llamo Neoptolemo: ya lo has oido todo.

No se satisfacía mi ansia de saber con tan pocas y breves voces. ¡O hijo, dixé entónces otra vez, de un padre que tanto he amado! ¿Discipulo querido de Licomedes, cómo, y de dónde vienes á este lugar? Respondíome que venia del asedio de Troya. ¿Tú no estabas, le repliqué, entre los que partiéron á aquella empresa, quando empezó la guerra? ¿Y tú, me dixo, dónde estabas entónces? ¿No sabes, respondí, bien lo veo, ni el nombre, ni las desgracias de Filotetes?

¡Ah qué infeliz que soy! Mis perseguidores me insultan en mi misma miseria. Mi dolor se acrecienta, miéntras son conocidos á la Grecia los males que padezco. Los hijos de Atreo son los que me han reducido á este estado. Ruego á los dioses, que les den la paga.

Contéle despues la manera con que me abandonaron los Griegos. Luego que hubo oido mis quejas, empezó tambien él á referir sus desgracias, y acompañar así mis lamentos. Despues de la muerte de Aquiles... ¿Luego Aquiles es muerto? le dixé yo al instante, interrumpiéndolo. Perdóname, hijo mio, si te embarazo, que prosigas tu relacion, con las lagrimas, que yo debo á tu padre. Vos, me respondió Neoptolemo, me consolais interrumpiéndome. O qué suave me es el ver á Filotetes llorando por mi padre.

Neoptolemo, volviendo á hablar, prosiguió con decir: Despues de la muerte de Aquiles, viniéron á buscarme Ulises y Fenix, asegurandome, que la ciu-

ken till I came to the siege. I was easily persuaded to go with them; for my grief for the death of Achilles, and a desire of inheriting his glory in so celebrated a war, were inducements that almost made persuasion unnecessary. When I arrived at Sigeum, the whole army gathered round me: every one was ready to swear, that he beheld Achilles but, alas! Achilles was no more. In the presumption of youth and inexperience, I thought I might hope every thing from those who were so liberal of praise: I therefore demanded my father's arms of the Atrides: but their answer was a cruel disappointment of my expectations: « You shall have, » said they, « whatever else belonged to your father: but his arms are allotted to Ulysses. »

« This threw me into confusion, and tears, and rage. But Ulysses replied, without emotion: « You have not endured with us, the dangers of a tedious siege, you have not merited such arms: you have demanded them too proudly, and they shall never be yours. » — My right being thus unjustly wrested from me, I am returning to the isle of Scyros, yet more incensed against the Atrides than Ulysses: to all who are their enemies may the gods be friends! And now, Philoctetes, I have told thee all. »

« I then asked Neoptolemus, how it happened that Ajax, the son of Telamon, did not interpose to prevent so flagitious an injustice? — « Ajax, » said he, « is dead. » — « Is Ajax dead, » said I, « and Ulysses alive and prosperous? » I then enquired after Antilochus, the son of Nestor; and Patroclus, the favourite of Achilles: « They also, » said he, « are dead. » « Alas! » said I, « are Antilochus and Patroclus dead? How does war, with unremitting and undistinguishing destruction, sweep away the righteous, and spare the wicked! Ulysses lives; and so, I doubt not, does Thersites. Such is the ordination of the gods! and yet we still honour them with praise. »

« While I was thus burning with resentment against your father, Neoptolemus continued to deceive me:

dad de Troya no podia sin mi asistencia ser arruinada de los coligados. No tuvieron mucho que hacer en llevarme consigo: porque el dolor de la muerte de Aquiles, y el deseo de heredar parte de su gloria en aquella guerra, me constreñian harto à seguirlos. Llego al asedio: ciñeme al rededor todo el ejército: cada uno jura, que ve al mismo Aquiles en su hijo; pero à mi pesar habia muerto el verdadero Aquiles. Joven sin experiencia, creí poderme prometer alguna cosa de aquellos que me daban tantos elogios. Pedí luego las armas de mi padre à Agamenón y Menelao, y ellos me respondieron cruelmente; Tú tendrás lo restante de lo que fué suyo; pero las armas de Aquiles estan destinadas à Ulises.

Turbéme al mismo punto; lloré, me enfurecí, y Ulises me decia sin alterarse: Tú, joven, no has estado tan largo tiempo como nosotros en los crecidos riesgos de este asedio: tú no has merecido armas tales, y hablas ya con sobrado orgullo; pero sabe que nunca serán tuyas. Injustamente despojado de Ulises, vuelvo à la isla de Scyro, harto ménos indignado que contra él, contra los dos hermanos. Quiera el cielo mostrarse propicio à qualquiera que sea su enemigo. No tengo que decirte mas, Filotetes; ya lo he dicho todo.

Preguntéle entonces de qué suerte Ajax, hijo de Telamon, no habia embarazado esta injusticia. El me respondió luego: Ajax es muerto. ¡ Ajax es muerto, exclamé, y no muere Ulises; antes por el contrario es tenido en gran precio en el ejército! Pedí despues nuevas de Antiloco, hijo del prudente Nestor, y de Patrocolo, à quien habia Aquiles amado tanto. También esos, me dixo Neoptolemo, son muertos. ¿ Luego han muerto? Volví à exclamar de nuevo: ¡ Infelice de mí! ¿ Qué es lo que escucho? ¿ Así la guerra cruel acaba con la vida de los buenos, y perdona la de los malos? ¿ Luego Ulises vive? Ya que quedan en el mundo los malos, que no mueren los impios; creo que ciertamente vive tambien Tersites. ¿ Los dioses hacen estas injusticias, y aun los alabarémos? »

Miéntas yo estaba arrebatado de esta manera con el ímpetu del enojo contra vuestro padre, pasaba

« I am going, » said he, « with a mournful accent, to live content in the isle of Scyros; which, though uncultivated and obscure, is yet far from the armies of Greece, where evil prevails over good. Farewell! may the gods vouchsafe to restore thy health! »

« O my son! » said I, « I conjure thee by the manes of thy father, by thy mother, and by all that is dear to thee upon earth, not to leave me alone in this extremity of pain and sorrow: I know I shall be a burden to you, but it would disgrace your humanity to leave me here. Place me in the prow, the stern, or even the hold of your vessel, wherever I shall least offend you: in the estimation of a noble mind, there is glory in doing good. Do not abandon me in a desert, where there are no traces of men: take me with you to Scyros; or leave me at Eubæa, where I shall be near to Mount Oeta, to Trachin, and the pleasing banks of Thessalian Sperchius: or send me back to my father! Alas! my tears suggest, that my father is dead: I sent to him for a vessel, which has never arrived; and it is, therefore, certain, either that he is dead, or that those who promised to acquaint him with my distress have betrayed their trust. My last hope is in thee, O my son! Consider the uncertainty of all sublunary things: the prosperous should fear to abuse prosperity; and never fail to succour the distress which they are liable to feel! »

« Such in the intolerable anguish of my mind, was my address to Neoptolemus, and he promised to take me with him. My heart then leaped for joy: « O happy day! » said I: « O amiable Neoptolemus! worthy to inherit the glory of thy father! Ye dear companions, with whom I shall return to the world of life, suffer me to bid this mournfull retreat farewell: see where I have lived, and consider what I have endured! my sufferings have been more than another could sustain; but I was instructed by necessity, and she teaches what otherwise could not be known: those who are without sufferings are without knowledge: they distinguish

Neoptolemo adelante en engañarme. Para eso, volviéndose á mí, añadió estas palabras, con que me afligió por extremo: Léjos del ejército Griego; donde el mal prevalece al bien, ahora me parto á la rústica isla de Scyro, á vivir alegre y contento. A dios, Filotes: me parto: ruego á los dioses que te sanen tu herida.

Conjúrote, hijo mio, le dixé luego, por el amor que tienes á la grande alma de tu padre, por el que tienes á tu madre, por lo que mas estimas sobre la tierra, que no me dexes solo entre estos males, que sin que necesite de expresarlos mas, ellos mismos se ofre en á tus ojos. Sé bien de quanto peso te he de ser; pero te seria vergüenza el desampararme. Echame en qualquier puesto en donde te ocasione ménos molestia, en la proa, ó la popa, ó en la sentina de tu baxel. Solamente los grandes corazones saben quanta gloria se adquiere con ser buenos. Ea, no me dexes en un desierto, donde no se halla humana huella: conduceme á tu patria, ó á Eubæa, que no dista del monte Oeta, de Trachinico, y de las deliciosas orillas del Sperchio: ten á bien el sacarme de este lugar, y restituirme á mi padre. ¡ Mas ay de mí, que temo que él ha muerto; Ya le hice yo avisar, que me enviara una nave: ó él ha muerto, ó aquellos que me ofrecieron avisarle, no han cumplido con su promesa. A tí recurro pues, para que me socorras. Acuérdate, hijo mio, de la fragilidad de las cosas humanas: ¡ Quién es feliz ha de temer usar mal de su propia felicidad, y debe socorrer á los necesitados? »

Así me hacia hablar á Neoptolemo el exceso de mi dolor; y él me ofreció de llevarme consigo fuera de la isla. ¡ O feliz dia! exclamé entonces nuevamente: ó amable Neoptolemo, digno de una gloria tan grande como la de tu padre! ¡ Permitted me, ó amado compañero de mi viage! que me despida de esta triste morada. Mirad donde he vivido, y discurrido lo que habré padecido: ninguno otro lo hubiera podido tolerar; pero la necesidad me habia enseñado á soportar los males; porque ella es la que enseña á los hombres, lo que de otra manera no pudieran nunca saber. Los que no han padecido nunca, no saben cosa alguna

neither good nor evil; and are, alike, strangers to mankind, and to themselves.» After this effusion of my heart, I took my bow and arrows in my hand.

«Neoptolemus then requested that I would permit him to kiss the celebrated arms that had been consecrated by the invincible Alcides. «To you,» said I, «all things are permitted: you, my son, restore me to light and life, to my country, my father, my friends, and myself: you may touch these arms; and boast: that you are the only Greek who deserves to touch them.» Neoptolemus immediately came into my cell, to admire my arrows.

At this moment a sudden pang totally suspended my faculties: I no longer knew what I did, but called for a sword, that I might cut off my foot. I cried out for death, and reproached him with delay: «Burn me,» said I, to Neoptolemus, «this moment, as I burnt the son of Jove upon mount Oeta. O earth! receive a dying wretch, who shall never more rise from thy bosom.» I fell immediately to the ground without appearance of life, a state in which these fits of pain usually left me: a profuse sweat at length relieved me, and a black and corrupted ichor flowed from my wound. While I continued insensible, it would have been easy for Neoptolemus to have carried off my arms; but he was the son of Achilles, and his nature was superior to fraud.

«When I recovered, I perceived great confusion in his countenance; and he sighed like a man new to dissimulation, and practising it with violence to himself: «What,» said I, «do you meditate to take advantage of my infirmity?» «You must go with me,» said he, «to the siege of Troy.» «What do I hear!» said I; «I am betrayed. O my son! give me back the bow; to withhold it is to rob me of life. Alas! he answers me nothing; he looks steadily upon me, without emotion; over his heart I have no power. Ye winding shores! ye promontories, that overhang the deep! ye broken rocks! ye savage beasts, that prowl these scenes of desolation! I complain to you; for, beside you, there are none to whom I can complain: to you

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na; no conocen los bienes, ni los males, ni los hombres, ni aun á sí mismos. Despues de hablar así, tomé el arco y las flechas.

Entónces me rogó Neoptolemo, que le permitiera besar unas armas tan celebradas, y consagradas del invencible Alcides. Todo está á tu mandado, le respondí, quanto de mi arbitrio depende; pues eres tú, hijo mio, quien hoy me da la vida, la patria, el padre consumido de los años, los amigos, y á mí. Puedes tocar las armas, y vanagloriarte de ser el solo entre los Griegos, que ha merecido tocarlas. Entró al punto Neoptolemo en mi gruta para admirar las armas del grande Alcides.

En este punto me asaltó un horrible dolor, que me conmovió todo el animo. No sabia que hacerme, y queria cortarme el pie, pidiendo para esto un cuchillo, exclamando con alta voz: ¿O muerte tan deseada, por qué no llegas? Abraseme, ó jóven, en esta hora, como abrasé yo al hijo de Júpiter. Tierra, tierra, recibe á un moribundo, que no está ya en estado de recobrase. De este exceso de pena que me sacó de mí, di repentinamente en un profundísimo letargo. Comenzó un gran sudor entónces á aliviar mi dolor, y salió de mi herida al mismo tiempo, negra y podrida sangre. Mientras estaba yo adormecido, hubiera podido Neoptolemo fácilmente tomar las armas, y con ellas partirse; mas era hijo de Aquiles, y no habia nacido para engañarme.

Quando me desperté, reconocí en su rostro turbacion, y alguna confusion interior. Suspiraba del modo que un hombre, que no sabe ocultar con arte su pensamiento, y que obra alguna cosa contra su voluntad. ¿Quieres, le pregunté, engañarme tú, por ventura? ¿Qué estás entre ti mismo discurriendo? Yo voy al asedio de Troya, y es menester que me sigas. ¡Ay, hijo mio! ¿Qué es lo que has dicho? Vuélveme luego el arco: bien advierto que me has hecho traicion; mas ruegote no me quites la vida. ¡Infelice de mí! El se estaba callando sin responderme, y me miraba sossegadamente, y no habia cosa que le moviera á apiadarse de mi dolor. ¡O playas! exclame: ¡o promontorios de Lemnos! ¡o fieras, ó peñascos inacesi-

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my groans are familiar. Must I be thus betrayed by the son of Achilles! He robs me of the bow, which the hand of Hercules has made sacred; he would compel me to the camp of Greece, as a trophy of the war; nor sees, that his victory is not over the living but the dead, a shade, a phantom, that exists only in idea! O that he had assailed me when my vigour was unimpaired; but even now he has taken me by surprise. What expedient shall I try! Restore what thou hast taken; restore my arms. O my son! and let thy conduct be worthy of thy father and thyself. What dost thou answer? Thou art inexorably silent. To thee, thou barren rock, I once more return, naked and miserable, forlorn and destitute! In this cave I shall perish alone; for having no weapon to destroy the beasts, the beasts will inevitably devour me; and why should I desire to live! But as to thee, my son, the mark of wickedness is not upon thee; thou art surely the instrument of another's hand! Restore my arms, and leave me to my fate! «

« Neoptolemus was touched with my distress; the tear started to his eye; and he sighed to himself. « Would to God that I had still continued at Scyros! » At this moment I cried out, « What do I see! surely that is Ulysses! » Immediately the voice of Ulysses confirmed it, and he answered, « It is I. » If the gloomy dominions of Pluto had been disclosed before me, and I had suddenly beheld the shades of Tartarus, which the gods themselves cannot see without dread, I should not have been seized with greater horror. I then cried out again, « I attest thee, O earth of Lemnos! O sun! dost thou behold and suffer this? » Ulysses answered without emotion, « This is ordained by Jupiter, and I but execute his will. » « Darest thou, » said I, « profane the name of Jove, with unhallowed lips? Hast thou not compelled this youth to practise a fraud, which his soul abhors? » — « We come, » replied Ulysses, « neither to deceive nor injure you: we come to deliver you from solitude and

Mes! con vosotros me duelo, porque no hay otros con quien dolerme, sino vos solos que estais acostumbrados de largo tiempo á escuchar mis quejas. ¡ Luego el hijo del grande Aquiles me ha de hacer traicion! El me roba el arco sacro de Alcides: quiere á fuerza conducirme al campo de los Griegos para triunfar de mi: ni advierte, que triunfar de un muerto, es triunfar de una sombra, de una vana fantasma. ¡ O si él me acometiera en mí robustéz! Sin embargo aun ahora no me invade sino con engaño. Hazte, hijo mio, hazte semejante á tu padre, el grande Aquiles: hazte semejante á tí mismo. ¿ Qué piensas, Neoptolemo? ¿ qué respondes? ¡ Ah! tú te estás silencioso, y nada me respondes. A tí, pues, vuelvo, ó rústico peñasco, desnudo, miserable, desamparado, para fenecer solo en esta gruta, donde no tendré ya con qué alimentarme. Me devorarán las fieras, pues me hallaré sin el arco, con que solia matarlas. Pero suceda lo que quiera, nada me importa. Mas tu semblante, hijo mio, no me muestra que sean malas tus costumbres. Sea la que quisieres tu intencion, vuélveme las armas que me has quitado, y pártete luego de este lugar.

Entonces Neoptolemo con lágrimas en los ojos, y con la voz baxa, dixo: ¡ Pluguiera á los dioses, que nunca me hubiera partido de Scyro! Entre tanto grité: ¡ Ah, y qué objeto se me representa á la vista! ¿ No es Ulises aquel que veo? ¡ Luego llegó su voz á mis oidos? Y él me respondió: Sí, Ulises soy. Confieso, que si se hubiera abierto el infierno, y se hubieran visto aquellos tenebrosos abismos, que hasta los dioses miran con temor, no me hubiera espantado tanto. ¡ O tierra de Lemnos, que tomo por testigo! grité con mas esfuerzo que nunca: ¡ ó sol! ¡ lo veis y lo sufris! Jupiter, me respondió Ulises sin alterarse. Jupiter lo quiere, y yo executo lo que me manda. ¡ Luego tienes, le repliqué, tan poco respeto á Jupiter, que osas nombrarlo? Mira á ese jóven, que no habia nacido para engañar, y padece interior violencia en executar lo que esta obligado por tu consejo á obrar. Nosotros no venimos ni á engañaros, ni á haceros daño, sino á sacaros de este misero estado,

misery, to heal your wound, and to give you the glory of subverting Troy, and restore you in safety to your native country. It is thyself, and not Ulysses, that is the enemy of Philoctetes.»

«I answered only by reproaches and insult: «Since thou hast abandoned me upon this inhospitable coast,» said I, «why hast thou interrupted such rest as it can give? Go, and secure to thyself the glory of battle and the delights of peace; enjoy the sweets of prosperity with the Atrides, and leave pain and sorrow to me. Why shouldst thou compel me to go with thee? I am sunk into nothing; I am dead already. Thou wast once of opinion, that I ought to be left here; that my complaints, and the infection of my wound, would interrupt the sacrifices of the gods: and why is not this thy opinion now? Thou author of all my misery, May the gods — But the gods hear me not; they take part with my enemy! O my country! these eyes shall behold thee no more! O ye gods! if there is yet one among you, so just as to compassionate my wrongs, avenge them! punish Ulysses, and I shall believe that I am whole!»

«While I was thus indulging an impotent rage, your father looked upon me with a calm compassion, which, instead of resenting the intemperate sallies of a wretch distracted by misfortune, makes allowance for his infirmity, and bears with his excess: he stood silent and unmoved, in the stability of his wisdom, till my passion should be exhausted by its own violence; as the summit of a rock stands unshaken, while it is beaten by the winds, which at length wearied by their idle fury, are heard no more. He knew that all attempts to reduce the passions to reason, are ineffectual, till their violence is past; when I paused, therefore, and not before, he said, «Where are now, O Philoctetes! thy reason and thy courage? This is the moment in which they can most avail thee! If thou shalt refuse to follow us, and to concur with the great design which Jupiter has formed for thee, farewell!»

á sanaros de vuestro mal, á haceros conseguir la gloria de rendir á Troya, y para conducirnos á vuestra patria; vos, y no Ulises, sois enemigo de Filotetes.

Dixe entonces á vuestro padre todo lo que el furor pudo dictarme. Despues de haberme dexado en esta playa, ¿Por qué no continuas en dexarme en paz? Anda á buscar la gloria, que se adquiere en la guerra, y a negociarte todos los placeres: goza de tu felicidad en compañía de Agamenon y Menelao, y dexame en mi miseria, y en mi dolor. ¿Para qué sacarme de este lugar? Me han reducido ya á nada mis males; y por decirlo asi, estoy ya muerto. ¿Por qué no crees hoy tambien, como lo creiste antes, que no estoy en estado de salir de esta isla, y que mis gritos, y la infection de mi llaga estorbarán los sacrificios? O, Ulises, autor de todos mis males! Los Dioses te puedan :: :: :: Pero no me escuchan los dioses, antes por el contrario á mi enemigo dan brio, y aliento. O tierra de mi patria, que no tendré nunca el consuelo de volverte á ver! O dioses! si alguno hay aun antes justo, para apiadarse de mis desdichas, castigad á Ulises, castigadle. Si le hubiera yo castigado, tendria tanto gusto de su pena, que entonces me tuviera por recobrado de mi herida.

Hablaba de este modo y no perdiendo nada vuestro padre de la propia tranquilidad, me miraba con un ayre de rostro compasivo, como un hombre, que no queriendose enojar, es puntualmente semejante á un peñasco, que en la cima de un monte desprecia todo el impetu de los vientos, que lo contrastan: y quedándose inmoble, dexa que se consuman y cansen los esfuerzos de su furor. Asi vuestro padre, estando callando, esperaba que desahogara toda mi indignacion; porque sabia bien, que no conviene convertir las pasiones de los hombres, para hacerlas sujetas á la razon, sino quando con una especie de cansancio empiezan por si mismas á enflaquecerse. Dixome despues estas palabras: ¿Dónde estan, Filotetes, vuestra prudencia, y vuestra osadia? He aqui el tiempo en que debiais aprovecharos de ellas. Si no quereis seguirnos para cumplir los grandes designios, que Jupiter ha

thou art not worthy to achieve the deliverance of Greece, or the destruction of Troy. Live still an exile in Lemnos: these arms, which I have secured, will obtain a glory for Ulysses, that was designed for thee. Let us depart, Neoptolemus! argument is lost upon him; and compassion for an individual should not make us give up the common interest of Greece.»

« This threw me into a new transport of rage; and I was like a lioness, when she is robbed of her young, and makes the woods echo with her roar. « O cave! » said I, « thou shalt not henceforth be forsaken; I will enter thee as my grave for ever: receive me, O mansion of sorrow! receive me to famine and despair! O for a sword, that I might die at once! O that the birds of prey would devour me! my arrows shall pierce them no more. O inestimable bow, consecrated by the hand of the son of Jove! O Hercules! if thou art still conscious to what passeth upon earth, does not thy breast burn with indignation? This bow is no longer in the possession of thy friend, but in the profane and faithless hands of Ulysses? Come, without fear, ye birds of prey, and ye beast of the desert, to your ancient dwelling! there are now no fatal arrows in my hand: wretch that I am! I can wound you no more: come then and devour me. Or rather, inexorable Jove! let thy thunders crush me to nothing.»

« Your father having tried every other art of persuasion in vain, thought it best to return me my arms; he, therefore, made a sign to Neoptolemus fort that purpose, who instantly put the arrows and the bow into my hand. « Thou art, indeed, » said I, « the son of Achilles, and worthy of his blood! but stand aside, that I may pierce my enemy to the heart.» I then drew an arrow against your father, but Neoptolemus held my hand; « Your anger, » says he, « distracts you; you are not conscious of the enormity you would commit.» « But Ulysses stood equally unmoved, against danger and reproach; and his patience and intrepidity

resuelto obrar por vuestro medio, á Dios: sois indigno de ser el libertador de la Grecia, y el destruidor de Troya: quedaos en Lemnos. Estas armas, que os quito y llevo conmigo, me adquiriran la gloria, que estaba destinada para vos. Partamos Neoptolemo, porque de nada sirve el hablarle; y la compasion de uno solo, no debe hacernos abandonar el bien de toda la Grecia.

Apoderóseme entonces un dolor, como el de una leona, á quien el cazador robó sus cachorrillos, que llena de rugidos las selvas. O caverna, decia yo, nunca será verdad que yo te haya dexado! Tú que has sido por tanto tiempo la memoria de mi dolor, serás tambien sepulcro de mi cadáver. Aquí me quedaré sin sustento, y quedaré tambien sin esperanza. ¿Quién será tan piadoso, que me dé un acero, que me atraiese, y dé fin á mis males? O á lo menos, las aves de rapiña pudieran hacerme su presa, ya que no puedo herirlas con mis flechas. O arco precioso! arco consagrado con las manos del grande hijo de Júpiter! Es posible, amado Hércules, que si aun allá en el cielo te queda algún afecto, no te muevas á enojo, viendo que el arco, que me dexaste, no está ya en manos de tu fidelísimo amigo, sino en las manos impuras del engañoso Ulises? No huyais mas, aves de rapiña: no huyais mas lejos de esta caverna, fieras: no me hallo ya con flechas para heriros. ¿Qué desgraciado soy! Ahora no os puedo ya dañar: venid, pues, á comerme, ó antes me reduzca á pavesas el incendio trisulco del cruel Jove.

Habiendo vuestro padre tentado todas las maneras de persuadirme, juzgó al cabo, que el mejor medio era restituirme las armas que me habia quitado, é hizo señas á Neoptolemo para que me las diese. Digno hijo de Aquiles, le dixo luego, bien muestras ser el que te presumes; pero desvíate; y dexame acabar con mi enemigo. Púseme en ademan de tirar una flecha contra Ulises; pero detúvome Neoptolemo, que me decia: La saña, ó Filotetes, os turba la razon, y estorba que veais lo indigno de la accion, que vais á executar. Ulises entretanto mostraba un animo igualmente sereno contra las flechas con que me disponia

Paris, who has filled the world with calamity, shall fall by my arrows from thy hand. When Troy shall be taken, thou shalt send costly spoils to Pæas, thy father, upon mount Oeta: and he shall place them upon my tomb, as a monument of the victory which my arrows obtained. Thou canst not, O son of Achilles! conquer without Philoctetes; nor can Philoctetes conquer without thee: go then, like two lions, who chase their prey together. Thou, Philoctetes, shalt be healed by the skill of Æsculapius at Troy. But, above all things, keep alive in your hearts the love and reverence of the gods: all other passions and pleasures shall perish with their objects; these only are immortal and divine.»

« At these words I cried out, in a transport of joy. « The night is past; the dawn breaks upon me! O cheering light! after these years of darkness, art thou again returned? I feel thy influence, and I follow thy guiding ray. I quit these scenes, and stay only to bid them farewell. Farewell, my grotto! Ye nymphs, that haunt these dewy fields, farewell! I shall hear the sullen sound of these inexorable waves no more. Farewell, ye cliffs, where I have shivered in the tempest, and been drenched in the rain! Farewell, ye rocks, whose echoes have so often repeated my complaints! Farewell ye sweet fountains, which my sufferings embittered to me! and thou uncultivated soil, farewell! I leave you; but to my departure be propitious, since I follow the voice of friendship and the gods! »

« We then set sail from the coast, and arrived in the Grecian army before the walls of Troy. Machaon and Podalirius, by the sacred science of their father Æsculapius, healed my wound; at least, restored me to the state you see. I am free from pain, and I have recovered my strength; but I am still somewhat lame. I brought Paris to the ground, like a timid fawn that is pierced by the arrows of the huntsman; and the towers of Ilium were soon in ashes. All that followed, you know already.

Filotetes, de ir junto con el hijo del grande Aquiles. Cobrarás la salud, y atravesarás con mis flechas al infame París, autor de tantos males. Tendrás ricos despojos, que despues de apresada Troya, enviarás á tu padre Peante al monte Oeta: pondránse esos despojos sobre mi sepulcro en eterna memoria de la victoria, cuyo honor á mis flechas se deberá. Y tú, ó hijo de Aquiles, sabe que no puede vencer Filotetes sin tu asistencia, ni tú sin el socorro de Filotetes. Id pues como dos leones, que van juntos en busca de la presa. Entretanto enviaré á Esculapio á Troya, para dar la salud á Filotetes. Acordaos especialmente, ó Griegos, de amar, y de observar la religion: fenece qualquiera cosa: ella sola jamas fenece.

Habiendo escuchado estas palabras, ¡ ó dia venturoso, ó apacible dia! exclamé: ¿ Despues de tantos años, al fin amaneces? Te obedezco, ó gran Hércules, y me parto al instante, habiendo saludado estos lugares. A Dios, amada gruta: á Dios, ninfa, que guardas estos prados: no oiré mas el sordo mormullo de las ondas de esta ribera. A Dios, playa, en donde tantas veces he padecido las injurias del ayre: á Dios, promontorios, donde el eco repitió tan freqüentemente mis quejas: á Dios, graciosas fuentes, que me habeis sido tan amargas: á Dios. Déxame, ó tierra de Lemnos, déxame partir felizmente, ya que me voy adonde los dioses me llaman, y el gusto de mis amigos.

Así finalmente partimos, y llegamos á Troya, que mucho tiempo habia tenian sitiada los Griegos. Allí Macaon, y Polidrio me sanaron mi herida con la divina gracia, que habian aprendido de su padre Esculapio, ó me pusieron á lo menos en el estado en que me veis ahora. No siento ya dolor alguno, y he recobrado ya mi robustez primera: solamente me veo precisado á andar un poco cojo. Cayó allí París, herido de mis flechas, como un tímido cervatillo, que el cazador traspasa con sus saetas. Bien presto se reduxo á pavesas la ciudad afamada de Ilium: ya sabeis lo demas.



«But the remembrance of my sufferings, notwithstanding the success and glory that followed, still left upon my mind an aversion to Ulysses, which all his virtues could not surmount: but, loving irresistibly his resemblance in a son, my enmity to the father insensibly relents.»



Yo sin embargo tenia aun contra el sabio Ulises no sé qué ódio: acordándome de los males que padecí, ni su virtud podia apaciguar mi enojo. Mas la vista de un hijo que le semeja, y no puedo hacer ménos que amar, me ablanda el corazon aun á favor del padre.

FIN DEL LIBRO DECIMO-QUINTO.

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# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XVI.

### ARGUMENT.

TELEMACHUS quarrels with Phalanthus about some prisoners to which each of them lays claim; he fights and vanquishes Hippias, who despising his youth, had seized the prisoners in question for his brother; but being afterwards ashamed of his victory, he laments in secret his rashness and indiscretion, for which he is very desirous to atone. At the same time Adrastus, King of the Daunians, being informed that the Allies were wholly taken up in reconciling Telemachus and Hippias, marches to attack them by surprise. After having seized an hundred of their vessels to transport his own troops to their camp, he first sets it on fire, and then falls upon Phalanthus's quarters! Phalanthus himself is desperately wounded; and his brother Hippias slain.

WHILE Philoctetes was thus relating his adventures, Telemachus stood suspended and immovable: his eyes were fixed upon the hero that spoke; and all the passions which had agitated Hercules, Philoctetes, Ulysses, and Neoptolemus, appeared by turns in his countenance, as they were successively described in the series of the narration. Sometimes he interrupted Philoctetes, by a sudden and involuntary exclamation; and sometimes he appeared to be absorbed in thought, like a man who reasons deeply from causes to effects. When Philoctetes described the confusion of Neoptolemus, in his first attempt at dissimulation, the same confusion appeared in Telemachus, and he might, in that moment, have been taken for Neoptolemus himself.

The allied army marched in good order against Adrastus, the tyrant of Daunia; a contemner of the gods, and a deceiver of men. Telemachus found it very difficult to behave, without offence, among so many princes who were jealous of each other: it was

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XVI.

### SUMARIO.

TELEMACO entra en disputa con Falanto por unos prisioneros que cada uno pretendia ser suyos: combate y vence á Hippias, que, despreciando su juventud, toma con altivez aquellos prisioneros para su hermano Falanto. Pero, descontento de su victoria, llora en secreto su temeridad y culpa, que, quisiera remediar. Al mismo tiempo Adrasto, rey de los Dannos, informado que los reyes aliados no piensan sino en apaciguar la disputa de Telemaco e Hippias, los ataca de improviso. Despues de haber sorprendido cien navios enemigos para llevar sus tropas al campo de los aliados, luego abraza á este, comienza el ataque por el quartel de Falanto, mata á su hermano Hippias; y Falanto mismo queda traspasado de sus golpes.

HASTA que de esta forma acabó Filotetes de contar sus sucesos, había Telémaco estado suspense, y casi inmóvil. Tenia fixos los ojos en aquel grande hombre que estaba hablando; y en el semblante ingenuo del mancebo se iban declarando sucesivamente todas las pasiones, que movieron á Ulises, Hércules, Filotetes, y Neoptolemo, segun ellas se referian. En el discurso de la relacion, exclamaba tal vez, é interrumpia, sin advertirlo, á Filotetes. Tal vez tambien parecia suspense, como un hombre que piensa con atencion profunda en la serie y orden de los sucesos. Quando representaba Filotetes la neutralidad de Neoptolemo, que no sabia disimular, parecia que se hallaba Telémaco con la misma, y en aquel lance, se le equivocara fácilmente con Neoptolemo.

En esto, el ejército aliado marchaba con buen orden contra Adrasto, que despreciaba á los dioses, y no estudiaba sino en engañar á los hombres. Halló el hijo de Ulises no pocas, ni pequeñas dificultades en el modo de haberse con tantos Reyes, que estaban rezelosos unos

necessary that he should give cause of suspicion to none; and that he should conciliate the good-will of all. There was great goodness and sincerity in his disposition, but he was not naturally obliging; and gave himself little trouble to please others; he was not fond of money, yet he knew not how to give it away: and thus, with an elevated mind, and a general disposition to do good, he appeared to be neither kind nor liberal, to be neither sensible of friendship, nor grateful for favours, nor attentive to merit. He indulged his humour, without the least regard to the opinion of others; for his mother, Penelope, notwithstanding the care of Mentor, had encouraged a pride of birth and lofty demeanour, which cast a shade over all his good qualities: he considered himself as participating a nature superior to the rest of men, whom, he seemed to think, the gods had placed upon the earth, merely for his pleasure and convenience, to prevent his wishes, and refer all to him as a visible divinity. To serve him, was, in his opinion, a happiness, that sufficiently recompensed the service: nothing that he required, was to be supposed impossible; and, at the least delay, the impetuous ardour of his temper burst into a flame.

Those who should have seen him thus, unguarded and unrestrained, would have concluded him incapable of loving any thing but himself, and sensible only to the gratification of his own appetites and vanity: but this indifference for others, and perpetual attention to himself, was merely the effect of the continual agitation that he suffered from the violence of his passions. He had been flattered and humoured, by his mother, from the cradle; and was a striking example of the disadvantages of high birth. Misfortune had not yet abated either his haughtiness or impetuosity; in every state of dereliction and distress, he had still looked round him with disdain; and his pride, like the palm, still rose under ever depression.

de otros; porque era menester no hacerse sospechoso á ninguno, y hacerse amar de todos. Bien tenia Telemaco buena índole, y sincera; pero poco dispuesta á acariciar á qualquiera que fuese: no tenia cuidado de lo que podia ser del gusto de los mas, ni era aficionado á las riquezas; mas no sabia dar. De esta manera con un corazon noble, y naturalmente inclinado á lo bueno, no se mostraba oficioso, ni facil para amar, ni liberal, ni reconocido al cuidado que tenian los otros de complacerle, ni atento á distinguir los méritos ajenos. Dexabase llevar del apetito propio, sin advertencia alguna: Habíalo su madre Penélope, á pesar de Mentor, criado con una altivez, y un orgullo, que deslucian todo lo que en él se encontraba mas apreciable. Estimábase como de otra naturaleza que el resto de los hombres, y no le parecía que los dioses habian puesto á los otros sobre la tierra sino para darle gusto, para servirle, para prevenir qualquier deseo suyo, y para referir á él todas sus acciones como á una deidad. Conforme á su opinion, era recompensa harto grande para los que le servian el mismo servicio. No convenia tener por imposible alguna cosa, quando se trataba de contentarlo: la mas mínima detencion movia á enojo su complexión fogosa.

Quien lo mirara así, como se figuraba, por sus inclinaciones naturales, juzgaría que era incapaz de tener amor á otra cosa, que á sí mismo; y que no sentia otro afecto que el de su gloria y gusto. Mas esta indiferencia acia los otros, y esta atencion continua acia sí, no procedian sino de la continua agitation, que ocasionaban sus propias pasiones. Habia él además sido desde la cuna sobrado acariciado de Penélope; y era un vivo exemplo de la desgracia de aquellos que nacen en sublime fortuna. Las desventuras que habia tolerado desde su edad mas tierna, no habian podido templar este impetu y orgullo. Desprevenido de todo, desamparado, expuesto á tantos males, no habia perdido cosa de su primera soberbia. Volvia ella á alzarse, como suele la palma por sí propia erguirse, por mas que se haga todo el esfuerzo para tenerla inclinada á la tierra.

While he was with Mentor, his faults were scarce visible; and they became insensibly less and less every day. Like a fiery steed, that, in his course, disdains the rock, the precipice, and the torrent, and is obedient only to one commanding voice, and one guiding hand: Telemachus, impelled by a noble ardour, could be restrained only by Mentor. But Mentor could arrest him with a look, in the midst of his career: he knew, he felt, the meaning of his eye, the moment that it glanced upon him; his heart became sensible to virtue, and his countenance softened into serenity and complaisance; the rebellious tempest is not more suddenly rebuked into peace, when Neptune lifts his trident, and frowns upon the deep.

When Telemachus was left to himself, all his passions, which had been restrained like the course of a torrent by a mound, burst away with yet greater violence. He could not suffer the arrogance of the Lacedæmonians, nor of Phalanthus their commander. This colony, which had founded Tarentum, consisted of young men, who, having been born during the siege of Troy, had received no education; their illegitimate birth, the dissoluteness of their mothers, and the licentiousness in which they had been brought up, gave them an air of savage barbarity: they resembled rather a band of robbers, than a Grecian colony.

Phalanthus took every opportunity to shew his contempt of Telemachus: he frequently interrupted him in their public councils, and treated his advice as the crude notions of puerile inexperience; he also frequently made him the subject of his raillery, as a feeble and effeminate youth: he pointed out his slightest failings to the chiefs; and was perpetually busy in fomenting jealousies, and rendering the haughty manner of Telemachus odious to the allies.

Telemachus having one day taken some Daunians prisoners, Phalanthus pretended that they belonged to him, because, as he said, he had defeated the party at the head of his Lacedæmonians; and Telemachus,

En tanto que Telémaco estaba con Mentor, no crecían estos defectos, y se iban disminuyendo de día en día. Semejante á un fogoso caballo, que va saltando por los vastos prados sin que le detengan las peñas intratables, ni los precipicios, ni los torrentes; y solo conoce la voz, y la mano de un hombre solo, capaz de hacerle manso, y domeñarlo. Telémaco, lleno de una noble animosidad, no podia ser tenido a rienda de otro que de Mentor; antes en su mayor impetu, una sola mirada de Mentor prontamente le detenía. Entendía al punto Telémaco lo que aquella mirada significaba, y llamaba sin dilacion adentro del corazón todos los sentimientos de la virtud, que se habian extraviado: y la prudencia de aquel anciano suavizaba en un punto, y serenaba el rostro del jóven. Quando amaga Neptuno con su tridente á las rebeldes ondas, no abonanza mas velozmente las tenebrosas borrascas.

En hallandose solo Telémaco, todas sus pasiones, que habian estado reprimidas como un torrente de sus altas riberas, recobraron su primer curso. No pudo sollear la arrogancia de los Lacedemonios, y de su gefe Falanto. Esta colonia, que habia venido á fundar Taranto, se compania toda de jóvenes nacidos durante el asedio de Troya, que no habian tenido educacion alguna. Su nacimiento ilegítimo, el desórden de sus costumbres, y la licencia en que se habian criado, les daban no sé qué de bárbaro, y de feroz. Antes que á una colonia Griega, se semejaban á una cuadrilla de vandoleros.

Procuraba Falanto con qualquiera ocasion contradecir á Telémaco, y interrumpíale muchas veces en las asambleas, haciendo poco caso de sus consejos, como de un jóven sin experiencia. Burlaba de él, tratandolo de flaco y afeminado: hacia reparar á los capitanes del ejército qualquier defecto suyo, aunque ligero: y solicitaba sembrar sospechas en todas partes, y hacer la altanería de Telémaco odiosa á todos los confederadores.

Habiendo un dia apresado Telémaco algunos Daunios, pretendió Falanto que le tocaban á él, alegando, que él á la frente de sus Lacedemonios habia derrotado aquella partida enemiga; y que Telémaco encon-

finding them already vanquished and put to flight, had nothing to do but to give quarter to those that threw down their arms, and lead them to the camp: Telemachus, on the contrary, insisted, that he had prevented Phalanthus from being defeated by that very party, and had turned the scale in his favour. This question was disputed before an assembly of all the princes of the alliance: and Telemachus being so far provoked as to threaten Phalanthus, they would immediately have fought if the assembly had not interposed.

Phalanthus had a brother, whose name was Hippias, and who was much celebrated for his courage, strength, and dexterity: «Pollux,» said the Tarentines, «could not wield the cestus better; nor could Castor surpass him in the management of a horse.» He had almost the stature, and the strength of Hercules; and he was the terror of the whole army, for he was yet more petulant and brutal, than courageous and strong.

Hippias, having remarked the haughtiness with which Telemachus had menaced his brother, went, in great haste, to carry off the prisoners to Tarentum, without waiting for the determination of the assembly and Telemachus, who was privately informed of it, rushed out after him, burning with rage. He ran eagerly from one part of the camp to the other, like a boar, who, being wounded in the chase, turns enraged upon the hunter. His eye looked round for his enemy; and his hand shook the spear, which he was impatient to launch against him. He found him at length; and, at the sight of him, he was transported with new fury. He was no longer Telemachus, a noble youth, whose mind Minerva, under the form of Mentor, had enriched with wisdom; but an enraged lion, or a lunatic, urged on by desperate phrensy.

«Stay!» said he to Hippias; «thou basest of mankind! stay: and let us see if thou canst wrest from me the spoils of those whom I have overcome. Thou shalt not carry them to Tarentum. Thou shalt, this moment, descend to the gloomy borders of the Styx!» His spear instantly followed his words; but he threw

trando á los Daunos ya vencidos y fugitivos, no habia tenido mas trabajo que el de darles la vida, y conducirlos al campo. Al contrario, Telémaco sostenia haber estorbado, que Falanto fuera vencido, y haber obtenido victoria contra los Daunos. Fueronse pues entrambos á tratar su causa en el congreso de los Reyes confederados: dexóse Telémaco arrebatar del enojo de tal manera, que llegó hasta á las amenazas; y si no los hubieran detenido en aquel mismo punto llegaran á las manos.

Tenia Falanto un hermano llamado Ippia, célebre en todo el ejército, por la braveza, por la fuerza, y por la destreza. Polux, decian los Tarentinos, no combatia con el cesto mejor que él; ni Castor le hubiera podido exceder en la maestría de manejar un caballo. Tenia poco ménos que la estatura, y la fuerza de Hércules. El ser mas atrevido y brutal, que valerozo y esforzado, era ocasion que en todo el ejército le temieran.

Habiendo visto pues Ippia, con qué altivez habia Telémaco amenazado á su hermano, fué presurosamente á tomarse los prisioneros, y llevárselos á Taranto, sin esperar el juicio de la asamblea. Telémaco, que con secreto tuvo noticia de ello, salió rechinando de rabia, como un jabalí espumoso, que va en busca del cazador, que le hizo alguna herida. Andaba acá y allá por todo el campo buscando con los ojos al enemigo y blandiendo el dardo, con que lo pretendia atravesar. Hallólo finalmente y redoblósele el furor al mirarlo. No era ya aquel prudente Telémaco, soldado de Minerva, debaxo la figura de Mentor: era un loco, un furioso leon.

Detente, dixo luego á Ippia en alta voz, detente, ó el mas vil de todos los hombres! Verémos de aquí á poco, si me podrás robar los despojos de esos soldados, á quienes ha vencido mi valor. Se dirá que contigo los llevaste á Taranto: y si no, anda, ve, y muere á mis manos; dixo, y arrojó el dardo: mas

it with so much fury, that he could take no aim, and it fell to the ground, wide of Hippias. He then drew his sword, of which the guard was gold; and which had been given him by Laertes, when he departed from Ithaca, as a pledge of his affection. Laertes had used it with glory, when he himself was young; and it had been stained with the blood of many chiefs of Epirus, during a war in which Laertes had been victorious. The sword was scarcely drawn by Telemachus, when Hippias, willing to avail himself of his superior strength, rushed upon him, and endeavoured to force it from his hand; the weapon broke in the contest. They then seized each other, and were in a moment locked together: they appeared like two savage beasts, striving to tear each other in pieces: fire sparkled in their eyes: their bodies are now contracted, and now extended; they now stoop, and now rise; they spring furiously upon each other, and pant with the thirst of blood. Thus they engaged, foot to foot, and hand to hand; and their limbs were so entwined with each other, that they seemed to belong to one body. The advantage, at last, inclined to Hippias; to whom a full maturity of years had given firmness and strength, which, to the tender age of Telemachus, was wanting. His breath now failed him, and his knees trembled: Hippias perceiving his weakness; and, doubling his efforts, the fate of Telemachus would now have been decided, and he would have suffered the punishment due to his passion and temerity, if Minerva, who still watched over him from afar, and suffered him to fall into this extremity of danger only for his instruction, had not determined the victory in his favour.

She did not herself quit the palace of Salentum; but sent Iris, the swift messenger of the gods, who spreading her light wings to the air, divided the pure and unbounded space above, having behind her a long train of light, which diversified the silver clouds with a thousand dyes. She descended not to the earth; till she came to the sea-shore, where the innumerable army of the allies were encamped. She saw the contest at a distance, and marked the violence and fury

tirólo con tanta furia, que no pudo librar el tiro, para enderezarlo bien á su blanco. Así que voló el dardo sin tocar al contrario, puso luego mano á la espada guarnecida de oro, que al ausentarse de Itaca, Laertes su avuelo le dió, como prenda de su cariño. Habíala estrenado Laertes con mucha gloria en su juventud, y ensangratadola en las venas de muchos capitanes famosos entre los Epirotas, de cuya guerra habia quedado el vencedor. Apenas que Telémaco desenvaynó la espada, Ippia, que se queria aprovechar de la ventaja que le daban sus fuerzas, se arrojó sobre él para quitarsela: rompióse en las manos de entrambos, y luego se aferraron, y se estrecharon a una obstinadamente. Ellos como á dos leones, que se procuraban despedazar, centelleando los ojos, se encogen, se dilatan, se alargan, se abaxan, se enderezan, y se echan impetuosamente uno contra otro, sedientos entrambos de sangre. Ya se hallan á las presas pies contra pies, manos contra manos: parecia que los dos cuerpos, enlazados de aquella suerte, no eran sino uno solo. Mas parecia que Ippia como mayor de edad, habia de oprimir á Telémaco, cuya juventud tierna era ménos robusta, y de menores nervios. Ya Telémaco, fulto de aliento, sentia flaquear las rodillas; y viendo Ippia que zozobraba, redobló vigorosamente sus esfuerzos. Perdido era el hijo de Ulises, y ya estaba para llevar igualmente la pena de su temeridad, que de su furor, si Minerva, que desde lejos tenia de él cuidado, y que no lo desamparaba en tan extremado peligro, sino para enseñarlo, no hubiera de declarar la victoria á su favor.

No partió de Salento, ni dexó el Palacio de Idomeneo; sino que envió al campo de los confederados á la diosa Iris, que es la mensagera veloz de las órdenes, y voluntad de los dioses. Esta luego se levantó volando, sulcando ligeramente el inmenso espacio del ayre, y dexandose á las espaldas por donde ella pasaba, una larga faja de luz, que revestia las nubes de mil varios colores. No paró hasta la ribera del mar, donde estaba acampado el ejército innumerable de los con-

of the combatants; she perceived the danger of Telemachus, and trembled with apprehension; she approached in a thin vapour, which she had condensed into a cloud: and, at the moment when Hippas, conscious of his superior strength, believed his victory to be secure, she covered the young charge of Minerva with the shield of the goddess, which, for this purpose, had been confided to her care. Telemachus, who was exhausted and fainting, instantly became sensible of new vigour; and, in proportion as he revived, the strength and courage of Hippas declined; he was conscious to something invisible and divine, which overwhelmed and confounded him. Telemachus now pressed him closer; and assailed him sometimes in one posture, and sometimes in another: he perceived him stagger; and leaving him not a moment's respite to recover, he at length threw him down, and fell upon him. An oak of Mount Ida, which, at last, yields to a thousand strokes, that have made the depths of the forest resound, falls not with a more dreadful noise, than Hippas; the earth groaned beneath him, and all that was around him shook.

But the *Aegis* of Minerva infused into Telemachus wisdom, as well as strength: and at the moment that Hippas fell under him, he was touched with a sense of the fault he had committed, by attacking the brother of one of the confederate princes whom he had taken arms to assist. He recollected the counsels of Mentor, and they covered him with confusion; he was ashamed of his victory, and conscious that he ought to have been vanquished. In the mean time, Phalanthus, transported with rage, ran to the succour of his brother; and would have pierced Telemachus with the spear that he carried in his hand, if he had not feared to pierce Hippas also, whom Telemachus held under him in the dust. The son of Ulysses might then easily have taken the life of his enemy: but his anger was appeased; and he thought only of atoning for his rashness, by shewing his moderation. Getting up, therefore, from his antagonist, he said, « I am satisfied, O Hippas! with having taught thee not to despise my youth: I give thee life; federados.

federados. Allí miró de lejos el combate, el furor, y el esfuerzo de los dos embregados contendedores, y rechinó de enojo á la vista del riesgo de Telémaco. En aquel mismo instante en que Ippia se tuvo por vencedor, viendo que no habia perdido nada de su fuerza, se acercó á Telémaco, dentro de una nube clarísima, que ella formó de los mas sutiles vapores, y le cubrió con la Egide, que le entregó Minerva. Entónces al momento Telémaco, que desfallecia, saltándole las fuerzas, comenzó nuevamente á recobrase. Quanto él recibia mas brio, tanto mas se alteraba el enemigo, y percibia no sé qué de divino, que lo espantaba, y que lo oprimia. Telémaco lo acosaba, lo acometia, ahora de una, ahora de otra manera; lo maltrataba briosamente, sin dexarle un momento para repararse; al fin echólo á tierra, y cayó encima de él. Una crecida encina, que sobre el monte Ida, cortada de mil golpes, con que ha retumbado toda la selva, hace gemir la tierra en su caída, y estremecer á todo su contorno, no hace mas horrible estallido.

El hijo de Ulises en esto habia recobrado la prudencia, junto con el vigor. Apenas Ippia cayó en tierra debaxo de él, conoció bien Telémaco el error que habia cometido, acometiendo de aquella forma al hermano de un Rey de los coligados, á quienes él habia ido á socorrer en la guerra, y acordose con su vergüenza de los sabios consejos, que habia recibido de Mentor. Corrióse de su victoria, y conoció quanto habia merecido quedar vencido. Falanto en este tiempo corria, arrebatado del furor, á socorrer á Ippia; y hubiera traspasado con un dardo al hijo de Ulises, á quien le asestaba, si no hubiera temido traspasar tambien á su hermano junto con él, teniéndole Telémaco debaxo tendido sobre el polvo de la tierra. Bien pudiera el mismo Telémaco quitar la vida al vencido sin algun trabajo; pero ya en su interior se habia apaciguado el enojo, y no pensaba en otro, que en reparar su falta, mostrándose templado en la victoria; y por eso levantándose en pie, le dixo: Bastame, ó Ippia, el haberos enseñado á nunca despreciar mi tierna ju-

and I admire thy valour and thy strength. The gods have protected me : yield , therefore , to the power of the gods . Henceforth , let us think only of uniting our strength against the common enemy . »

While Telemachus was speaking , Hippias rose from the ground , covered with dust and blood , and burning with shame and indignation . Phalanthus did not dare to take the life of him who had so generously given life to his brother ; yet he was confused , and scarce knew what he would do . All the princes of the alliance ran to the place , and carried off Telemachus on one side , and on the other Phalanthus with Hippias , who , having lost all his arrogance , kept his eyes fixed upon the ground . The whole army was struck with astonishment , to find that Telemachus , a youth of so tender an age , who had not yet acquired the full strength of a man , had been able to prevail against Hippias ; who , in strength and stature , resembled the giants , those children of the earth , who once attempted to dispossess the gods of Olympus .

Telemachus , however , was far from enjoying his victory ; and while the camp was resounding with his praise , he retired to his tent , overwhelmed with the sense of his fault , and wishing to escape from himself . He bewailed the impetuosity of his temper ; and abhorred himself for the injurious extravagancies which his passions hurried him to commit : he was conscious to something of vanity and meanness in his unbounded pride ; and he felt that true greatness consist in moderation , justice , modesty , and humanity . He saw his defects ; but he did not dare to hope , that , after being so often betrayed into the same faults he should be ever able to correct them . He was at war with himself : and , in the anguish of the conflict , his complaints were like the roaring of a lion .

Two days he remained alone in his tent , tormented by self-reproach , and ashamed to return back to society : « How can I , » said he , « again dare to look Mentor in the face ! Am I the son of Ulysses , the wisest and most patient of men ; and have I filled the camp of the allies with dissension and disorder ? Is it their blood , or that of their enemies , the Daunians ,

virtud : vivid , pues , que yo quedo admirado de vuestra fortaleza y vuestro brio . Me han asistido los dioses : rendíos a su poder , y no pensemos mas que en pelear juntos contra los Daunos .

Hablando así Telémaco , Ippia lleno de vergüenza , y de rabia , se levantó en pie , sucio todo de sangre , y cubierto de polvo . No se atrevia Falanto á quitar la vida al que tan generosamente la acababa de dexar á su hermano , y estabase perplexo y fuera de si propio . Todos los Reyes confederados corrieron allá luego , y conduxéron de una parte á Telémaco , y de otra a Falanto , y á Ippia , que perdida su primera altivez , estaba con los ojos en tierra , y no se atrevia á levantarlos . No podia todo el ejército admirarse bastantemente , que Telémaco en una edad tan tierna , en que no tienen aun los hombres toda su robustez , hubiera podido abatir á un hombre , que en la fuerza y la estatura parecia gigante de los que en los siglos pasados osaron mover guerra á los dioses , para sacarlos del cielo .

Pero Telémaco estaba muy distante de gustar del placer de la victoria , mientras todos los otros no podian saciarse de admirarla . Retiróse á su pavellon avergonzado todo de su falta , y opuesto en tal estado , que no se podia tolerar á si propio . Allí se conuolia de su enojo sobrado pronto , y advertia quanto en los ímpetus de su furor era injusto , y puesto á la razon . Hallaba no sé qué de vanidad , de flaqueza y baxeza en aquella su no ménos injusta , que desmesurada altivez ; y conocia que no consiste la verdadera grandeza sino en la moderacion , en la justicia , en la apacibilidad y la modestia . Bien lo veia : pero esperaba emendarse , despues de tantas recaidas . Estaba á pleyto consigo mismo , y altamente rugia á guisa de un rabioso leon .

Estuvose dos dias cerrado á solas en su pavellon , no pudiéndose resolver á salir , para tratar con nadie ; y castigándose de este modo ; ¡ Infelice de mí ! decia : ¿ Me atraveré por suerte á volver á ver á Mentor ? ¿ Soy yo el hijo de Ulises , que es el mas prudente , y el mas sufrido de todos los hombres ? ¿ Luego yo he venido á traer la discordia , y el desórden al ejército .



that I ought to spill? I have been rash even to madness, so that I knew not even how to launch a spear; I exposed myself to danger and disgrace, by engaging Hippasus with inferior strength; and had reason to expect nothing less than death, with the dishonour of being vanquished. And what if I had thus died? My faults would have perished with me; and the turbulent pride, the thoughtless presumption of Telemachus, would no longer have disgraced the name of Ulysses, or the counsels of Mentor. O that I could but hope never more to do, what now, with unutterable anguish, I repent having done! I should then, indeed, be happy: but alas! before the sun that is now risen shall descend, I shall, with the full consent of my will, repeat the very same faults, that I now regret with shame and horror. O fatal victory! O mortifying praise! at once the memorial and reproach of my folly!

While he was thus alone and inconsolable, he was visited by Nestor and Philoctetes. Nestor had intended to convince him of his fault; but instantly perceiving his distress and contrition, he changed his remonstrances into consolation; and instead of reproving his misconduct, endeavoured to sooth his despair.

This quarrel retarded the confederates in their expedition; for they could not march against their enemies, till they had reconciled Telemachus to Phalanthus and his brother. They were in continual dread, lest the Tarentines should fall upon the company of young Cretans, who had followed Telemachus to the war. Every thing was thrown into confusion, merely by the folly of Telemachus; and Telemachus, who saw how much mischief he had caused already, and how much more might follow from his indiscretion, gave himself up to remorse and sorrow. The princes were extremely embarrassed: they did not dare to put the army in motion, lest the Tarentines and Cretans should fall upon each other in their march; for it was with great difficulty that they were restrained even in the camp, where a strict watch was kept over them. Nestor and Philoctetes were continually pas-

de los aliados! ¿Qué es la sangre que he de derramar, la de los amigos, ó la de los Daños, que son nuestros contrarios? He sido temerario: me he dexado llevar del furor hasta arrojar mi dardo: he puesto á peligro la vida, combatiendo con Ippia con fuerzas desiguales á las suyas, no pudiendo esperar sino la muerte, junta con la vergüenza de ser vencido. ¿Pero qué importaría que hubiera muerto? No seré mas, no, no seré aquel temerario Telémaco: aquel jóven desatinado á quien no aprovechan consejos: hubiera mi vergüenza tenido fin con la vida. ¡Ay de mí! Si pudiera á lo ménos esperar nunca cometer otra vez lo que me tiene muy afligido haber executado! ¡O qué dichoso fuera! Pero por ventura despues al acabar el dia querré hacer lo mismo, de que ahora me corro, y de que tengo tan gran horror? ¡O victoria funesta! ¡alabanzas, que no tengo valor de sufrir, y son reprehensiones crueles de mi necedad!

Estandose Telémaco solo, y desconsolado, Nestor y Filoctetes le fuéron á buscar. Queriase Nestor representar quanto contra razon habia obrado: mas mirando él discreto viejo la afliccion del jóven, trocó las graves amonestaciones en palabras de afecto, para templar su extremado despecho.

Los Príncipes aliados estaban detenidos sobre esta brega, y no podian marchar al enemigo, sino despues de reconciliar á Telémaco con los dos hermanos Falanto é Ippia. Temiase todavia, que las tropas Tarentinas dieran en cien mancebos Cretenses, que habian seguido á Telémaco para la guerra. Todo estaba en desórden por culpa de solo Telémaco: y él, que veia tantos males presentes, y tantos inminentes peligros, de quienes era autor, se entregaba á un amargo dolor. Todos los Príncipes se encontraban en suma confusion, ni osaban hacer marchar el ejército, temiendo que sobre la marcha los Cretenses de Telémaco, y los Tarentinos de Falanto, chocasen unos con otros; porque habia mucho trabajo para tenerlos á raya en el campo, donde se podian observar de mas cerca sus movimientos. Nestor y Filoctetes iban sin parar, y volvian del pavelon de Telémaco al del implacable

sing and repassing, between the tents of Telemachus and Phalanthus. Phalanthus was implacable; he had an obdurate ferocity in his nature; and being perpetually stimulated to revenge by Hippias, whose discourse was full of rage and indignation, he was neither moved by the eloquence of Nestor, nor the authority of Philoctetes: Telemachus was more gentle: but he was overwhelmed with grief, and refused all consolation.

While the princes were in this perplexity, the troops were struck with consternation; and the camp appeared like a house, in which the father of the family, the support of his relations, and the hope of his children, is just dead.

In the midst of this distress and disorder, the army was suddenly alarmed by a confused and dreadful noise, the rattling of chariots, the clash of arms, the neighing of horses, and the cries of men; some victorious, and urging the slaughter; some flying and terrified; some wounded and dying. The dust rose, as in a whirlwind; and formed a cloud that obscured the sky, and surrounded the camp; in a few moments this dust was mixed with a thick smoke, which polluted the air, and prevented respiration: soon after was heard a hollow noise, like the roaring of mount *Ætna*, when her fires are urged by Vulcan and the Cyclops, who forge thunder for the father of the gods: every knee trembled, and every countenance was pale.

Adrastus, vigilant and indefatigable, had surprised the allies in their camp. He had concealed his own march; and perfectly acquainted with theirs, he had, with incredible expedition and labour, marched round a mountain of very difficult access, the passes of which had been secured by the allies. Not dreaming that he would march round it, and knowing that the defiles, by which alone it could be passed, were in their hands; they not only imagined themselves to be in perfect security, but had formed a design to march through these defiles, and fall upon their enemy behind the mountain, when some auxiliaries, which they expected, should come up. Of this design, Adras-

Falanto, que no pensaba en otro, que en la venganza. La apacible eloquencia de Nestor, y la autoridad del gran Filotetes, no podian templar aquel pecho feroz, que á mas de lo pasado, se provocaba continuamente á enojo de los razonamientos rabiosos de su hermano. Mucho mas flexible estaba Telémaco, que le abatía un dolor, al qual ninguna cosa podía consolar.

Mientras que de esta suerte trabajaban los Príncipes, se estaban temerosas todas las tropas. Parecíase todo el campo á una casa desconsolada, que ha perdido su padre de familia, que era el apoyo de los parientes, y la dulce esperanza de sus tiernos hijos.

En tiempo en que el ejército estaba descompuesto, y temeroso de esta manera; se sintió de improviso un rumor espantoso de carros, de armas, de relinchos de caballos, de gritos de hombres, los unos vencedores, que se animaban para el estrago, los otros, ó fugitivos, ó moribundos, ó heridos. Formóse una nube muy oscura de un negro torbellino de polvo, que quitaba de vista al cielo, y confundía el campo; y unióse luego al polvo un denso humo, que embarazaba el ayre y la respiracion. Se oya un ruido sordo semejante al de los torbellinos de llama que vomita el monte *Etna* del fondo de sus entrañas abrasadas, quando Vulcano, con sus Cyclopes, fabrica los rayos para el padre de los dioses. Espantáronse los aliados de un accidente tal.

Adrasto, vigilante, é infatigable, los habia cogido de improviso; porque les habia ocultado el movimiento de sus tropas, y tenia noticia de todas sus disposiciones. Por dos noches habia con una celeridad increíble rodeado una montaña poco ménos que inaccesible, de quien casi todos los pasos tenian ocupados los aliados. Teniendo ellos aquellos estrechos, se daban por del todo seguros; y aun se presumian que podrian por ellos de la espalda de la montaña desprenderse sobre el contrario, en habiéndoles unido algunas Milicias, que aun aguardaban. Adrasto, que derramaba el oro con larga mano para saber los secretos de sus enemigos, estaba avisado de su resolucion; porque Nestor

tus, who spared no money to discover the secrets of an enemy, had gained intelligence; for Nestor and Philoctetes, notwithstanding their wisdom and experience, were not sufficiently careful to conceal their undertakings. Nestor, who was in a declining age, took too much pleasure in telling what he thought would procure him applause: Philoctetes was naturally less talkative; but he was hasty; and the slightest provocation would betray him into the discovery of what he had determined to conceal; artful people, therefore, soon found the way to unlock his breast, and get possession of whatever it contained, nothing more was necessary than to make him angry; he would then lose all command of himself, express his resentment by menaces; and boast that he had certain means to accomplish his purposes; if this was ever so slightly doubted, he would immediately disclose his project, and give up the dearest secret of his heart. Thus did this great commander resemble a cracked vessel, which, however precious its materials, suffers the liquors that are entrusted with it to drain away.

Those who had been corrupted by the money of Adrastus, did not fail to take advantage of the weakness both of Nestor and Philoctetes. They flattered Nestor with excessive and perpetual praise; they related the victories he had won, and expatiated upon his foresight, in ecstasies of admiration. On the other side, they were continually laying snares for the impatience of Philoctetes; they talked to him of nothing but difficulties, crosses, dangers, inconveniencies, and irremediable mistakes: and the moment his natural impetuosity was moved, his wisdom forsook him, and he was no longer the same man.

Telemachus, notwithstanding his faults, was much better qualified to keep a secret: he had acquired a habit of secrecy by his misfortunes, and the necessity he had been under of concealing his thoughts from the suitors of Penelope, even in his infancy. He had the art of keeping a secret without falshood, and even without appearing to have a secret kept, by that reserved and mysterious air, which generally distinguishes

y Filotetes, aquellos dos capitanes, por lo demas tan sábios y experimentados, no eran en sus empresas harto secretos. Nestor en aquella su declinacion de edad se complacia sobrado en publicar lo que le podia ser de alabanza. Filotetes hablaba naturalmente ménos que Nestor; con todo eso era de natural colérico, y á qualquiera pequeña causa, que despertara la vivacidad de su ánimo le hacia decir quanto habia resuelto poner en execucion. Los hombres cautelosos habian hallado la llave para poder abrirle el corazon, y sacar los secretos, que tenia mas importantes. Bastaba solamente irritarlo: entónces, impetuoso, y fuera de sí mismo, se declaraba con amenazas, y se jactaba de que tenia modos seguros para llegar á obtener lo que queria. Por qualquiera mínima duda que se mostrara tener respecto de los modos con que habia de llegar á su fin, se apresuraba sin consideracion, y los decia todos, dexándose escapar de lo intimo del corazon las mas arcanas noticias. Semejante á un vaso precioso, pero hendido, fuera del qual gotean los mas preciosos licores, el pecho de aquel gran capitan no podia retener en sí cosa alguna.

Los traidores, ganados con el oro de Adrasto, no dexaban de burlarse de los dos Reyes, y reirse de su flaqueza. Adulaban de continuo á Nestor con vanas alabanzas: acordábanle sus victorias pasadas: mostrábanse admirados de la sagacidad de sus prevenciones, sin hartarse jamas de celebrarlo. De otra parte ponian varias asechanzas al natural impaciente de Filotetes. No le hablaban sino de dificultades, de contratiempos, de riesgos, de inconvenientes, de errores, á que no se hallaba remedio. Luego que se habia encendido su complexion fogosa, lo desamparaba su prudencia; y era un hombre diferente que el de antes.

Telémaco á pesar de sus defectos, que ya hemos visto, era mucho mas prudente en guardar los secretos. A esto lo habian acostumbrado sus infortunios, y la necesidad que habia tenido de su mas tierna niñez, de ocultar sus designios á los amantes de su madre Penelope. Sabia á mas guardar un secreto, sin decir á ese fin ni aun una ligerísima mentira. No tenia tampoco á un cierto circunspecto, y misterioso ayre, que sue-

hes close people. A secret did not appear to lay him under the least difficulty or restraint; he seemed to be always unconstrained, easy, and open, as if his heart was upon his lips, he said all that might be said safely, with the utmost freedom and unconcern; but he knew, with the utmost precision, where to stop, and could, without the least appearance of design, avoid whatever glanced, however obliquely, at that which he would conceal. His heart, therefore, was wholly unaccessible, and his best friends knew only what he thought was necessary to enable them to give him advice, except only Mentor, from whom he concealed nothing. In other friends, he placed different degrees of confidence, in proportion as he experienced their fidelity and wisdom.

Telemachus had often observed, that the resolutions of the council were too generally known in the camp; and had complained of it to Nestor and Philotetes, who did not treat it with the attention it deserved. Old men are too often inflexible, for long habit scarce leaves them the power of choice. The faults of age are hopeless: as the trunk of an old knotty tree if it is crooked, must be crooked for ever; so men after a certain age, lose their pliancy, and become fixed in habits, which have grown old with them, and become, as it were, part of their constitution. They are sometimes sensible of these habits; but, at the same time, are also sensible that they cannot be broken, and sigh over their infirmity in vain; youth is the only season in which human nature can be corrected; and, in youth, the power of correction is without limits.

There was, in the allied army, a Dolopian, whose name was Eurymachus, an insinuating sycophant, who paid his court to all the princes, and could accommodate himself to every's one taste and inclination.

len ordinariamente tener los hombres que saben ocultar lo que importa. No mostraba pesarle el secreto que debía guardar, y era siempre libre, siempre sencillo, siempre abierto, como quien lleva el corazón en los labios. Pero en decir todo lo que podía decirse, sin consecuencia alguna de perjuicio, sabía puntualmente cortar la plática, sin afectación, llegando a aquellas cosas, que podían dar alguna sospecha, ó algun pequeño indicio de lo que debía callarse: por eso era su corazón inaccesible é impenetrable. Sus mismos mayores amigos no sabían sino lo que le parecía provechoso explicar para recibir en ello algun prudente consejo. No había otro sino Mentor con quien no usara Telémaco de alguna circunspección en descubrirle todo su pecho. Fiabase bien sí de otros amigos; pero con diversas medidas de confianza, y a proporción de las pruebas que había hecho de su amistad, y de su prudencia.

Había muchas veces advertido Telémaco, que las resoluciones del consejo se publicaban un poco demasiado en el Ejército, y había hecho que lo advirtieran Nestor y Filotetes; pero aquellos dos hombres tan experimentados se detuvieron poco en una prevención tan necesaria, y tan saludable. La vejez es del todo incapaz de someterse; porque el largo hábito la tiene como en cadena; y no encuentra modo para librarse de sus defectos. Los hombres que han llegado á cierta edad, casi ya no están en estado de poderse doblar, y vencer aquellos hábitos que han envejecido con ellos, y se han introducido hasta las medulas; de la forma que aquellos árboles, cuyo torcido, y nudoso tronco se ha endurecido con el curso de los muchos años, no pueden enderezarse, habiéndose hecho vicio su propio estado. También sucede frecuentemente, que conocen haberse habituado en el mal; pero lamentan de ello en vano, y demasiado tarde. La tierna juventud es la sola edad, en la qual el hombre puede domarse, y sujetar a la emienda su voluntad.

Había en el Ejército un Dolope, llamado Eurimaco, adulator, que sabía suavemente ganarse la amistad de los otros, y se acomodaba á todos los gustos é inclinaciones de los Príncipes: de ingenio pronto en

His invention and diligence were continually upon the stretch, to render himself agreeable. If Eurymachus might be believed, nothing was difficult; if his advice was asked, he guessed immediately what answer would be most pleasing, and gave it. He had a talent at humour, which he indulged, in raillery, against those from whom he had nothing to fear; but to others, he was respectful and complaisant; and had the art of rendering flattery so delicate, that the most modest received it without disgust. He was grave with the sober, and with the jovial he was gay; he could assume all characters, however different, with equal facility; men of sincerity appear always in their own; and their conduct, being regulated by the unalterable laws of virtue, is steady and uniform; they are, therefore, much less agreeable to princes, than those who assimilate themselves to their predominant passions. Eurymachus had considerable military skill, and was very able in business: he was a soldier of fortune, who having attached himself to Nestor, had entirely gained his confidence; and could, by flattering that vanity and fondness for praise which a little sullied the lustre of his character, draw out of him whatever he wanted to know.

Philoctetes, though he never trusted him, was not less in his power; for, in him, frascibility and impatience produced the same effect, that an ill placed confidence produced in Nestor. Eurymachus had nothing to do, but to contradict him; for when once he was provoked, all his secrets were discovered. This man had been bribed, with large sums of money, to betray the councils of the allies to Adrastus, who had in his army, a certain number of chosen men, who went over to the allies as deserters, and came back, one by one, with intelligence from Eurymachus, as often as he had any thing of importance to communicate; this treachery was practised, without much danger of detection; for these messengers carried no letters, and therefore, if they happened to be seized, nothing was found upon them, that could render Eurymachus suspected.

Every project of the allies, therefore, was cons-

el inventar, é industrioso en hallar siempre nuevos modos de hacerseles acepto y amable. En oirlo no era difícil ninguna cosa: si se le pedia consejo, adivinaba al punto lo que habia de ser mas grato á quien lo escuchaba. Era gracioso, decidior contra los debiles, dispuesto á condescender con el gusto de aquellos á quienes él tenia, y sabia sazonar una delicada alabanza de tal manera, que fuera bien recibida de los hombres de mas modestia. Era grave con los graves, jocoso con los joviales; y tenia una suma facilidad en tomar qualquiera diferente figura. Los hombres virtuosos y sinceros, que siempre son los mismos, y se sujetan á las reglas de la virtud, nunca pueden llegar á ser tan agradables á los principes, como lo son las pasiones dominantes, que tiranizan sus ánimos. Era Eurimaco experimentado en el arte de la guerra, y capaz de perficionar qualquiera negocio. Habia entrado de aventurero en las tropas de Nestor; y habiéndole ganado toda su confianza, le sacaba de lo íntimo de su corazon, un poco vano y amante de sus alabanzas, todo lo que deseaba saber.

Y si bien Filotetes no le participaba sus designios, la cólera, é impaciencia hacian en él los efectos, que la intimidad en Nestor. Bastaba solamente que se opusiera Eurimaco á sus propuestas: provocándolo á enojo, llegaba á descubrirle todos los secretos. Habia recibido gran suma de dineros del rey de los Daunos, porque le diera aviso de todos los designios de los coligados. Tenia Adrasto entre las tropas de ellos cierto número de fugitivos, que sucesivamente debian volver á su campo, como si huyeran á él; y hacia Eurimaco partir á alguno, todas las veces que ocurría cosa importante de que avisarle. No podia el engaño descubrirse muy facilmente, porque los fugitivos no llevaban escrito alguno; y si eran cogidos, no les hallaban cosa que pudiera hacer sospechoso á Eurimaco.

De esta manera Adrasto prevenia todas las empresas

tantly defeated by Adrastus; for an enterprise was scarcely resolved upon in council, before the Daunians made the very dispositions, which alone could prevent its success. Telemachus was indefatigable to discover the cause; and endeavoured to put Nestor and Philoctetes upon their guard, by alarming their suspicion: but his care was ineffectual, and their blindness desperate.

It had been resolved, in council, to wait for a considerable reinforcement that was expected; and a hundred vessels were dispatched secretly by night, to convey these troops from that part of the coast, whither they had been ordered to repair, to the place where the army was encamped, with greater speed and facility; the ground over which they would otherwise have been obliged to march, being in some places very difficult to pass. In the mean time, they thought themselves in perfect security, having taken possession of the passes of the neighbouring mountain, which was a part of the Appenine, most difficult of access. The camp was upon the banks of the river Galesus, not far from the sea, in a delightful country, abounding with forage, and whatever else was necessary for the subsistence of an army. Adrastus was on the other side of the mountain, which it was thought impossible for him to pass: but as he knew the allies to be then weak, that a large reinforcement was expected to join them, that vessels were waiting to receive them on board, and that dissension and animosity had been produced in the army by the quarrel between Telemachus and Phalanthus, he undertook to march round without delay. He proceeded with the utmost expedition, advancing, night and day, along the borders of the sea, through ways which had always been thought impassable: thus courage and labour surmount all obstacles; and, to those who can dare and suffer, nothing is impossible; and those, who slumbering in idleness and timidity, dream that every thing is impossible that appears to be difficult, deserve to be surprised and subdued.

Adrastus fell, unexpectedly, upon the hundred vessels of the allies, at break of day. As they were not

de los aliados. Apenas se habia tomado una resolucion en su consejo, quando hacian los Daunos lo que puntualmente era necesario para impedir el efecto. No cesaba Telémaco de buscar la ocasion, y mover en Nestor y Filotetes la desconfianza: pero era inútil su cuidado, y ellos estaban totalmente ciegos en su error.

Habiase resuelto en el consejo de los aliados, que se aguardaran las muchas tropas, que se les debian juntar; y habiase despachado secretamente cien naves a conducir las con mayor presteza de una playa harto dificultosa, adonde habian de llegar, hasta el lugar donde estaba el ejército acampado. Teniase entre tanto por seguros, porque tenian bien presididos algunos pasos estrechos de la montaña cercana, que era una Cordillera, poco ménos que inaccesible, del Apenino. Estaban asentados a las orillas del rio Galeso, poco separados del mar. Es esta deliciosa campaña abundante de pastos, y de todos aquellos frutos, que pueden mantener a un ejército. Estaba Adrasto detras de la montaña, y se tenia por cierto que no podia pasar; mas quando supo que los confederados no estaban aun fuertes, que aguardaban un gran socorro, que los baxeles estaban esperando el arribo de las milicias que habian de llegar, y que el ejército estaba dividido con el encuentro de Falanto y Telémaco, se dió prisa, y tomó una larga vuelta. Marchó dia y noche velozmente sobre la ribera del mar, y pasó por caminos que siempre habian creído ser impracticables. Asi la audacia y el trabajo obstinado vencen los mayores obstaculos; y no hay casi nada imposible a los que saben tener osadía y sufrimiento; asi los que se duermen, en la confianza que las cosas dificiles son imposibles, merecen ser sorprendidos y oprimidos.

Adrasto apresó al amanecer los cien baxeles hallados, que no estaban temerosos de nada, y así no estaban muy

prepared for defence, and those on board had not the least suspicion of an attack, they were seized without resistance, and served to transport his troops, with the greatest expedition, to the mouth of the Galesus: he then proceeded, without delay, up the river. The advanced guard of the allies on that side, believing that these vessels brought the reinforcement they expected, received them with shouts of joy: and Adrastus and his men got on shore before they discovered their mistake. He fell upon them, when they had no suspicion of danger; and he found the camp open, without order, without chief, and without arms.

The quarter of the camp which he first attacked, was that of the Tarentines, commanded by Phalanthus. The Daunians entered so suddenly, and with so much vigour, that the surprise of the Lacedemonians rendered them incapable of resistance; and while they were seeking their arms, with a confusion that made them embarrass and impede each other, Adrastus set fire to the camp. The flames immediately rose from the tents to the sky; and the noise of the fire was like that of a torrent, which rolls over a whole country, bearing down trees of the deepest root, and sweeping away the treasured harvest with the barn, and flocks and herds with the fold and the stall. The flames were driven by the wind, from tent to tent: and the whole camp had soon the appearance of an ancient forest, which some accidental spark had set on fire.

Phalanthus, though he was nearest to the danger, could apply no remedy. He saw that all his troops must perish in the conflagration, if they did not immediately abandon the camp; yet he was sensible, that a sudden retreat before a victorious enemy, might produce a final and a fatal disorder. He began, however, to draw up his Lacedemonian youth, before they were half armed: but Adrastus gave him no time to breathe; a band of expert archers killed many of them on one side: and a company of slingers threw stones as thick as hail on the other. Adrastus himself, sword

bien guardados: apoderóse de ellos, sin que le hicieran alguna resistencia; y le sirvieron para transportar sus soldados á la boca del rio Galeso con diligencia increíble. Mientras que navegaba contra la corriente, costeano siempre la orilla, las guardias enemigas, que en alguna distancia estaban cerca del campo, acia la parte del rio, creyendo, que aquellos baxeles los conducian las tropas que esperaban, levantaron luego una grande algazara con la alegría. Adrasto, y sus soldados se arrojaron á tierra, ántes que los pudieran conocer. Cargaron luego á los confederados, que no tenian miedo de alguna cosa, y hallaron en un campo descubierto, sin armas, sin orden, y sin cabeza.

La parte del campo, que los Daunios primero acometieron, fué de los Tarentinos, que militaban debaxo la conducta de Falauto; y allí entraron con tanta fuerza, que viéndose atacados de improviso los mancebos Lacedemonios, no pudieron resistir á su ímpetu. En tanto que buscaban sus armas, y en tanto que en aquella confusion se embarazaban los unos á los otros, Adrasto mandó poner fuego al campo de los aliados. Levantóse al instante tan alta la llama de los pavellones, que se llegó á mezclar con las nubes. Semeja el del fuego al estruendo de un rápido torrente, que se derrama en toda una campaña, y que con el ímpetu de la corriente arrastra las encinas con sus profundas raíces, las mieses y las eras, en que se trillan, y los ganados con sus majadas. Llevaba el viento impetuosamente la llama de tienda en tienda, y bien presto pareció todo el campo una antigua selva abrasada de una centella, que ocasionó en ella el incendio.

Falauto, que veia de mas cerca que ningun otro, no podía atajar el inminente riesgo. Conocia, que todos los soldados estaban para morir entre las llamas, sino se abandonaban prontamente los alojamientos; pero conocia tambien, cuánto era de temerse el desorden de una tal retirada, que habia de arrastrar la confusion delante de un enemigo vencedor. Ya comenzaba á hacer salir á sus Lacedemonios, aun no del todo armados; pero Adrasto no le daba lugar de respirar. Por una parte un escuadron de Arqueros, bien diestros en herir con las flechas, atravesaban con ellas á los sol-

in hand, at the head of a chosen number of Daunians, pursued the fugitives by the light of the flames, and put all that escaped the fire to the sword. Blood flowed round him in a deluge; yet he was still insatiable of blood; his fury exceeded that of lions and tigers, when they tear in pieces the shepherd with the flock. The troops of Phalanthus stood torpid in despair: death appeared before them like a spectre led by an infernal fury, and their blood froze in their veins; their limbs would no longer obey their will, and their trembling knees deprived them even of the hope of flight.

Phalanthus, whose faculties were in some degree roused by shame and despair, lifted up his hands and eyes to heaven; he saw his brother Hippias fall at his feet, under the hand of Adrastus. He was stretched upon the earth, and rolled in the dust: the blood gushed from a deep wound in his side, like a river; his eyes closed against the light: and his soul, furious and indignant, issued with the torrent of his blood. Phalanthus himself, covered with the vital effusion from his brother's wound, and unable to afford him succour, was instantly surrounded by a crowd of enemies, who pressed him with all their power; his shield was pierced by a thousand arrows, and he was wounded in many parts of his body; his troops fled, without a possibility of being brought back to the charge; and the gods looked down upon his sufferings without pity.

dados; y por otra muchos hombres con hondas arrojaban una espesa granizada de piedras. El mismo Adrasto con la espada en la mano, marchando á la frente de una escogida tropa de sus mas esforzados Daunios, seguia á la luz del incendio á los fugitivos Tarentinos. Acababa la espada todo lo que habia escapado del fuego: nadaba en sangre de sus enemigos, y no se podia saciar del estrago que executaba. No igualaban á su furor los leones, y los tigres, quando degüellan al pastor y al ganado. Ya los soldados de Falanto cejaban vencidos, deshechos y perdido todo el valor: la vista de la muerte, hecha mas formidable con los sobresaltos interiores del alma, les helaba la sangre en las venas: sus miembros medio muertos se pasmaban, y las rodillas titubeantes con el temor, les quitaban hasta la esperanza de la fuga de su peligro.

Falanto, á quien la vergüenza y la desesperacion daban aun algun brio, levantaba al cielo los ojos y las manos, viendo caer á su hermano en su presencia á la diestra fulminante de Adrasto. Ippia, tendido en tierra, se estaba revolcando sobre el polvo, y á guisa de un arroyo, corria de su herida, negra y caliente sangre. Cerraronse finalmente sus ojos á la luz, y aquella furibunda alma voló del cuerpo, al tiempo que dexaba de derramar la vida. Falanto mismo, que estaba del todo manchado con la sangre de su hermano sin poder socorrerlo, se vió enredado entre una muchedumbre de enemigos, que hacian fuerza para abtirlo. Tenia traspasado el escudo de mil dardos: estaba herido en muchas partes del cuerpo, y no podia ya recoger sus soldados, que huian precipitados. Viéndolo los dioses, no tenian de nada compasion.



# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XVII.

### ARGUMENT.

TELEMACHUS, having put on his divine armour, runs to the assistance of Phalanthus: he kills Iphicles, the son of Adrastus, repulses the victorious enemy, and would have put an end to the war, if a tempest had not intervened. Telemachus orders the wounded to be carried off, and takes great care of them, particularly of Phalanthus. He performs the solemnities at the funeral of Hippias himself, and having collected his ashes in a golden urn, presents them to his brother.

JUPITER, surrounded by the celestial deities, surveyed the slaughter of the allies from the summit of Olympus: and, looked into futurity, he beheld the chiefs, whose thread of life was that day to be divided by fates. The every eye, in the divine assembly, was fixed upon the countenance of Jupiter, to discover his will: but the father of gods and men thus addressed them, with a voice, in which majesty was tempered with sweetness. « You see the distress of the allies, and the triumph of Adrastus; but the scene is deceitful: the prosperity and honour of the wicked are short; the victory of Adrastus, the impious and perfidious, shall not be complete. The allies are punished by this misfortune, only that they may correct their faults, and learn better to conceal their councils: Minerva is preparing new laurels for Telemachus, whom she delights to honour. » Jupiter ceased to speak, and the gods continued, in silence, to behold the battle.

In the mean time, Nestor and Philoctetes received an account, that one part of the camp was already

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XVII.

### SUMARIO.

TELÉMACO revestido de sus armas divinas corre al socorro de Falanto; vence primero á Iphicles, hijo de Adrasto; rechaza al enemigo victorioso; y lograría una victoria completa, si, sobreviniendo una tempestad, no acabara el combate. Despues hace Telemaco recoger á los heridos, cuida de ellos, y principalmente de Falanto. Celebra las exéquias de su hermano Hippias; cuyas cenizas le va á presentar recogidas en una urna de oro.

JUPITER asentado en medio de los dioses celestes, miraba desde lo alto del cielo el estrago de los coligados. Al mismo tiempo procuraba saber del inmutable hado el suceso de la batalla; y prevenia quales eran los capitanes, que aquel día habian de acabar con la vida. Atendian todos los dioses, para averiguar del semblante de Jupiter, qual era su gusto; mas él con voz magestuosa y suave, les dixo: ¿ Veis á qué extremo de males se hallan reducidos los Confederados? ¿ Veis á Adrasto, que destroza á todos sus enemigos? Pues este espectáculo engaña en gran manera los ojos de los que miran: la gloria y prosperidad de los malos no dura mucho. El impio Adrasto, que con su mala fe ha conmovido contra sí el odio de todos, no obtendrá una cabal victoria de sus contrarios. No sucede á los aliados este contratiempo, sino para enseñarles á corregirse, y á guardar con mas cautela el secreto de aquellas empresas, que idean executar. Aquí la sabia Minerva previene nueva gloria á su amado Telémaco. Dexó Jove de hablar; y estando silenciosos todos los dioses, proseguian mirando la pelea.

Nestor y Filotetes fueron avisados, que ya parte de los alojamientos estaba devorada del fuego: que la

burned, and that the wind was spreading the flames to the rest; that the troops were in disorder; and that Phalanthus, with his Lacedemonians, had given way. At this dreadful intelligence they ran to arms, assembled the leaders, and gave orders for the camp to be immediately abandoned, that the men might not perish in the conflagration.

Telemachus, who had been pining with inconsolable dejection, forgot his anguish in a moment, and resumed his arms. His arms were the gift of Minerva, who, under the figure of Mentor, pretended to have received them from an excellent artificer of Salentum; but they were, indeed the work of Vulcan, who, at her request, had forged them in the smoking caverns of mount Etua.

These arms had a polish like glass, and were effulgent as the rays of the sun. On the cuirass was the representation of Neptune and Pallas, disputing which of them should give name to a rising city. Neptune struck the earth with his trident, and a horse sprung out at the blow: his eyes had the appearance of living fire, and the foam of his mouth sparkled like light; his mane floated in the wind; and his legs, at once nervous and supple, played under him with equal agility and vigour; his motion could not be reduced to any pace; but he seemed to bound along with a swiftness and elasticity that left no trace of his foot, and the spectator could scarce believe but that he heard him neigh.

In another compartment, Minerva appeared to be giving the branch of an olive, a tree of her own planting, to the inhabitants of her new city: the branch, with its fruit, represented that plenty and peace which wisdom cannot fail to prefer before the disorders of war, of which the horse was an emblem. This simple and useful gift, decided the contest in favour of the goddess; and Athens, the pride of Greece, was distinguished by her name.

Minerva was also represented as assembling round her the liberal arts, under the symbols of little children with wings; they appeared to fly to her for protection, terrified at the brutal fury of Mars, who marks

Hama, impelida del viento, proseguía adelante siempre: que sus soldados estaban en desorden; y que Falanto no podía mas resistir á los esfuerzos, é impetu de los enemigos. Apenas entendieron tan funesta noticia, corrieron á las armas, juntaron los capitanes, y mandaron que se apresuraran todos á salir de los alojamientos, para evitar el incendio.

Telémaco, que estaba sumamente afligido, é inconsolable, se olvidó en aquel punto de su dolor. Tomó luego las armas, precioso don, que la sabia Minerva, disfrazada en Mentor, le habia hecho, fingiendo haberlas ella recibido de un excelente artífice de Salento; pero habíalas hecho fabricar á Vulcano en las oficinas del Ethna.

Eran ellas tan limpias como un espejo, y resplandecian á manera de los rayos del sol. Allí se veian Neptuno y Palas que disputaban entre si sobre quien habia de tener la gloria de dar su nombre á una ciudad recién fundada. Neptuno con su tridente hiría la tierra, que arrojaba luego un caballo fogoso: le salía fuego por los ojos y espuma por la boca; volteaban sus crines llevadas del viento; sus piernas ágiles y nerviosas se doblaban con vigor y ligereza: el no andaba, pero saltaba con el propio esfuerzo, y con tanta ligereza que no se veian sus huellas en el suelo: parecia que relinchaba.

Por el otro lado, daba Minerva á los habitantes de su nueva ciudad, la Azeytuna, fruta del arbol que ella habia plantado: la rama de que colgaba la fruta, representaba la dulce paz con la abundancia, preferible á los disturbios de la guerra, de que era imagen aquel caballo. Quedaba vencedora la diosa por sus dones sencillos y útiles, y la soberbia Atenas tomaba su nombre.

Se veia tambien Minerva juntando al rededor todas las bellas artes, representadas por niños delicados y alados: se refugiaban junto á ella, espantados de los crueles furoros de marte, que todo lo destroza. Como

his way with desolation, as lambs gather round their dam at the sight of a hungry wolf, who has already opened his mouth to devour them. The goddess, with a look of disdain and anger, confounded, by the excellence of her works, the presumptuous folly of Arachne, who vied with her in the labours of the loom: Arachne herself was also to be seen in the piece; her limbs, attenuated and disfigured, and her whole form changed into that of a spider.

At a little distance, Minerva was again represented as giving counsel to Jupiter, when the giants made war upon heaven, and encouraging the inferior deities in their terror and consternation. She was also represented, with her spear and ægis, upon the borders of Simois and Scamander, leading Ulysses by the hand, animating the flying Greeks with new courage, and sustaining them against the heroes of Troy, and the prowess even of Hector himself. She was last represented, as introducing Ulysses into the fatal machine, by which, in one night, the whole empire of Priam was subverted.

Another part of the shield represented Ceres in the fruitful plains of Enna, the centre of Sicily. The goddess appeared to be collecting together a scattered multitude, who were seeking subsistence by the chase, or gathering up the wild fruit that fell from the trees. To these ignorant barbarians she seemed to teach the art of meliorating the earth, and deriving sustenance from its fertility. She presented them a plough, and shewed them how oxen were to be yoked: the earth was then seen to part in furrows under the share, and a golden harvest waved upon the plain: the reaper put in his sickle, and was rewarded for all his labour. Steel, which in other places was devoted to works of destruction, was here employed only to produce plenty, and provide for delight.

The nymphs of the meadows, crowned with flowers, were dancing on the borders of a river, with a grove not far distant: Pan gave the music of his pipe; and the fauns and satyrs were seen frolicking together,

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se acogen balando los corderos al rededor de su madre á vista de un lobo hambriento, que abriendo su ardiente boca se arroja para devorarlos. Minerva, lleno el rostro de desdén y enojo, confundia por la excelencia de sus obras la loca temeridad de Aracne, que se habia atrevido á disputar con ella sobre la perfeccion de los tapices. Se veia esta infeliz cuyos miembros extenuados se desfiguraban y transformaban en araña.

Cerca de allí aparecia todavia Minerva, que, en la guerra de los gigantes, aconsejaba al mismo Jupiter, y alentaba á los demas dioses espantados. Estaba tambien representada con su lanza y escudo en las orillas del Xanto y Simois, llevando á Ulises por la mano, animando las tropas fugitivas de los griegos, resistiendo al esfuerzo de los mas valientes capitanes Troyanos, y del mismo formidable Hector; y en fin introduciendo á Ulises en la fatal máquina que habia de destruir en una noche sola el imperio de Priamo.

Por otro lado representaba el escudo á Ceres en las campañas fértiles de Enna que estan en medio de Sicilia. Veíase la diosa, que juntaba los pueblos esparcidos acá y allá, buscando su alimento, ó con la caza ó con los frutos silvestres, que caian en sazón de los árboles. Enseñaba á aquellos groseros hombres el arte de cultivar la tierra, y sacarle de su seno fecundo lo que les habia de servir de alimento. Dábales un arado, y hacia que unciesen á él bueyes. Veíase, que hendida en muchas partes la tierra, se abria en surcos con el arado: despues se reparaban las espigas de color de oro, de que estaba cubierta la campaña. Segaba con su hoz el labrador los dulces frutos, que le daba la tierra, y se recompensaba de todos sus trabajos. El hierro, destinado por los demas á destruirlo todo, no aparecia empleado en aquel lugar sino en prevenir la abundancia, y hacer nacer todos los deleites.

Las ninfas coronadas de flores, danzaban en un prado, sobre la margen de un rio, y cerca de un pequeño bosquecillo. Tenia la zampoña el dios Pan; y los graciosos Satiros, á una con los Faunos, andaban

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in a less conspicuous portion of the compartment. Bacchus was also represented crowned with ivy, leaning with one hand on his thyrsis, and holding the branch of a vine, laden with grapes, in the other. The beauty of the god was effeminate, but mingled with something noble, impassioned, and languishing, that cannot be expressed. He appeared upon the shield as he did to the unfortunate Ariadne, when he found her alone, forsaken, and overwhelmed with grief, a stranger upon a foreign shore.

Numbers of people were seen crowding from all parts: old men carrying the first fruits of their labour as an offering to the gods; young men returning weary with the labour of the day, to their wives, who were come out to meet them, leading their children in their hands, and interrupting their walk with caresses. There were also shepherds, some of whom appeared to be singing, while others danced to the music of the reed. The whole was a representation of peace, plenty, and delight: every thing was smiling and happy; wolves were sporting with the sheep in the pastures; and the lion and tiger, quitting their ferocities, grazed peaceably with the lamb; a shepherd, that was still a child, led them, obedient to his crook, in one flock, and imagination recalled the pleasures of the golden age.

Telemachus, having put on this divine armour, took, instead of his own shield, the dreadful ægis of Minerva, which had been sent him by Iris, the speedy messenger of the gods. Iris had, unperceived, taken away his shield: and had left, in its stead, this ægis, at the sight of which the gods themselves are impressed with dread.

When he was thus armed, he ran out of the camp to avoid the flames, and called to him all the chiefs of the army; he called with a voice that restored the courage they had lost, and his eyes sparkled with a brightness that was more than human. His aspect was placid, and his manner easy and composed: he gave orders with the same quiet attention, as that of an old man, who regulates his family, and instructs his children; but in action, he was sudden and impe-

saltando lejos de allí. También se veía Baco coronado de yedra, que reposaba sobre su thyrsó, teniendo en la una mano una vid adornada de pampanos, y de muchos racimos de uva. Tenía una belleza afeminada, con no sé qué afecto y desmayo: y estaba puntualmente como apareció á la desdichada Ariadne, quando la encontró sola, y toda en poder de su pena, sobre una no conocida playa.

Veíase al cabo una muchedumbre de pueblo por todas partes: viejos que iban á llevar á los templos primicias de sus frutos; y jóvenes, que volvían á sus esposas, cansados del trabajo del día. Andaban á encontrarles las mugeres, llevando por la mano, y acariciando sus hijuelos tiernos. Veíanse igualmente muchos pastores, los quales parecía que cantaban; y algunos que danzaban al son de la zampoña. Todo representaba la paz, las delicias y la abundancia: todo parecía alegre, y feliz. Notábanse también los lobos en los pastos, que jugueteaban entre los carneros: los leones, olvidados de su ferocidad se apacentaban en la campaña en la compañía de los corderos, y guiábalos todos juntos un pastorcillo con su cayado. En suma, el buril apacible traía á la memoria todas las delicias del siglo de oro.

Habiendo tomado Telémaco estas divinas armas, en lugar de tomar su acostumbrado escudo, tomó la Egide, que causa espanto á los mismos dioses, y le habia dexado la diosa Iris para valerse de él, desapareciéndole el otro, porque no reparaba la diferencia.

Armado de esta forma, corrió fuera de los alojamientos para evitar las llamas, llamó así en alta voz á todos los capitanes del ejército, y alentó aquella á todos los aliados despavoridos. Centelleaba un divino fuego en los ojos del guerrero joven. Mostrábase Telémaco aplicado á dar todos los órdenes, con la diligencia misma que pudiera poner un sabio viejo, atento á adiestrar á sus hijos, y á bien reglar su familia. Era á mas de esto pronto y veloz en executar lo que se de-

tuous; he resembled a torrent, which not only rolls on its own waves with irresistible rapidity, but carries with it the heaviest vessel that floats upon its surface.

Philoctetes and Nestor, the chiefs of the Mandurians, and the leaders of other nations, felt themselves influenced by an irresistible authority: age appeared to be no longer conscious of experience; and every commander seemed to give up implicitly all pretensions to counsel and wisdom: even jealousy, a passion so natural to man, was suspended; every tongue was silent, and every eye was fixed with admiration upon Telemachus: all stand ready to obey him without reflection, as if they had always been under his command. He advanced to an eminence, from which the disposition of the enemy might be discovered; and, at the first glance, he saw, that not a moment was to be lost: that the burning the camp had thrown the Daunians into disorder: and that they might now be surprised in their turn.

He therefore, took a circuit with the utmost expedition, followed by the most experienced commanders, and fell upon them in the rear, when they believed the whole army of the allies to be surrounded by the conflagration. This unexpected attack threw them into confusion; and they fell under the hand of Telemachus, as leaves fall from the trees in the declining year, when the northern tempest, the harbinger of winter, makes the veterans of the forest groan, and bends the branches to the trunk. Telemachus strewed the earth with the victims of his prowess, and his spear pierced the heart of Iphicles, the youngest son of Adrastus: Iphicles rashly presented himself before him in battle to preserve the life of his father, whom Telemachus was about to attack by surprise. Telemachus and Iphicles were equal in beauty, vigour, dexterity, and courage; they were of the same stature, had the same sweetness of disposition, and were both tenderly beloved by their parents: but Iphicles fell like a flower of the field, which, in the full pride of its beauty, is cut down by the scythe of the mower. Telemachus then overthrew Euphorion, the most cele-

bia hacer, como un rápido río, que no solamente impele las espumosas ondas, una tras otra, sino que también lleva en sus corrientes los pesados baxeles, que recibe sobre sí como carga.

Filotetes, Nestor, los Adalides de los Mandurios, y los de los otros pueblos, veian en el hijo de Ulises una no sé qué autoridad, á quien era preciso que cedieran todos, sin contraste. Faltaba su experiencia á los viejos; ni sabian los capitanes, ó tomar partido, ó valerse de su prudencia. Suspendiéronse en todos los corazones hasta los zelos, que son tan naturales en los hombres. Todos callaban; todos admiraban á Telémaco; todos se le sujetaban para obedecerle, sin discurrir en ello, como si largo tiempo se hubieren acostumbrado. Avanzóse él, y subióse á un collado, donde reconoció la disposicion de los Daunos. Despues de esto juzgó que era bien sorprenderles en el desórden, mientras no pensaban en otro, que en quemar alojamientos de los aliados. Tomó luego una grande vuelta, y todos los capitanes mas experimentados le siguiéron.

Asaltó á los contrarios por las espaldas, en tiempo en que creian que el ejército de los coligados estaba embarazado con las llamas de aquel incendio. Fuéron puestos los Daunos en horrible desórden con un ataque tan repentino. Caian á las manos de Telémaco, como al fenecer el otoño caen las hojas del bosque, quando el desapoderado Aquilon, restituyendo el invierno, azota las plantas añejas, y hace gemir los troncos, sacudiendo sus ramas furiosamente. Ya estaba cubierta la tierra de hombres, que en todas partes habia derribado Telémaco. Traspasó el corazon con uno de sus dardos á Iphicles, el mas joven de los hijos de Adrasto, que tuvo en la pelea osadía de salirle al encuentro por salvar la vida á su padre, á quien le faltó poco que no cogió Telémaco de improviso. Tanto Iphicles, como el hijo de Ulises, eran ambos galanes, robustos, llenos de destreza y valor: de la misma estatura, de la gentileza misma, de la misma edad: ambos por extremo estimados de sus padres. Pero Iphicles semejava á una flor, que habiéndose escogido en un campo, ha de ser cortada de la hoz executiva del segador. Fué vencido despues por Telémaco Euforion, el

brated of all the Lydians that came from Etruria; and his sword at last pierced the breast of Cleomenes, who had just plighted his faith in marriage, and had promised rich spoils to the wife whom he was destined to see no more.

Adrastus beheld the fall of his son and of his captains, and saw his victory wrested from him when he thought it secure, in a transport of rage, which shook him like the hand of death. Phalanthus, almost prostrate at his feet, was like a victim, wounded but not slain, that starts from the sacred knife, and flies terrified from the altar; in one moment more, his life would have been the prize of Adrastus.

But in this crisis of his fate, he heard the shout of Telemachus, rushing to his assistance, and looked upward: his life was now given him back, and the cloud which was settling over his eyes vanished. The Daunians, alarmed at this unexpected attack, abandoned Phalanthus, to repress a more formidable enemy; and Adrastus was stung with new rage, like a tyger, from whom the shepherds, with united force, snatch the prey that he was ready to devour. Telemachus sought him in the throng, and would have finished the war at a stroke, by delivering the allies from their implacable enemy. But Jupiter would not vouchsafe him so sudden and easy a victory: and even Minerva, that he might better learn to govern, was willing that he should longer continue to suffer. The impious Adrastus, therefore, was preserved by the father of the gods, that Telemachus might acquire new virtue, and be distinguished by greater glory. A thick cloud was interposed, by Jupiter, between the Daunians and their enemies; the will of the gods was declared in thunders, that shook the plain, and threatened to crush the reptiles of the earth under the ruins of Olympus; the lightning divided the firmament from pole to pole; and the light, which, this moment, dazzled the eye, left it, the next, in total darkness; an impetuous shower that immediately followed, contributed to separate the two armies.

mas célebre de todos los Lidios, que habian pasado á Toscana. Al fin atravesó con la espada á Cleomenes, que poco antes casado, habia prometido á su esposa, ó no volverla á ver, ó restituírsele cargado de ricos despojos contrarios.

Adrasto rechinaba de rabia, viendo la muerte de su amado hijo, la de muchos capitanes suyos, y la victoria que se le iba de entre las manos. Falanto derribado á sus pies, era como una victima medio degollada, que se quita el cuchillo del sacerdote, y huye lejos de la ara, en que habia de ser sacrificada. No le faltaba á Adrasto sino un instante para acabar de matar al Lacedemonio.

Falanto bañado todo no ménos de su propia sangre, que en la de los soldados, que peleaban con él; sintió los gritos de Telémaco, que venia marchando para ayudarle; recobró en aquel punto la vida, y apartóse de los ojos aquella densa nube, que se los habia ocupado. Los Daunos, que sintieron un tal asalto tan repentino, lo dexaron al punto para ir á resistir á otro mas poderoso enemigo. Adrasto parecia haberse transformado en un tigre, á quien muchos pastores quitan por fuerza la presa que ya estaba para tragarse. Buscándole Telémaco entre el tropel, queria de un golpe acabar la guerra, librando á los coligados de su implacable enemigo. Pero Júpiter no queria otorgar al hijo de Ulises una tan facil y veloz victoria. Quería Minerva tambien que le quedaran por sufrir males mas prolixos, para que aprendiese mejor á gobernar los hombres. Fué pues el impio Adrasto guardado en la vida por Júpiter, para que tuviera Telémaco tiempo de adquirir mas virtud que gloria. Salváronse los Daunos á favor de una nube, que Júpiter prontamente formó en el ayre, á la qual se siguió un espantoso trueno, para manifestar la voluntad de los dioses. Qualquiera se temiera, que dexando sus quicios la máquina sublime del cielo, venia abaxo para oprimir los hombres. Abrian los relámpagos toda la esfera del uno al otro polo; y á aquel mismo tiempo en que deslumbraban los ojos con su luz penetrante, volvian las tinieblas horribles de la noche. Una improvisa, y copiosísima lluvia sirvió igualmente de separar los exercitos que peleaban.

Adrastus availed himself of the succour of the gods, without any secret acknowledgment of their power; an instance of ingratitude, which made him worthy of more signal vengeance! He possessed himself of a situation, between the ruins of the camp and a morass which extended to the river, with such promptness and expedition, as made even his retreat an honour; and at once shewed his readiness at expedients, and perfect possession of himself. The allies, animated by Telemachus, would have pursued him; but he escaped, by favour of the storm, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

The allies had now nothing to do, but to return to the camp, and repair the damage it had suffered: but the scene, as they entered it, exhibited the miseries of war in their utmost horror. The sick and wounded, not having strength to quit their tents, became a prey to the flames; and many that appeared to be half burnt, were still able to express their misery in a plaintive and dying voice, calling upon the gods, and looking upward. At these sight, and these sounds, Telemachus was pierced to the heart, and burst into tears: he was seized, at once, with horror and compassion; and involuntarily turned away his eyes from objects which he trembled to behold; wretches, whose death was inevitable, but painful and slow; whose bodies in part devoured by the fire, had the appearance of the flesh of victims that is burnt upon the altar, and mixes the savour of sacrifices with the air.

« Alas! » said Telemachus, « how various, and how dreadful are the miseries of war! What horrid insatiation impels mankind! their days upon the earth are few, and those few are evil; why then should they precipitate death, which is already near? why should they add bitterness to life, that is already bitter? All men are brothers, and yet they hunt each other as prey. The wild beasts of the desert are less cruel: lions wage not war against lions; and, to the tyger, the tyger is peaceable; the only objects of their ferocity are animals of a different species; man does, in opposition to his reason, what, by animals that are without reason, is never done. And for what are these wars

Valióse Adrasto de la ayuda y favor de los dioses sin sentirse con todo mover interiormente á adorar su potencia, y mereció en esta ingratitude que le reservaran para una mas severa, y exemplar venganza. Dióse prisa de pasar sus tropas entre el campo medio quemado, y un pantano, que se dilatava hasta el río; y lo hizo con tanta industria, y celeridad, que mostró bien su retirada quán advertido él era en tomar expediente para reparar sus desgracias, y que veloz ingenio le adornaba. Admirados de Telémaco los confederados, querian darle alcance; pero á favor de la tempestad se les escapó de las manos del cazador.

No discurrieron los coligados mas que restituirse á su campo, y reparar los daños. Viéron, volviendo á él, lo que hay mas lamentable en la guerra. Los enfermos y heridos, no habiéndose podido retirar de las tiendas, no se habian podido salvar del fuego: aparecian medio quemados, y levantaban muchos lastimosos gritos, que penetraban el corazon con su voz lastimera y moribunda. Conocióse Telémaco atravesar: ni pudo tener las lágrimas, y apartó muchas veces los ojos de aquel funesto espectáculo, movido interiormente de compasion y horror. No podia, sin erizarse, mirar aquellos cuerpos aun vivos, pero destinados á una prolixa y dolorosa muerte. Semejábanse aquellos infelices á la carne de las victimas, que se han quemado sobre los altares, y derraman su olor por todas partes.

« Ay de mí! » exclamaba Telémaco, « ¿ Luego estos son los males que trae consigo la guerra! ¿ De qué ciego furor se dexan arrebatat los hombres! Tienen para vivir en el mundo tan pocos dias, y tan miserables; ¿ Pues para qué apresurar una muerte, que está tan cercana? ¿ Para qué añadir á la amargura, de que han llenado los dioses esta vida tan corta, tan espantosos estragos? Las fieras son menos crueles que los hombres, que son todos hermanos, y no obstante se despedazan unos á otros. Los leones no hacen guerra á los leones, y no acometen sino á los animales de otra especie: el hombre solo, á pesar de la razon, hace lo que los brutos sin razon no harian. Pero á mas, ¿ Qué

undertaken? Is there not land enough in the world, for every man to appropriate more than he can cultivate? Are there not deserts, which the whole race could never people? What then is the motive to war? Some tyrant sighs for a new appellation; he would be called a conqueror; and, for this, he kindles a flame that desolates the earth. Thus a wretched individual, who would not have been born but for the anger of the gods, brutally sacrifices his species to his vanity: ruin must spread, blood must flow, fire must consume, and he who escapes from the flames and the sword, must perish by famine with yet more anguish and horror; that one man, to whom the misery of a world is sport, may, from this general destruction, obtain a fanciful possession of what he calls glory: how vile the perversion of so sacred a name! how worthy, above all others, of indignation and contempt, those who have so far forgotten humanity! Let those who fancy they are demi-gods, henceforth remember that they are less than men; and let every succeeding age, by which they hoped to be admired, hold them in execration. With what caution should princes undertake a war! Wars, indeed, ought always to be just: But that is not sufficient; they ought, also, to be necessary to the general good. The blood of a nation ought never to be shed, except for its own preservation in the utmost extremity. But the perfidious counsels of flattery, false notions of glory, groundless jealousies, insatiable ambition, disguised under precious appearances, and connexions insensibly formed, seldom fail to engage princes in a war which renders them unhappy; in which every thing is put in hazard without necessity; and which produces as much mischief to their subjects, as to their enemies. Such were the reflections of Telemachus.

But he did not content himself with deploring the evils of war; he endeavoured to mitigate them. He went himself from tent to tent, affording to the sick, and even to the dying, such assistance and comfort as they

es la ocasion de que se originan las guerras? ¿No hay acaso bastante tierra en el Universo para dar á todos los hombres mas de lo que ellos pueden cultivar? ¿Quántas hay desiertas? El género humano no las puede llenar. Luego una vana idea de gloria, un título de conquistador, que se quiere adquirir un príncipe, enciende la guerra en tantos, y tan vastos países? Así puntualmente un hombre que ha dado al mundo la ira de los dioses, hace á tantos otros miseros, é infelices. Por contentar su vanagloria y su soberbia es menester que perezca todo, que todo nade en sangre, que todo lo destruyan las llamas, y que lo que se escapa del hierro y el fuego, no se pueda escapar de la hambre, la qual entre todos los males es el mas cruel: es menester al cabo, que un hombre solo se burle de toda la humana naturaleza, y que lo arruine todo con una general desolacion, para satisfacer á su gusto y gloria. ¿Mas qué gloria tan monstruosa es esta? ¿Cuán despreciables, y horribles son los que se han tan del todo olvidado de la humanidad! Nunca se excederán los términos de lo justo en menospreciarlos, y aborrecerlos. No, no; tan lejos estan de ser tenidos por semidioses, que no pueden ni aun ser contados entre los hombres. Antes deben abominarlos todos los siglos, de quienes se han creído ganar la admiracion. ¿Há, que los Reyes deben considerar qué guerras emprenden para concluir! ¿Es menester que sean justas? No basta: es menester á mas de eso, que sean necesarias. No se ha de derramar la sangre del pueblo, sino para evitar las extremas necesidades del mismo pueblo. Pero los consejos que se dan á los príncipes, no por otro fin, que adularles con una falsa idea de grandeza; sus vanos rezelos, y la engañosa avaricia, que se abriga de especiosos pretextos, les enredan insensiblemente en algunas guerras, que los hacen miseros: que todo lo arriesgan sin necesidad y que no son menos funestos á sus vasallos, que á sus enemigos. Así consigo discurría Telémaco.

Mas no se contentaba con lamentar los males de la guerra; procuraba, á mas de esto, suavizarlos. Iba él mismo á las tiendas á socorrer los enfermos y moribundos: proveíalos no ménos de dinero, que de reme-



could receive; he distributed among them not only medicine, but money: he soothed and consoled them by expressions of tenderness and friendship, and sent others on the same errand to those whom he could not visit himself.

Among the Cretans that had accompanied him from Salentum, were two old men, whose names were Traumatophilus and Nosophugus.

Traumatophilus had been at the siege of Troy with Idomeneus, and had learned the art of healing wounds from the sons of Æsculapius. He poured into the deepest and most malignant sores, an odoriferous liquor, which removed the dead and mortified flesh, without the assistance of the knife, and facilitated the formation of a new substance, of a fairer and better texture than the first.

Nosophugus had never seen the sons of Æsculapius, but by the assistance of Merion, he had procured a sacred and mysterious book, which was written by Æsculapius for their instruction. Nosophugus was also beloved by the gods; he had composed hymns in honour of the offspring of Latona; and he offered, every day, a lamb, white and spotless, to Apollo, by whom he was frequently inspired. As soon as he saw the sick, he knew, by the appearance of the eyes, the colour of the skin, the temperament of the body, and the state of respiration, what was the cause of the disease. Sometimes he administered medicines, that operated by perspiration; and the success shewed how much the increase or diminution of that secretion, can influence the mechanism of the body, for its hurt or advantage. To those that were languishing under a gradual decay, he gave infusions of certain salutary herbs, that by degrees fortified the noble parts, and by purifying the blood, brought back the vigour and the freshness of youth. But he frequently declared, that if it were not for criminal excesses, and idleness there would be but little employment for the physician: «The number of diseases,» says he, «is a disgrace to mankind; for virtue produces health. Intemperance converts the very food that should sustain life, into a poison that destroys it; and pleasure, in-

dios; los consolaba, y daba ánimo con afectuosas palabras, y hacia visitar los que él por sí propio no podía.

Entre los Cretenses que habian seguido á Telémaco; habia dos viejos, de los quales el uno se llamaba Traumatófilo, y el otro Nozófugo.

Traumatófilo habia ido con Idomenéo al asedio de Troya; y de los hijos de Esculapio habia aprendido el arte divino de sanar qualquiera herida. Esparcia éste en las llagas mas profundas, y mas enconadas un licor odorífero, que sin necesidad de cortarla, consumia la carne muerta y corrompida: y en poco tiempo hacia crecer otra nueva, mas sana y bella que la primera.

Nozófugo jamas habia visto á Macaon, ni Polidario; pero por medio de Merion habia alcanzado cierto sagrado libro y misterioso, que dió Esculapio á sus hijos. A mas de esto tenia Nozófugo cordial amor á los dioses: habia compuesto himnos en honra de los hijos de Latona; y cada día sacrificaba á Apolo una blanca res, y sin mancha, con que lograba que el dios le inspirara frecuentemente. Apenas veia él algun enfermo, quando en los ojos, en la encarnadura, en la disposicion del cuerpo, en la respiracion, conocia al instante el origen de la enfermedad. Dábase pues ciertos remedios, que hacian prorumpir el sudor, y mostraba con el feliz suceso á los enfermos quanto la transpiracion facilitada ó disminuida, destempla ó acomoda a toda la masa del cuerpo. Para la enfermedad que procedia de decaimiento, daba cierta bebida, que reforzaba poco á poco las partes nobles, y templando la sangre, hacia que remozaran los hombres. Afirmaba frecuentemente, que provenia de falta de virtud y de esfuerzo la necesidad de acudir á menudo á la medicina. Las buenas costumbres, decia, engendran la salud, y por eso es vergüenza grande de los hombres el padecer tantos males. Su destemplanza trueca en mortal veneno los alimentos, que estan destinados para conservar la vida. Los deleites, que nos tomamos sin la moderacion debida,

dulged to excess, shortens our days more than they can be lengthened by medicine. The poor are more rarely sick for want of nourishment, that the rich by taking too much: high seasoned meats, that stimulate appetite after nature is sufficed, are rather poison than food. Medicines themselves offer violence to nature: and should never be used, but in the most pressing necessity. The great remedy, which is always innocent, and always useful, is temperance, a moderate use of pleasure, tranquillity of mind, and exercise of the body: these produce a pure and well tempered blood, and throw off superfluous humours that would corrupt it. » Thus was Nosophugus yet less honoured for the medicine by which he cured diseases, than for the rules he prescribed to prevent them, and render medicine unnecessary.

These excellent persons were sent, by Telemachus, to visit the sick of the army: many of whom they recovered by their remedies, but yet more by the care which they took to have them properly attended, to keep their persons clean, and the air about them pure; at the same time confining the convalescent to an exact regimen, as well with respect to the quality, as the quantity of their food. The soldiers, touched with gratitude at this seasonable and important relief, gave thanks to the gods, for having sent Telemachus among them.

« He is not, » said they, « a mere mortal like ourselves: he is certainly some beneficent deity, in a human shape; or, if he is, indeed, a mortal, he bears less resemblance to the rest of men, than to the gods. He is an inhabitant of the earth, only to diffuse good: his affability and benevolence recommend him still more than his valour. O! that we might have him for our king! but the gods reserve him, for some more favoured and happy people; among whom they design to restore the golden age! »

These encomiums were overheard by Telemachus,

acortan mas nuestros dias, que no los pueden alargar los remedios. Mas raras veces enferman los pobres por falta de sustento, que lo que enferman los ricos por tenerlos de mas. Los manjares que mueven sobrado el apetito, y hacen comer mas de lo necesario, envenenan en vez de alimentar. Aun los mismos remedios son verdaderos males, que gastan la naturaleza, y de que no debemos servirnos, sino en solas las necesidades que requieren un pronto socorro. El gran remedio, que siempre es inocente, siempre provechoso, es la sobriedad, la templanza en qualquiera gusto, la tranquilidad del ánimo, y el exercicio del cuerpo. Asi se hace una sangre dulce y templada, y se resuelven los humores superfluos. De esta manera el sabio Nozéfugo era tan admirable por ocasion de sus remedios, como por aquella regla á que exhortaba á los hombres con sus consejos, para que previnieran los males, y para hacer inútiles todos los remedios.

Envió Telémaco estos dos viejos á visitar todos los enfermos que habia en el ejército. Curaron muchos con sus remedios; pero sanaron harto mas con el cuidado que tuvieron de hacer que fueran bien servidos, segun convenia á su necesidad; porque ponian toda diligencia en hacer que estuvieran limpios de qualquiera inmundicia, para impedir por medio de la limpieza, que el ayre no fuera nocivo; y en que observaran la regla de una perfecta sobriedad en su convalecencia. Todos los soldados movidos interiormente de agradecimiento por tales asistencias que recibian, daban gracias rendidas á los dioses, porque habian enviado á Telémaco al ejército de los aliados.

No es este hombre, decian, sino alguna deidad benéfica baxo de forma humana: y ya que sea hombre, mas se semeja á los dioses, que al resto de los hombres; porque no está en el mundo sino para beneficiar á los otros. Su apacibilidad y bondad lo hacen aun mas amable que su valor. ¡O, si lo pudieramos tener nosotros por nuestro Rey! Pero los dioses le guardan para otra gente, que ellos mas aman, y mas feliz que nosotros, para renovar en aquel pais las delicias del siglo de oro.

Quando iba Telémaco de noche á reconocer los quar-

while he was going about the camp in the night, to guard against the stratagems of Adrastus; and therefore, could not be suspected of flattery, like those which designing sycophants often bestow upon princes to their face: insolently presuming, that they have neither modesty nor delicacy: and that nothing more is necessary to secure their favour, than to load them with extravagant praise. To Telemachus, that only was pleasing which was true: he could bear no praise, but that, which, being given when he was supposed to be absent, he might reasonably conclude to be just. To such praise, he was not insensible: but tasted the pure and serene delight, which the gods have decreed alone to virtue, and which vice can neither enjoy nor conceive. He did not, however, give himself up to this pleasure: his faults immediately rushed into his mind; he remembered his excessive regard for himself, and indifference to others; he felt a secret shame, at having received, from nature, a disposition which made him appear to want the feelings of humanity; and he referred to Minerva all the praise that he had received, as having grafted excellence upon him, which he thought he had no right to appropriate to himself.

«It is thy bounty,» said he, «O goddess! which has given me Mentor, to fill my mind with knowledge, and correct the infirmities of my nature. Thou hast vouchsafed me wisdom, to profit by my faults, and mistrust myself. It is thy power that restrains the impetuosity of my passions; and the pleasure that I feel in comforting the afflicted, is thy gift. Men would hate me but for thee: and without thee, I should deserve hatred: I should be guilty of irreparable faults; and resemble an infant, who, not conscious of its own weakness, quits the side of its mother, and falls at the next step.»

Nestor and Philoctetes were astonished to see Telemachus so affable, so attentive to oblige, so ready to supply the wants of others, and so diligent to prevent them. They were struck with the difference of his behaviour, but could not conceive the cause: and what surprised them most was, the care that he took about

teles del campo, para prevenir con diligente cautela todos los engaños de Adrasto, oia estas alabanzas, que no eran sospechosas de adulacion, como las que dan, muchas veces, los aduladores, en cara, á los príncipes, suponiendo que no tienen modestia ni vergüenza, y que, para apoderarse de su favor, basta alabarlos desmedidamente. Como estas puntualmente y no otras eran las alabanzas que él procuraba, se regocijaba con ellas interiormente su corazon, y sentia aquel gusto tan dulce y deseado, que no han los dioses unido sino es á la virtud; y que por no haberlo probado los malos, no lo pueden creer, ni imaginar. Sin embargo no se entregaba demasadamente Telémaco á semejante gusto; porque luego se le ofrecian todos los errores que habia cometido. Hacia reflexion á su altivez, á la indiferencia con que trataba á todos los hombres, sin hacer distincion de uno á otro, y tenia cierta oculta vergüenza de haber nacido de un corazon tan duro, y de parecer tan poco humano. Referia toda la gloria que á él se daba á la sabia Minerva, y no se tenia por merecedor de la misma gloria.

Vos habeis sido, decia, ó gran diosa, quien me dió á Mentor para mi enseñanza, y para corregir mi mala inclinacion. De vos recibo aquella luz de prudencia, que me hace aprovechar de las faltas que yo cometo, para que desconfie de mí propio. Vos me haceis que saque consuelo de aliviar, y de dar remedio á las desgracias ajenas. Sin vuestro influxo seria odiado, fuera digno de serlo, sin vuestro auxilio cometeria muchos errores irremediables, y seria de la forma que un niño, que no conociendo su flaqueza propia, se aparta de la madre, y á cada paso cae al irse á alejar de ella.

Nestor y Filotetes estaban aturdidos, viendo á Telémaco ya tan apacible, tan atento á beneficiar, tan oficioso, tan ayudador, tan ingenioso en prevenir todas las necesidades. No sabian qué cosa creer, ni lo reconocian por el primero. Lo que les dió mas razon de admirarse, fué el cuidado que se tomó de los fue-

the funeral of Hippias. He went himself and drew the body, bloody and disfigured, from the spot where it lay hidden under a heap of the slain: he was touched with a pious sorrow; and wept over it: « O mighty shade! » said he, « thou art not now ignorant of my reverence for thy valour. Thy haughtiness, indeed, provoked me; but thy fault was from the ardour of youth: alas! I know but too well, how much youth has need of pardon. We were in the way to be united by friendship: O why have the gods snatched thee from me, before I had an opportunity to compel thy esteem! »

Telemachus caused the body to be washed with odoriferous liquors: and, by his orders, a funeral pile was prepared. The lofty pines groaned under the strokes of the axe; and, as they fell, rolled down the declivity of the mountain. Oaks, those ancient children of the earth, which seemed to threaten heaven, and elms and poplars, adorned with thick foliage of vivid green, with the spreading beach, the glory of the forest, strewed the borders of the river Galesus; and a pile was there raised, with such order, that it resembled a regular building: the flame began to sparkle among the wood, and a cloud of smoke ascended in volumes to the sky.

The Lacedemonians advanced with a slow and mournful pace, holding their lances reversed, and fixing their eyes upon the ground: the ferocity of their countenances was softened into grief; and the silent tear dropt unbidden, from their eyes. These Lacedemonians were followed by Phœnicides, an old man, yet less depressed by the weight of years, than by sorrow to have survived Hippias, whom he had educated from his earliest youth. He raised his hands, and his eyes that were drowned in tears, to heaven: since the death of Hippias, he had refused to eat, and the lenient hand of sleep had not once closed his eyes: or suspended the anguish of his mind. He walked on with trembling steps, implicitly following the crowd, and scarce knowing whither he went: his heart was

rales, que habian de hacerle á Ippia. Fué él mismo á levantar el sangriento y desfigurado cadáver del Iugar en que estaba oculto baxo de un grande monton de piedras, y sobre él derramó copiosas lagrimas de compasion. Ahora, dixo, grande alma, bien sabes quánta estima yo he hecho de tu valor. Es verdad que me movió á saña tu altivez; pero era causa de tus defectos el herbor de la juventud. Bien conozco quánta necesidad tiene esta edad de que se le perdonen muchas cosas. Despues hubiéramos sido con recíproco lazo de amistad, sinceramente unidos. Confieso que toda la culpa era mía: ¿Por qué, pues, ó dioses, me habeis llevado á Ippia con temprana muerte?

Telemaco despues hizo lavar el cadáver con ciertos aromáticos licores; y luego por su orden se compuso la pyra. Gemian á los golpes de las segures los desmedidos pinos, y caian heridos de ellas, rodando de lo alto de las montañas. Las encinas antiguas, hijas de la tierra, que parecia que por lo erguido hacian amenazas al cielo; los empinados álamos, los olmos, que tienen las copas tan verdes y tan aseadas con espesas hojas: las ayas, honor de las selvas, venian á caer en la margen del rio Galeo, donde estaba el ejército acampado. Allí con proporcion conveniente fué erigida una pira, que parecia una fabrica regular. Ya se empezaban á vér las llamas, y ya subia al cielo una tempestad de humo.

Marchaban los primeros con espacioso paso los Lacedemonios, arrastrando las lauzas por tierra, y vueltas ácia atrás las puntas, con los ojos clavados en el suelo. Notábanse en aquellos fieros semblantes representado el profundo dolor, que en sí mismos tenían y derramaban abundantes lágrimas. Inmediatamente venia el anciano Phœnicides, ménos gravado del número de los años, que de la pena de sobrevivir á Ippia, á quien habia criado desde su mas tierna infancia. Levantaba al cielo las manos, y allá fixaba tambien los ojos, todos bañados de tenuísimas lágrimas. Despues de haber muerto Ippia, no queria comer cosa alguna, ni aun el dulce sueño le habia podido cerrar los ojos para un breve reposo, ni suspender un punto su acostumbrado dolor. Caminaba todo temblando de-

too full for speech : and his silence was that of dejection and despair : but when he saw the pile kindled, a sudden transport seized him, and he cried out, «O Hippias, Hippias ! I shall see thee no more. Hippias is dead, and I am still living. O my dear Hippias ! It was I that taught thee, cruel and unrelenting ; it was I that taught thee the contempt of death. I hoped that my dying eyes would have been closed by thy hand ; and that I should have breathed the last sigh into thy bosom. Ye have prolonged my life, ye gods ! in your displeasure, that I might see the life of Hippias at an end. O my child, thou dear object of my care and hope, I shall see thee no more ! But I shall see thy mother, who, dying of grief, will reproach me with thy death ; and I shall see thy wife, fading in the bloom of youth, and agonized with despair and sorrow, of which I am the cause ! O call me from these scenes, to the borders of the Styx, which have received thy shade : the light is hateful to my eyes ; and there is none but thee, whom I desire to behold ! I live, O my dear Hippias ! only to pay the last duty to thy ashes.»

The body of the hero appeared stretched upon a bier, that was decorated with purple and gold. His eyes were extinguished in death ; but his beauty was not totally effaced, nor had the graces faded wholly from his countenance, however pale. Around his neck, that was whiter than snow, but reclined upon the shoulder, floated his long black hair, still more beautiful than that of Atys or Ganymede, but in a few moments to be reduced to ashes : and on his side appeared the wound through which, issuing with the torrent of his blood, his spirit had been dismissed to the gloomy regions of the dead.

Telemachus followed the body sorrowful and dejected, and scattered flowers upon it : and when it was laid upon the pile, he could not see the flames catch the linen that was wrapped about it, without again bursting into tears : «Farewell,» said he, «O ma-

tras de la tropa del pueblo, no sabiendo á qué parte le llevaban sus mismos pasos ; y andaba silencioso, sin decir palabra, porque su interior afliccion le estrechaba sobrado el corazon. Era su silencio despecho y abatimiento. Quando vió pegar fuego á la pira, pareció de improviso como frenético. Ippia, gritó, Ippia, ¡ no te podré ver mas ! ; Luego Ippia ha muerto, y yo quedo con vida ! yo soy quien te ha dado la muerte mi amantísimo Ippia : yo soy quien te ha enseñado á despreciarla. Creia que tus manos me debían cerrar los ojos, y que tú habias de recoger el último aliento de mi boca. Vos me habeis alargado la vida, cruelísimos dioses, para dexarme ver la muerte de Ippia. Amado hijo, á quien yo he educado, y que me has costado tantos cuidados, tantos afanes, ya no te he de ver mas ; pero veré á tu madre, que se morirá de tristeza, echándome la culpa de tu muerte : veré á tu esposa jóven desgreñarse el cabello ; y de todo esto yo seré la ocasion. Llamame pues, ó alma querida, llámame, para unirme contigo en el otro mundo. Ya esta vida se me ha hecho aborrecible : Ippia, querido mio, ya no quiero otro objeto sino á ti solo. Ippia, Ippia, mi amantísimo Ippia, no viva todavía, sino para prestar á tus cenizas los últimos honores.

En esto se veía tendido el cadáver de Ippia, que era llevado dentro de un féretro, adornado de púrpura, de oro y plata. La muerte, que en su rostro le habia apagado la luz de sus ojos, no le habia podido quitar del todo la belleza, y en el semblante pálido se conservaba aun la primera gracia. Veíanse ondear por el cuello, mas blanco que la nieve, reclinado sobre los hombros, los cabellos negros y largos, mas hermosos que los de Atis, y Ganymedes, los quales de allí á poco habian de parar en cenizas. Reconocíase en un lado una profunda herida, por donde le habia salido toda la saugre, y que cruelmenté le habia quitado la vida.

Afligido Telemaco, y desmayado, seguía de cerca al cadaver, derramando sobre él algunas flores. En llegando á la pyra, no pudo el hijo de Ulises mirar las llamas, que penetraban los paños, en que iba envuelto el cuerpo del difunto, sin derramar en aquel

gnanimous youth, for I must not presume to call thee friend. Let thy shade be appeased, since thy glory is full, and my envy is precluded only by my love. Thou art delivered from the miseries that we continue to suffer; and hast entered a better region, by the most glorious path! How happy should I be to follow thee by the same way! May the Styx yield a passage to the shade, and the fields of Elysium lie open before thee! may thy name be preserved, with honour to the latest generation; and thy ashes rest, for ever, in peace!»

As soon as Telemachus, who had uttered these words in a broken and interrupted voice, was silent, the whole army sent up a general cry: the fate of Hippias, whose exploits they recounted, melted them into tenderness; and grief at once revived his good qualities, and buried, in oblivion, all the failings which the impetuosity of youth, and a bad education had concurred to produce. They were, however, yet more touched by the tender sentiments of Telemachus: «Is this,» said they, «the young Greek that was so proud, so contemptuous, and intractable? he is now affable, humane, and tender. Minerva, who has distinguished his father by her favour, is also, certainly, propitious to him. She has, undoubtedly, bestowed upon him, the most valuable gift which the gods themselves can bestow upon man; a heart that is at once replete with wisdom, and sensible to friendship.»

The body was now consumed by the flames; and Telemachus himself sprinkled the still smoking ashes with water, which gums and spices had perfumed: he then deposited them in a golden urn, which he crowned with flowers; and he carried the urn to Phalanthus. Phalanthus was stretched out upon a couch, his body being pierced with many wounds; and life was so far exhausted, that he saw, not far distant, the irremovable gates of death.

mismo tiempo copiosas lágrimas. A dios, dixo, magnanimo Ippia, que os llamo con este nombre, porque no me atrevo á llamaros con el de amigo. Aplácate, alma grande, que has merecido tan grande gloria. Si no te amara, te envidiara tu dicha; porque te has librado de las miserias de que en esta vida estamos nosotros ceñidos, y te has salido de ellas por el camino mas glorioso que todos. ¡Ay de mí! Quán feliz seria si se me permitiera fenecer mis dias de la misma manera! Ruego á los dioses, ó gran Ippia, que no se le dificulte á tu espíritu pasar á aquella eterna felicidad sin tardanza: que se le abra el Elisio; que la fama en todos los siglos mantenga vivo su nombre; y que descansan en paz las cenizas de tu cadáver.

Apénas hubo dicho Telémaco estas palabras, mezcladas con muchos suspiros, todo el ejército levantó prontamente un alto grito. Todos se enternecian por Ippia, cuyas grandes acciones se referian; y trayendo el recuerdo de todas sus buenas prendas, el dolor de su muerte hacia olvidar los defectos, que una juventud impetuosa, y una educacion mala le habian dado. Pero mas movian el ánimo de cada uno las demostraciones tiernas del amor del desconsolado Telémaco. ¿Luego es este, decian, aquel jóven Griego, tan feroz, tan soberbio, tan iracundo, tan intratable? Hé aquí que se ha hecho apacible, afectuoso y humano. Ciertamente Minerva, que ha querido tanto á su padre, el grande Ulises, ama no ménos al hijo: esta sin duda le ha dado los dones mas preciosos, que los dioses pueden dar á los hombres, dispensándole, junto con la prudencia, un corazon tan facil á la impresion del cariño.

Ya las llamas habian consumido el cadáver, quando Telémaco roció con sus manos las cenizas, que aun humeaban, con un licor fragante: pisólas despues en una urna de oro, y él mismo las conduxo á Falanto, habiendo ántes coronado la urna de olorosas flores. Yacia el animoso caudillo herido en varias partes del cuerpo, y estaba medio muerto en la extrema debilidad.

Traumatophilus and Nosophugus, whom Telemachus sent to his assistance, had exerted all their art; they had brought back his fleeting spirit by degrees, and he was insensibly animated with new strength: a gentle, but penetrating power, a new principle of life gliding from vein to vein, reached even to the heart; and a genial warmth relaxing the frozen hand of death, the tyrant remitted his grasp. But the insensibility of a dying languor was immediately succeeded by an agony of grief; and he felt the loss of his brother, which before he was not in a condition to feel. « Alas! » said he, « why all this assiduity to preserve my life! it would be better, that I should follow Hippias to the grave! my dear Hippias! whom I saw perish at my side. O my brother, thou art lost for ever; and with thee all the comforts of life! I shall see thee, I shall hear thee, I shall embrace thee no more! I shall no more unburden my breast of its troubles, to thee; and my friendship shall participate of thy sorrows no more! And is Hippias thus lost, for ever! O ye gods, that delight in the calamities of men! can it be? or is it not a dream, from which I shall awake? Ah! no! it is a dreadful reality! I have, indeed, lost thee, O Hippias! I saw thee expire in the dust; and I must, at least, live till I have avenged thee; till I have offered up, to thy manes, the merciless Adrastus, whose hands are stained with thy blood! »

While Phalanthus was uttering these passionate exclamations, and the divine dispensers of health were endeavouring to sooth him into peace, lest the perturbation of his mind should increase his malady, and render their medicines ineffectual, he suddenly beheld Telemachus, who had approached him unperceived. At the first sight of him, he felt the conflict of two opposite passions in his bosom: his mind still glowed with resentment at the remembrance of what had passed between Telemachus and Hippias; and the grief that he felt for the loss of his brother, gave this resentment new force; but he was also conscious, that he was himself indebted for his life to Telemachus, who had rescued him, bleeding and ex-

Trosmafilo,

Trosmafilo, y Nozofugo, enviados del hijo de Ulises, le habían dado toda la asistencia del arte. Iban poco á poco llamando otra vez á aquella alma, que estaba ya agonizante á ejercer sus oficios primeros en el cuerpo. Producianse sin sentir en sus miembros, muchos nuevos espíritus: una fuerza suave y penetrativa, un bálsamo vital, se le internaba de vena en vena hasta los senos del corazón; y un calor agradable iba vivificando todo lo que ya estaba casi muerto, por la excesiva flaqueza, y desmayo. Cesando en él ya el desaliento, sucedió al instante la pena; y comenzó á sentir el dolor de la muerte de Ippia, que no había hasta entónces podido percibir. Infelice de mí, decía, ¿ Por qué se pone tanto cuidado en hacerme vivir? ¿ No me fuera mejor morir, y seguir á mi amado hermano? Yo lo he visto morir á mi lado. ¡ O Ippia, dulzura de mi vida hermano mio, querido hermano mio, has muerto! Luego no podré verte mas, ni oírte, ni abrazarte, ni darte cuenta de mis trabajos, ni consolarte en los tuyos? ¡ O dioses, enemigos de los hombres! he perdido á Ippia, y le he perdido para siempre. ¿ Es posible que ha muerto? No es esto sueño, ó ilusion vana? No, no: demasiado es verdad, hermano mio, que te he perdido, que te he visto morir: y es bien que yo viva aun, quando será preciso para vengarte. Sí, quiero quitar la vida al cruel Adrasto, manchado con tu sangre, y sacrificarlo á tu grande alma.

Mientras Falanto hablaba de esta suerte, Trosmafilo y Nozofugo trataron de aplacar su dolor; porque temian que con él diera fuerzas al mal, é impidiera el efecto de los remedios. Vió improvisamente á Telemaco, que se le puso delante, y á la primera vista fué su corazón combatido de dos contrarias pasiones. Conservaba Falanto una dolorosa memoria de todo lo que había sucedido entre Telemaco é Ippia; y el pesar de la muerte de este hacía tal memoria mucho mas viva. No obstante eso, sabia ser deudor á Telemaco de su propia vida, habiéndole librado sangriento y medio muerto de las manos de Adrasto, que ya estaba para matarlo. Pero quando vió la urna de oro, en que estaban cerradas las cenizas de él tan amadas

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hausted, from the hands of Adrastus. During this struggle, he remarked the golden urn, that contained the dear remains of his brother; and the sight instantly melted him into tears: he embraced Telemachus, at first, without power to speak; but at length he said, in a feeble and interrupted voice:

« Thy virtue, O son of Ulysses! has compelled my love: I am indebted to thee for my life; I am indebted to thee also, for something, yet more precious than life itself! The limbs of my brother would have been a prey to the vulture, but for thee; and but for thee the rites of sepulture had been denied him! His shade would have wandered, forlorn and wretched, upon the borders of the Styx, still repulsed by Charon with inexorable severity! Must I lie under such obligations to a man whom I have so bitterly hated? May the gods reward thee, and dismiss me from life and misery together! Render to me, O Telemachus! the last duties that you have rendered to my brother, and your glory shall be complete. »

Phalanthus then fell back, fainting and overwhelmed with grief: Telemachus continued near him; but, not daring to speak, waited, in silence till his spirits should return. He revived after a short time; and, taking the urn out of the hands of Telemachus, he kissed it many times, and wept over it: « O precious dust, » said he; « when shall mine be mingled with you, in the same urn? O my brother! I will follow thee to the regions of the dead! There is no need that I should avenge thee, for Telemachus will avenge us both! »

By the skill of the two sages, who practised the science of Æsculapius, Phalanthus gradually recovered. Telemachus was continually with them, at the couch of the sick, that they might exert themselves with more diligence to hasten the cure; and the whole army was more struck with admiration at the tenderness with which he succoured his most inveterate enemy, than at the wisdom and valour with which he had preserved the army of the allies.

de su difunto hermano, vertió un arroyo de lágrimas, abrazó á Telémaco, sin poderle hablar; y finalmente con desmayada, é interrumpida voz, por los suspiros le dixo estas palabras.

Digno hijo de Ulises, de vuestra virtud me conozco necesitado á amaros. Bien os debo el fragmento de mi vida, que ha de fenecer en muy breve; pero deudor os soy de otra cosa, que es mucho mas apreciable. Sin vuestra ayuda el cadáver de mi hermano hubiera sido presa de carniceras aves; sin vuestra ayuda su alma privada de sepulcro, no pudiera pasar al gozo de aquella eterna paz, que á las almas justas está dispuesta en el otro mundo. ¿ En tanto pues he de estar obligado á un hombre, á quien he aborrecido tanto? Remuneradlo, dioses, y libradme de vida tan miserable; y vos, Telémaco, dadme tambien á mí los últimos honores, que habeis dado á mi hermano, para que nada falte á vuestra gloria.

Dichas estas palabras, quedó Falanto privado de sus fuerzas, y oprimido de un dolor excesivo. Mantúvose Telémaco junto á él; pero no se atrevia á hablarle, y esperaba que recobrase el vigor perdido. Reñizose luego Falanto de aquel deliquio, tomó la urna de manos de Telémaco; y habiéndola besado muchas veces, y bañándola con sus lágrimas, dixo de esta manera: ¿ Quando, ó amadas, ó preciosas cenizas, á una con vosotras, se cerrarán las mias? Ya te sigo ó alma de Ippia: ya voy á unirme contigo en el Infierno: no; Telémaco nos vengará á los dos.

Concluido el accidente de este dolor, se iba el mal de Falanto disminuyendo de dia en dia, por la diligencia que usaban aquellos dos hombres tan experimentados en la medicina. Estaba siempre con ellos Telémaco al lado del enfermo, para hacerlos mas aplicados á no dilatar su salud; y mucho mas admiraba todo el ejército aquella gran bondad de corazón, con la qual socorria á su mayor contrario, que la braveza y prudencia, que habia hecho notorias, salvando en la batalla el ejército de los aliados.



He was, however, at the same time, indefatigable in the ruder labours of war: he slept but little; and his sleep was often interrupted, sometimes by the intelligence which was brought him at every hour of the night, as well as of the day; and sometimes by examining every quarter of the camp, which he never visited twice together at the same hour, that he might be more sure to surprise those that were negligent of their duty. Though his sleep was short, and his labour great, yet his diet was plain: he fared, in every respect, like the common soldiers, that he might give them an example of patience and sobriety; and provisions becoming scarce in the camp, he thought it necessary, to prevent murmurings and discontent, by suffering voluntarily the same inconveniencies which they suffered by necessity. But this labour and temperance, however severe, were so far from impairing his vigour, that he became, every day, more hardy and robust: he began to lose the softer graces, which may be considered as the flower of youth; his complexion became browner and less delicate, and his limbs more muscular and firm.

END OF THE SEVENTEENTH BOOK.

Al mismo tiempo se mostraba Telémaco incansable en las mas penosas tareas de la milicia. Dormia poco, é interrumpia el sueño freqüentemente, ó con las nuevas que recibia, casi á todas las horas del día y de la noche; ó con la vista de todos los quarteles del campo, que hacia siempre á la misma hora sucesivamente dos veces, para coger mas improvisamente á las centinelas, que no estaban tan vigilantes, como convenia á su oficio. Volvia muchas veces á su tienda, cubierto todo del sudor, y de frio, y era su comida ordinaria, para darles exemplo de templanza y paciencia, viviendo él propio como los soldados. Estando acaso el ejército de vituallas en el lugar en que estaba acampado, juzgó Telémaco, que era necesario poner freno á las quejas de los soldados, con sufrir voluntariamente sus mismos contratiempos. En vez de enflaquecerse el cuerpo en vida tan penosa, gallardeaba, y se endurecia de dia en dia. Empezaba Telémaco á no tener ya aquella tan graciosa belleza, que es como la flor de la juventud mas temprana; su piel se le atezaba, y hacia ménos delicada, y los miembros se le volvian ménos débiles, y mucho mas nervudos.

FIN DEL LIBRO DECIMO SEPTIMO.

# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XVIII.

### ARGUMENT.

TELEMACHUS being persuaded, by several dreams, that his father Ulysses was no longer alive, executes his design of seeking him among the dead: he retires from the camp, and is followed by two Cretians as far as a temple near the celebrated cavern of Acherontia; he enters it, and descends through the gloom to the borders of the Styx, where Charon takes him into his boat; he presents himself before Pluto, who, in obedience to superior powers, permits him to seek his father: he passes through Tartarus, and is witness to the torments that are inflicted upon ingratitude, perjury, impiety, hypocrisy, and above all upon bad kings.

ADRASTUS, whose troops had been considerably diminished by the battle, retired behind mount Aulon: where he expected a reinforcement, and watched for another opportunity of surprising the allies. Thus, a hungry lion, who has been repulsed from the fold, retires into the gloomy forest, enters again into his den, and waits for some favourable moment, when he may destroy the whole flock.

Telemachus, having established an exact discipline among the troops, turned his mind entirely to the execution of a design, which, though he had formed a considerable time, he had wholly concealed from the commanders of the army. He had been long disturbed in the night by dreams, in which he saw his father Ulysses. The vision never failed to return at the end of the night; just before the approach of Aurora, with her prevailing fires, to chase from heaven the doubtful radiance of the stars, and from earth the pleasing delusions of sleep. Sometimes he thought he saw Ulysses naked upon the banks of a river, in a

# TELEMACO.

## LIBRO XVIII.

### SUMARIO.

TELEMACO, persuadido por vagos sueños que su padre Ulises ya no vive, executa su designio de irle á buscar á los infiernos. Sale furtivamente del campo, seguido por dos Cretenses hasta un templo junto á la famosa caverna de Acherontia. Entra en ella, por medio de las tinieblas, llega á la orilla del Estige, y Caron le recibe en su barco. Vase á presentar delante de Pluton, que halla dispuesto á darle licencia para buscar á su padre. Atraviesa el Tártaro, donde vé los tormentos que sufren los ingratos, los perjuros, los hipócritas, y, sobre todo, los malos reyes.

EN este tiempo Adrasto, cuyas milicias en el primer combate se habian disminuido notablemente, se habia retirado detras del monte Aulon, esperando socorros de varias gentes, para procurar sorprender otra vez á sus enemigos; como un leon hambriento, que rechazado de una majada, se vuelve á los bosques oscuros, y se entra en su caverna, donde afila los dientes, esperando oportuno lance para destrozár el ganado.

Despues de haberse aplicado Telémaco á dar á todo el ejército una perfecta norma de militar disciplina, no pensó en nada mas que en efectuar una idea, que habia concebido en su ánimo, y que no declaró á ninguno de los capitanes. Ya hacia largo tiempo, que todas las noches se hallaba inquieto de ciertos sueños, que le representaban á su padre Ulises. Esta imagen de Ulises volvía siempre al fenecer la noche, antes que llegara la aurora con sus recientes luces á despejar del cielo las estrellas, y de la tierra el apacible sueño, y las apariencias ligeras, que les acompañan. Ahora le parecia que lo veía desnudo en una isla afor-

flowery meadow of some blissful island, surrounded by nymphs, who threw clothes to cover him within his reach: sometimes he thought he saw him in a palace, that shone with ivory and gold; where a numerous audience, crowned with flowers, listened to his eloquence with delight and admiration: he sometimes appeared suddenly among the guests at a magnificent banquet, where joy shone upon every countenance; and the soft melody of a voice, accompanied by the lyre, gave sweeter music than the lyre of Apollo, and the voices of the Nine.

From these pleasing dreams, Telemachus always awaked dejected and sorrowful, and while one of them was recent upon his mind, he cried out, « O my father! O my dear father Ulysses! the most frightful dreams would be more welcome to me than these. These representations of felicity convince me, that thou art already descended to the abodes of those happy spirits whom the gods reward, for their virtue, with everlasting rest: I think I behold the fields of Elysium! How dreadful is the loss of hope! Must I then, O my father, see thee no more for ever! Must I no more embrace him, to whom I was so dear, and whom I seek with such tender solicitude and persevering labour? Shall I no more drink wisdom from his lips! Shall I kiss those hands, those dear, those victorious hands, which have subdued so many enemies, no more! Shall they never punish the presumptuous suitors of Penelope! and shall the glory of Ithaca be never restored! « You, ye gods, who are unpropitious to Ulysses, have sent these dreams, to expel the last hope from my breast, and leave me to despair and death! I can no longer endure this dreadful suspense. Alas! what have I said? of the death of my father I am but too certain. I will then seek his shade in the world below. To those awful regions, Theseus descended in safety; yet Theseus, with the most horrid impiety, sought only to violate the deities of the place: my motive, the love of my father, is consistent with my duty to the gods. Hercules also descended and returned: I pretend not, indeed, to his prowess; but, without it, I dare to imitate his example.

tunada, á la margen de un rio, en un prado adornado de flores, y rodeado de Ninfas que le servian ropas con que cubrirse: ahora le parecia oirlo hablar en un palacio de marfil y oro, todo resplandeciente, donde con gran gusto le oian, y admiraban diferentes hombres todos coronados de flores. Frequentemente le parecia repentinamente mirar á Ulises en algunos convites, donde la alegría brillaba entre las delicias, y donde se escuchaba la harmonía suave de una voz acordada con una lira, que excedia á la lira de Apolo, y á las voces de todas las musas en la dulzura.

Telemaco se entristecia de estos apacibles sueños. ¡ Padre mio! ¡ querido padre mio! exclamaba: mas gratos me serian estos sueños, si ellos fueran mas espantosos. Estas representaciones de felicidad me hacen comprehender, que habeis baxado ya á la mansion de las almas dichosas, que son remuneradas de los dioses por su virtud con un eterno descanso. Ya me parece que se abren los campos Elisios, y se me representan á la vista. ¡ O que violenta pena el no tener mas esperanza! ¡ jamas estrecharé entre mis brazos á quien me amaba tanto, á quien voy buscando con tan gran cuidado! ¡ Nunca, pues, oiré hablar á aquella boca, de donde salian palabras tan sabias y juiciosas! ¡ Nunca besaré aquellas preciosas, y victoriosas manos que han abatido á tantos enemigos! ¡ No castigarán ellas á los necios amantes de Penélope, ni podrá nuestra patria recobrase mas de aquel estado misero en que ha caido! Vos me enviáis estos sueños funestos, ó dioses enemigos de mi padre, para sacarme del corazon toda mi esperanza. Esto es acabarme la vida; porque no puedo vivir en tanta incertidumbre. ¡ Pero qué digo? ¡ Ah que demasiado me aseguro, que ya Ulises no vive! Ya me prevengo á buscar su espíritu, hasta en el abismo. Allá baxó Teséo: Teséo, aquel malvado que queria ultrajar los dioses infernales; y no tengo yo otro motivo, que allá me guie que el de la piedad, y el amor á un padre. Allá tambien el gran Alcides: yo no soy Hércules; mas no es pequeña gloria tener bastante esfuerzo para imitarlo. Pudo tambien Orfeo mover el corazon de aquel dios, que los hombres llaman inexorable, contándole sus

Orpheus, by the recital of his misfortunes, softened into pity that deity, who was thought to be inexorable; and obtained permission for the return of Eurydice to the world of life; I am more worthy of compassion than Orpheus; the loss that I have sustained is greater than his; for what is a youthful beauty, to whom a thousand youthful beauties are equal, in comparison of the great Ulysses, unrivalled and alone the admiration and the pride of Greece! The attempt shall be made; and if I perish, I perish. Why should death be dreadful, when life is wretched! I come, then, O Pluto! O Proserpine! to prove, whether ye are, indeed, without pity. O my father! having traversed the earth and the seas, in vain, to find thee: I will now seek thee among the gloomy dwellings of the dead. If the gods will not permit me to possess thee upon the earth, and enjoy with thee the light of heaven; they may, perhaps, vouchsafe me the sight of thy shade, by the dim twilight of the realms of darkness!

He immediately rose from the bed, which he had bedewed with his tears; and hoped that the cheerful light of the morning would have dissipated the melancholy that he suffered from the dreams of the night: he found, however, that the shaft which had pierced him, was still in the wound; and that he carried it with him, whithersoever he went.

He determined, therefore, to descend into hell, by a celebrated avenue, not far from the camp. This avenue was near a city called Acherontia, from a dreadful cavern that led down to the banks of Acheron, an infernal river, which the gods themselves attest with reverence and dread. The city was built upon the summit of a rock, like a nest upon the top of a tree. At the foot of the rock was the cavern, which no man ventured to approach: the shepherds were always careful to turn their flocks another way; and the sulphureous vapour that exhaled, by this aperture, from the Stygian fens, contaminated the air with a pestilential malignity: the neighbouring soil produced neither herb, nor flower: and in this place, the gentle gales of the zephyr, the rising beauties of the spring,

desgracias, y alcanzó de él, que permitiera á Euridice volver al mundo. Yo merezco mas compasion que Orfeo, porque mi pérdida es mucho mayor. ¿Quién podrá cotejar una juventud, que es como las demas, con el sabio Ulises, admirado de toda Grecia? Vamos, pues, muramos, si es que importa: ¿Para qué tener miedo á la muerte, quando se padecen viviendo tantas penas? Probaré dentro de bien poco, ó Pluton, ó Proserpina, si sois tan desapiadados, como se dice. Despues de haber corrido vanamente la tierra y mar, para encontraros, quiero reconocer, ó amado Ulises, ó padre mio, si por ventura estais en las habitaciones obscuras de los muertos. Ya que no me couceden los dioses poseeros sobre la tierra y á la luz del sol, me permitiran por ventura ver vuestra ánima en el reyuo lóbrego de las tinieblas y de la noche.

Diciendo estas palabras, bañaba con lágrimas Telémaco todo su lecho; levantandose luego de dormir, con la luz del dia procuraba buscar algun alivio á aquel penetrante dolor, que tales sueños le ocasionaban. Pero él era una flecha, que le habia pasado los senos delicados del corazon, la qual llevaba consigo adonde quiera que iba.

Estádo angustiado de una tan grande pena, se dispuso á baxar al infierno por un lugar célebre, poco léjos del campo. Llamábase aquel lugar Aqueroncia; porque se hallaba en él una caverna horrible, por donde se baxaba á la tierra del rio Aqueronte, por quien temian jurar los dioses. Estaba la ciudad plantada sobre una roca, como un nido sobre la copa de un árbol. Al pie de la roca se hallaba la caverna, á la qual temerosos los hombres no se osan llegar, y los pastores cuidaban de alejar de ella su ganado. Apestan el ayre los vapores sulfúreos de la laguna Estigia, que por aquella boca se exálaban continuamente. Al contorno de ella no crecia la yerba ni flores; nunca se percibian allí los suaves zéfiros, ni dexaba allí ver la primavera sus recientes bellezas, ni sus preciosos dones

and the rich gifts of autumn, were alike unknown. The ground was thirsty and sterile; and presented nothing to the eye but a few naked shrubs, and the cypripedium clothed with a funereal green. In the fields that surrounded it, even at a distance, Ceres denied her golden harvests to the plough; Bacchus never gave the delicious fruit which he seemed to promise; for the grapes withered, instead of ripening, upon the tree. The Naiads mourned: and the waters of their urn flowed not with a gentle and translucent wave, but were bitter to the taste, and impenetrable to the eye. Thorns and brambles here covered the ground; and as there was no grove for shelter, there were no birds to sing: their strains of love were warbled beneath a milder sky; and here nothing was to be heard but the hoarse croaking of the raven, and the boding screams of the owl. The very herbage of the field was bitter; and the flocks of these joyless pastures felt not the pleasing impulse that makes them bound upon the green: the bull turned from the heifer, and the dejected shepherd forgot the music of his pipe.

A thick black smoke frequently issued from the cavern, in a cloud that covered the earth with untimely darkness in the midst of the day; at these seasons, the neighbouring people doubled their sacrifices, to propitiate the infernal gods; yet the infernal gods were frequently inexorable; and would accept no sacrifice, but youth in its sweetest bloom, and manhood in its ripest vigour, which they cut off by a fatal contagion.

In this place, Telemachus resolved to seek the way that led down to the dark dominions of Pluto. Minerva, who watched over him with incessant care, and covered him with her ægis, had rendered Pluto propitious: and at her request, Jupiter himself had commissioned Mercury, who descends daily to the infernal regions, to deliver a certain number of the dead to Charon, to tell the sovereign of the shades, it was his pleasure that Telemachus should be permitted to enter his dominions.

Telemachus withdrew, secretly, from the camp in the night; and going on by the light of the moon, he

el otoño. La seca tierra estaba sin cultura, y solamente se advertían, junto con algunos arbolillos sin hojas, algunos funestos cipreses. Por todo su circuito, aun lejos de la caverna, negaba sus doradas cosechas la tierra al pobre labrador. Parecía que en vano prometían las vides en aquel sitio sus dulces frutos: los racimos en vez de madurar se secaban. Eran sucias todas las fuentes, y eran siempre amargas, siempre turbias sus aguas. No llegaba á cantar algún páxaro en aquella tierra erizada de zarzales y espinas, ni hallaban bosquecillos en ella adonde retirarse. Iban los páxaros á cantar sus amores baxo un cielo mas apacible; y en aquel parage tan solo se sentían los buhos, y el graznar de los cuervos. La misma yerba era allí amarga, y los ganados que la pacían, no sentían aquel gustoso recreo que les hace pastar por la campaña. Huía el toro de la vaca; y abatido el pastor, no se acordaba de gaita ni flauta.

Salía de aquella caverna de quando en quando un humo espeso y obscuro, que á la hora de medio dia formaba cierta especie de noche. Entonces los pueblos vecinos, para aplacar los dioses del infierno, redoblaban los sacrificios; pero frecuentemente las víctimas, que aquellos crueles dioses tenían gusto de sacrificar con un funesto contagio, eran los hombres en la flor de su edad, y en su mas tierna juventud.

Allí Telémaco resolvió buscar el camino que llevaba al infierno. Minerva, que tenia cuidado continuo de él, y le cubria con la Egide, habia hecho á Pluton propicio á sus designios; y el mismo Júpiter movió de los ruegos de la diosa, habia ordenado á Mercurio, que para entregar á Pluton cierto número de hombres baxa cada dia al infierno, que dixerá á aquel dios que permitiera al hijo de Ulises poder entrar en su Reyno.

Alejóse Telémaco á la noche del campo sin ser notado. Caminaba á la luz de la luna, é invocaba á

invoked that powerful divinity, who, in heaven, the radiant planet of the night, upon earth the chaste Diana and the tremendous Hecate in hell: the goddess heard his prayer, and accepted it: for she knew that his heart was upright, and his intention pious. As he drew near to the cavern, he heard the subterraneous empire roar: the earth trembled under his feet, and the heavens seemed to rain down fire upon his head. A secret horror thrilled to his heart, and his limbs were covered with a cold sweat: yet, his fortitude sustained him: and lifting up his hands and eyes to heaven, « Great Gods, » said he, « I accept these omens, and believe them to be happy; fulfil them, and confirm my hope! » His breast glowed with new ardour as he spoke, and he rushed forward to the mouth of the pit.

The thick smoke which rendered it fatal to all that approached it, immediately disappeared; and the pestilential stench was, for a while, suspended. He entered the cavern alone; for who would have dared to follow him? Two Cretans, to whom he had communicated his design, and who accompanied him part of the way, remained, pale and trembling, in a temple at some distance, putting up prayers for his deliverance, but despairing of his return.

Telemachus, in the mean time, plunged into the tremendous darkness before him, having his sword drawn in his hand. In a few minutes he perceived a feeble and dusky light, like that which is seen at midnight upon the earth: he could also distinguish airy shades that fluttered round him, which he dispersed with his sword: and soon after he discovered the mournful banks of the Styx, whose waters, polluted by the marsh they cover, move slowly in a sullen stream, that returns in perpetual eddies upon itself. Here he perceived an innumerable multitude of those, who, having been denied the rites of sepulture, presented themselves to inexorable Charon in vain. Charon, whose old age, though vigorous and immortal, is always gloomy and severe, kept them back with

aquella poderosa deidad, que siendo astro brillante en el cielo, es juntamente casta Diana en la tierra, y Ecate formidable en el abismo. Escuchó la diosa favorablemente sus votos, porque salian de un puro corazón, y porque era llevado Telémaco del amor y piedad, que á un padre son debidas. Apenas se halló cerca de la entrada de la caverna, quando sintió bramir el infierno. Temblábale la tierra baxo los pies, y todo el cielo se armó de relámpagos, y de rayos, los quales parecia que de lo alto se baxaban á tierra. Sintió entónces palparle en el pecho el corazón, y cubrióse su cuerpo de un hielo; pero mantúvose con su esfuerzo. Levantó los ojos al cielo, y levantó las manos gritando: Acepto, ó grande dios, estos agüeros que tengo para mi por felices; conducid á buen término vuestra obra, dixo: y apresurando el paso, osadamente prosiguió adelante.

Disipóse al instante aquel espeso humo que hacia funesta la entrada de la caverna á todos los vivientes que se le acercaban, y cesó por algun espacio el pestilente hedor que de allí salia. Entró por ella solo Telémaco; porque ¿quién hubiera tenido aliento para seguirle? Dos Cretenses, que hasta cierta distancia de la caverna le habian acompañado, y á quienes habia él descubierto su pensamiento, se quedaron temblando harto á la larga, y casi medio muertos, rogando por él en un templo, y sin esperanza ninguna de volverle á ver.

Entre tanto se entró el hijo de Ulises en aquellas horribles tinieblas con la espada en la mano; y apenas dió algunos pasos, comenzó á vislumbrar una escaza luz, y entre obscura, como la que suele de noche verse en el mundo. Reparó entónces unas ligeras sombras que le andaban volando al rededor, y las iba ahuyentando con la espada. Luego se le puso delante un pantanoso rio, cuyas cenagosas corrientes no hacen otro que andar dando giros, y continuos círculos. Sobre su margen vió una tropa sin número de muertos, que tenian sus cuerpos sin sepultura, los quales infructuosamente se oponian delante del desapiadado Caronte. Este dios, cuya vejez eterna es siempre melancólica y enfadosa pero robusta, los amenaza y desecha, y admite sin tardanza en su barca al jóven Griego.

menaces and reproach; but he admitted the young Greek into his bark, as soon as he came up. The ear of Telemachus, the moment he entered, was struck with the groans of inconsolable grief.

« Who art thou, » said he to the complaining ghost, « and what is thy misfortune? » — « I was, » replied the phantom, « Nabopharzan, the king of Babylon the great. All the nations of the east trembled at the sound of my name; and I compelled the Babylonians to worship me in a temple of marble, where I was represented by a statue of gold, before which the most costly perfumes of Ethiopia were burnt night and day. No man contradicted me without instant punishment; and every invention was upon the stretch, to discover some new pleasure, that might heighten the luxury of my life. I was then in the full bloom and vigour of youth; and life, with all its pomp and pleasures, was still before me: But alas! a woman whom I loved with a passion that she did not return, too soon convinced me, that I was not a god: she gave me poison, and I now am nothing. Yesterday they deposited my ashes, with great solemnity, in a golden urn: they wept, they tore their hair, and seemed ready to throw themselves on the funeral pile, that they might perish with me; they are now surrounding the superb mausoleum, in which they placed my remains, with all the external parade of sorrow; but secretly, and in sincerity, I am regretted by none. Even my family hold my memory in abhorrence; and here I have been already treated with the most mortifying indignity! »

An object so deplorable, touched the breast of Telemachus with pity: « And was you then truly happy, » said he, « during your reign? Did you, taste that sweet tranquillity, without which the heart shrinks and withers like a blighted flower: nor, even in prosperity, can expand to delight? » — « Far from it, » replied the monarch; « I knew it not, even in idea. A peace like this, indeed, has been extolled by the sages, as the only good; but it never made my felicity: my heart was perpetually agitated by new desires, and throbbing with fear and hope; I wished that passion should perpetually succeed to pas-

Entrando en ella, percibió los gemidos Telémaco de una alma.

¿Qué desgracia es la vuestra? ¿Quién erais en el mundo? Fui, respondió aquella alma, Nabofarzan, Rey de la soberbia Babilonia. A mi nombre tan solamente temblaban todos los pueblos orientales, y me hacia adorar de los habitadores de aquella gran ciudad en un templo de mármol; donde delante de una estatua de oro, que era retrato mio, se quemaban de dia y de noche los mas preciosos aromas de la Etiopia. No hubo alguno que me contradixese, sin pagar de contado su libertad. Inventábase cada dia algun nuevo placer, para hacerme la vida mas deliciosa y mas apacible; y a mas de eso me hallaba en la flor de mi juventud, y de mi robustez. ¡Infelice de mi! ¿Qué prosperidad me quedaba, que no hubiera ya disfrutado en el trono? Pero una muger que no correspondia á mi amor, me ha hecho conocer quám lejos iba de la verdad, figurándome que era dios. Ella me atosigó, y ya soy sombra vana, soy nada. Ayer con pompa se colocaron mis tristes cenizas en una urna de oro. Hubo quien me lloró, quien mesó sus cabellos, quien mostró querer arrojar para morir conmigo, al fuego de la pyra; pero no hay alguna que tenga pesar de mi muerte. Mi familia misma se horroriza con mi memoria, y ya padezco aquí muchas horribilísimas injurias.

Movido á compasion Telémaco de tal espectáculo, le dixo: ¿Erais vos verdaderamente feliz mientras en el mundo reynabais? ¿Percibiais aquella apacible paz, sin la qual siempre está acongojado el corazon humano, y siempre descontento entre las delicias? No, le respondió el Babilonio; antes ni aun entiendo lo que quereis decir. Los sabios exágeran esa paz, como el único bien que se puede en el mundo gozar; pero por quanto á mi, yo no la he probado jamas. Mi corazon era continuamente combatido de nuevos deseos, ya del temor, y ya de la esperanza; yo me procuraba divertir á mi mismo, teniendo en movimiento casi

sion, with a tumultuous rapidity which excluded thought; and practised every artifice to effect it: this was my expedient to avoid the pangs of reflection; such was the peace I procured, I thought all other a fable and a dream; and such were the pleasures I regret!»

During this relation, Nabopharsan wept with the effeminate pusillanimity of a man enervated by good fortune; unacquainted with adversity, and, therefore, a stranger to fortitude. There were with him some slaves, who had been put to death to honour his funeral; and whom Mercury had delivered to Charon with their king; giving them, at the same time, an absolute power over him, who had been their tyrant upon earth. The shades of these slaves no longer feared the shade of Nabopharzan; they held him in a chain, and treated him with the most cruel indignity. «As men,» said one of them, «had we not the same nature with thee? How couldst thou be so stupid as to imagine thyself a god, and forget that thy parents were mortal? — «His unwillingness to be taken for a man,» said another, «was right; for he was a monster, without humanity.» — «Well,» said another, «what are become of your flatterers now? Poor wretch! there is now nothing that thou canst either give or take away; thou art now become the slave even of thy slaves. The justice of the gods is slow; but the criminal is, at last, certainly overtaken?»

Nabopharzan, stung with these insults, threw himself upon his face in an agony of rage and despair; but Charon bade the slaves pull him up by his chain: «He must not,» said he, «be allowed the consolation even of hiding his shame; of which all the ghosts that throngs the borders of the Styx must be witnesses; that the gods who so long suffered this impious tyrant to oppress the earth, may at last be justified. Yet this, O scourge of Babylon! is but the beginning of sorrows; the judgment of Minos, impartial and inexorable, is at hand!»

continuo mis desconcertadas pasiones, y mantener la embriaguez, para que fuera perpetua. Me hubiera sido demasiado amargo qualquier pequeño espacio de tranquilidad, que me hubiera dexado conocer mi estado. Tal fué la paz de que gocé en el mundo: qualquiera otra la miraba yo como fabula ó como sueño, y tales son los bienes, que me pesa de haber perdido.

Hablando de esta suerte el Babilonio, lloraba como un hombre vil, enervado de la felicidad, y no acostumbrado á sufrir con firmeza de ánimo una desventura. Cercanos á él estaban algunos esclavos, que habian sido muertos, para honrar las exéquias de su cadáver. Habíalos Mercurio entregado á Caronte junto con su Rey, y les habia dado absoluto poder sobre aquel principe, á quien ellos sirviéron en el mundo. Las almas de los esclavos no tenían ya miedo á la de Nabofarzan: teníanla en cadenas, y le hacian los mas crueles oprobrios. ¿No eramos acaso hombres como tú, le decian ellos; pues cómo eras tan insensato, que te pudieras tener por dios? ¿No era por ventura razon que te acordaras, de que igualmente tú eras de la casta de los demas hombres? Tenia motivo, decia otro, para insultarle, por no haber querido ser tenido por hombre; pues eras un monstruo, sin sentimiento de humanidad. Bien, proseguia otro, ¿en dónde estan ahora los que te adulaban? Ahora ya no tienes cosa que dar: desdichado de ti, no puedes hacer ya mal alguno: he aquí que has parado en esclavo de tus mismos esclavos. Los dioses van despacio en hacer justicia; pero la hacen al cabo.

A tan pesadas voces, ponía Nabofarzan los ojos en el suelo, se desgrenaba con excesiva rabia y arrebatado de su despecho. Pero volviéndose á los esclavos Caronte: Tiradlo, decia, tiradlo de la cadena: enderezadlo á mal de su grado: no ha de tener ni aun el consuelo mísero de ocultar su vergüenza. Justo es que todas las almas de la Stygia le vean, para disculpar á los dioses, los quales han sufrido tanto tiempo que reynara este impio en el mundo. Esto no es aun, ó Babilonio, sino el principio de tus dolores: prepárate pues, para ser juzgado acá baxo del inflexible Minos. Juez de los infiernos.



The bark now touched the dominions of Pluto; and the ghosts ran down in crowds to the shore, gazing, with the utmost curiosity and wonder, at the living mortal, who stood distinguished among the dead in the boat: but, the moment Telemachus set his foot on the shore, they vanished, like the shades of the night before the first beams of the morning. Then Charon, turning towards him, with a brow less contracted into frowns, and a look less severe than usual, « O favoured of heaven! » said he, « since thou art permitted to enter the realms of darkness, which to all the living, besides thyself, are interdicted; make haste to push forward, whithersoever the Fates have called thee. Proceed, by this gloomy path, to the palace of Pluto, whom thou wilt find sitting upon his throne; and who will permit thee to enter those recesses of his dominion, the secrets of which I am not permitted to reveal! »

Telemachus, immediately pressing forward with an hasty step, discovered the shades gliding about on every side, more numerous than the sands upon the sea-shore; and he was struck with a religious dread, to perceive that, in the midst of the tumult and hurry of his incredible multitude, all was silent as the grave. He sees, at length, the gloomy residence of unrelenting Pluto: his hair stands erect, his legs tremble, and his voice fails him. « Tremendous power! » said he, with faltering and interrupted speech, « the son of unhappy Ulysses now stands before thee. I come to enquire, whether my father is descended into your dominions, or wheter he is still a wanderer upon the earth? »

Pluto was seated upon a throne of ebony: his countenance was pale and severe, his eyes hollow and ardent, and his brow contracted and menacing. The sight of a mortal still breathing the breath of life was hateful to his eyes: as the day is hateful to those animals that leave their recesses only by night. At his side sat Proserpine, who seemed to be the only object of his attention, and to soften him into some degree of complacency, she enjoyed a beauty that was per-

Mientras hablaba así el terrible Caronte, estaba ya la barca cerca de la orilla del imperio de Pluton. Acudieron allá todas las sombras para ver á aquel hombre vivo, que descubrian en la barca entre tantos muertos; pero al punto que Telémaco puso el pie en tierra, se desvanecieron improvisamente, á guisa de las sombras de la noche, que se disipan al albor del día. Caronte mostrándose entonces ménos cejijunto al hijo de Ulises, y mirándole con semblante harto ménos ceñudo de lo que estila, le dixo de este modo: Ya que te es concedido, ó hombre sumamente acepto á los dioses, poder entrar en el Reyno de la noche, inaccesible á los otros hombres, date priesa de ir adonde te llama el destino. Vé al palacio de Pluton por aquel obscuro camino. Allí le hallarás sentado sobre su trono, y él te dará licencia para entrar en aquellos sitios, cuyo secreto yo no puedo descubrir.

Entonces Telémaco se adelantó á grandes pasos. Veia volatear á las sombras por todas partes, en mucho mayor número que los granos de arena de que están cubiertas las riberas del mar; y en la agitación continua de aquella muchedumbre infinita que andaba discurriendo acá y allá, por aquellas vastas campañas, se le apoderó un religioso temor, observando silencio tan profundo. Avicinándose, á la lóbrega estancia del duro Pluton, se le erizaron en la cabeza todos los cabellos: sintióse zozobrar las rodillas, desfalleció la voz y apenas fué capaz de pronunciar estas voces: Vos veis, ó dios terrible, al hijo del desgraciado Ulises: vengo á saber de vos, si es que mi padre es muerto, y ha baxado á habitar en vuestro imperio, ó si discurre aun vago por el mundo.

Estaba entonces Pluton sentado sobre un trono de ébano. Era su color pálido y obscuro: los ojos hundidos y centelleantes, arrugado y amenazador el semblante. Le era odiosa la vista de un hombre vivo, como lo es la luz á los ojos de los animales que estan acostumbrados á no salir de sus cuevas sino de noche. Veíase á su lado Proserpina su esposa que era la única á quien él se dignaba de mirar, y por cuyo amor parecia que amainaba algun poco la ferocidad de su co-

petually renewed : but there was mingled with her immortal charms , something of her lord's inflexible severity.

At the foot of the throne , sat the pale father of destruction , Death , incessantly whetting a scythe , which he held in his hand . Around this horrid spectre hovered repining Cares , and injurious Suspicions ; Vengeance , distained with blood and covered with wounds ; causeless Hatred ; Avarice , gnawing her own flesh ; and Despair , the victim of her own rage ; Ambition , whose fury overturns all things , like a whirlwind ; and Treason , thirsting for blood , and not able to enjoy the mischief she produces ; Envy , shedding round her the venom that corrodes her heart , and sickening with rage at the impotence of her malice ; and Impiety , that opens for herself a gulph without bottom , in which she shall plunge at last without hope . Besides these , were nameless spectres without number , all hideous to behold ! phantoms that represent the dead , to terrify the living ; frightful dreams ; and the horrid vigils of disease and pain ! By these images of woe was Pluto surrounded ; and such were the attendants that filled his palace .

He replied , to the son of Ulysses , in a hollow tone ; and the depths of Erebus re-murmured to the sound . « If it is by fate , O mortal ! that thou hast violated this sacred asylum of the dead : that fate , which has thus distinguished thee , fulfil ! Of thy father I will tell thee nothing : it is enough that here thou art permitted to seek him . As upon the earth he was a king , thy search may be confined , on one side , to that part of Tartarus where wicked kings are consigned to punishment ; and , on the other , to that part of Elysium , where the good receive their reward : but , from hence thou canst not enter the fields of Elysium , till thou hast passed through Tartarus . Make haste thither ; and linger not in my dominions ! »

Telemachus instantly obeyed , and passed through the dreary vacuity that surrounded him with such speed , that he seemed almost to fly ; such was his impatience to behold his father , and to quit the presence

razon . Tenia ella una hermosura todavia nueva ; mas parecia que á su divino garbo habia unido no sé qué de lo fiero y cruel de su esposo .

Estaba al pie del solio la muerte pálida y devoradora con su cortante guadaña que continuamente afilaba . Volaban al contorno los melancólicos cuidados , las crueles desconfianzas , las venganzas cubiertas de heridas , y destilando sangre los injustos oídos : la avaricia , comiéndose á sí misma : el despecho que se destroza con sus mismas manos : la loca soberbia que lo arruina todo : la traición que se quiere alimentar de sangre , y que no puede con todo eso gozar de todos los males que hace : la envidia que derrama al rededor de sí el mortal veneno , y que se pasa á rabia en la imposibilidad de dañar : la impiedad que se labra un abismo sin suelo , en el qual ella propia se precipita , sin esperanza : las visiones horrendas , las fantasmas que representan los muertos para espantar á los vivos : los terribles sueños , y aquellos crueles desvelos que causan tanta pena , como los sueños mas horrosos . Todas estas imágenes funestas ceñian al fiero Pluton , y llenaban todo su palacio .

El con una voz ronca , que hizo retumbar el Cocito respondió así á Telémaco : Mortal joven , pues que te ha concedido la suerte violar este sagrado retiro de las almas separadas del cuerpo , pasa adelante adonde te conduce tu superior destino . No te diré donde se halla tu padre , pudiendo tá libremente buscarle . Ulises ha sido Rey en el mundo : por eso no te queda que registrar sino á una parte el Tartaro , donde son castigados los Reyes malos , y de la otra el Elisio , donde los Reyes buenos son galardonados . Mas sabe que de aquí no puedes conducirte al Elisio , sino habiendo pasado por en medio el Tartaro : date prisa , pues , de ir allá , y salirte quanto antes de mi imperio .

Partióse Telémaco entónces con tal celeridad , que parecia volar por aquellos vacios sitios , é inmensos : tan impaciente estaba por saber si podia allá baxo ver á su padre , y alejarse de la presencia de aquel tirano ,

of a tyrant, equally the terror of the living and the dead! He soon perceived the gloomy tract of Tartarus, at a small distance before him: from this place ascended a black cloud of pestilential smoke, which would have been fatal in the realms of life. This smoke hovered over a river of fire; the flames of which, returning upon themselves, roared in a burning vortex, with a noise like that of an impetuous torrent, precipitated from the highest rock; so that in this region of woe, no other sound could be distinctly heard.

Telemachus, secretly animated by Minerva, entered the gulph without fear. The first object that presented, was a great number of men, who, born in a mean condition, were now punished for having sought to acquire riches, by fraud, treachery, and violence. Among them, he remarked many of those impious hypocrites, who, affecting a zeal for religion, played upon the credulity of others, and gratified their own ambition. These wretches, who had abused virtue itself, the best gift of heaven, to dishonest purposes, were punished as the most criminal of men: the child who had murdered his parents, the wife who had imbrued her hands in a husband's blood, and the traitor who had sold his country in violation of every tie, were punished with less severity than these. Such was the decree pronounced by the judges of the dead; because hypocrites are not content to be wicked upon the common terms; they would be vicious, with the reputation of virtue; and by an appearance of virtue, which at length is found to be false, they prevent mankind from putting confidence in the true. The gods, whose omniscience they mock, and whose honour they degrade, take pleasure in the exertion of all their power to avenge the insult.

After these appeared others, to whom the world scarce imputes guilt, but whom the divine vengeance pursues without pity; the liar, the ungrateful, the

que igualmente a medrenta vivos y muertos. Bien presto vió de cerca el negro Tartaro, de donde se esparcía un humo espeso y lóbrego, cuyo olor pestilente bastaría á matar todos los vivos, si se esparciera sobre la tierra. Debaxo de aquel humo, que lo cubria, habia un rio de fuego; cuyo estruendo, semejante al de los torren-tes mas impetuosos, quando se precipitan de las mas altas rocas en la profundidad de sus sumideros, hacia que ninguna otra cosa se pudiera escuchar con distincion.

Animado secretamente Telémaco de la diosa Minerva, entró en aquel abismo sin miedo. Vió luego una gran muchedumbre de hombres, que habian vivido en el mundo en las mas baxas condiciones, y allí eran castigados por haber procurado las riquezas con engaños, con traiciones y con crueldad. Reparó en aquel puesto muchos sacrilegos hipócritas, que fingiendo tener amor á la Religion, se habian de ella valido, como de un buen pretexto para contentar su soberbia, y hacer burla de los hombres crédulos. Estos, que se habian servido mal hasta de la virtud, que es la mas grande dádiva, que nos pueden hacer los dioses, éran castigados como los mas delinquentes entre todos los hombres. Los hijos, que habian degollado padre, ó madre: las esposas, que habian bañado sus manos en la sangre de sus maridos: los traidores, que habian puesto en poder de los enemigos la patria, despues de haber violado todos los juramentos que habian hecho, padecian harto menores penas que los hipócritas. Así lo habian querido los tres Jueces del infierno: y la razon que les habia movido á hacerlo era porque no se contentan los hipócritas con ser malos, como el resto de los impios; mas quieren á mas de eso ser tenidos por buenos, y hacen con su falsa virtud que no se atrevan los hombres á creer la verdadera. Los dioses, de quienes se han burlado en el mundo, y á quienes han hecho despreciables en la opinion de los otros, ahora tienen gusto de emplear todo su poder en la venganza de sus insultos.

Cercanos á estos se veian allí otros muchos que en la opinion comun no son mirados por delinquentes; pero que son perseguidos sin compasion de la divina

parasite, who lavishes adulation upon vice, and the slanderer, who falsely detracts from virtue; all, who judge rashly of what they know but in part, and thus injure the reputation of the innocent.

But, among all who suffered for ingratitude, those were punished with most severity, who had been ungrateful to the gods. «What!» said Minos, «is he considered as a monster, who is guilty of ingratitude to his father or his friend, from whom he has received some such benefits as mortals can bestow; and shall the wretch glory in his crime, who is ungrateful to God, the giver of life, and of every blessing it includes? Does he not owe his existence rather, to the author of nature, than to the parents through whom his existence was derived? The less these crimes are censured and punished upon earth, the more are they obnoxious, in hell, to implacable vengeance, which no force can resist, and no subtilty elude.»

Telemachus, seeing a man condemned by the judges, whom he found sitting, ventured to ask them what was his crime: he was immediately answered by the offender himself. «I have done,» said he, «no evil; my pleasure consisted wholly in doing good. I have been just, munificent, liberal, and compassionate; of what crime, then, can I be accused?» — «With respect to man,» replied Minos, «thou art accused of none: but didst thou not owe less to man than to the gods? If so, what are thy pretensions to justice? Thou hast punctually fulfilled thy duty to men, who are but dust; thou hast been virtuous; but thy virtue terminated wholly in thyself, without reference to the gods who gave it: thy virtue was to be thy own felicity; and, to thyself, thou wast all in all. Thou hast, indeed, been thy own deity. But the gods, by whom all things have been created, and who have created all things for themselves, cannot give up their rights? thou hast forgotten them, and they will forget thee. Since thou hast desired to exist for thyself, and not for them; to thyself they will deliver thee up:

venganza. Estos son los ingratos, los mentirosos, los lisonjeros que han alabado el vicio: los críticos malignos que han procurado oscurecer á la virtud mas pura; y finalmente, aquellos que han juzgado las cosas temerariamente, sin saberlas con fundamento, y que por esta via han ocasionado algun daño á la reputacion de los inocentes.

Pero entre todas las ingratitudes, la que se tiene á los dioses, era castigada como la mas iniqua de todas. Porque, decia Minos, es un monstruo de ingratitud quien no corresponde á su padre ó amigo, de quien ha recibido solamente algun socorro; y se jacta el hombre de ser ingrato á los dioses, de quienes ha recibido la vida y todos los bienes, que en ella se comprehenden. ¿Acaso no les debe su nacimiento mas que á los mismos padres que le engendraron? Quanto mas los delitos quedan sin castigo, y se excusan en el mundo, tanto son mas en el infierno el objeto de mas implacable venganza, y de ninguna culpa puede excusarse.

Viendo sentados Telémaco á los tres jueces que condenaban á un hombre, tuvo aliento para preguntar quales eran sus culpas. Al punto el condenado, empezando á hablar, dixo en alta voz: Yo no he hecho jamas algun mal: he puesto todo mi gusto en beneficiar á los otros: he sido magnífico, liberal, justo, condescendiente al arbitrio ageno: ¿Qué es pues, lo que se me puede reprehender? No se te condena, le dixo entonces Minos, que hayas cometido algun pecado contra los hombres; pero no debias tener mas atencion á los hombres, que á los dioses. ¿Qué justicia es pues esta tuya, de que blasonas? No has faltado en alguna obligacion ácia los hombres, que no son cosa: has sido virtuoso; pero esa virtud la has referido á tí propio, y no á los dioses, que te la habian dado; porque querias gozar del fruto de tu propria virtud, y la has ceñido á tí solo. Tú has sido tu dios; mas no pueden los dioses renunciar á sus propios derechos: ellos son los que lo han hecho todo, y ninguna cosa han obrado sino para sí mismos. Te has olvidado de ellos: ellos se olvidaran de tí; y ya que has querido ser de tí

seek, then, thy consolation in thine own heart. Thou art separated, for ever, from man, whom, for thy own sake, thou hast desired to please: and left to thyself alone, that idol of thy heart! Learn, now at least, that piety is that virtue of which the gods are objects; and that, without this, no virtue can deserve the name. The false lustre of that with which thou hast long dazzled the eyes of man, who are easily deceived, will deceive no more: men distinguish that only from which they derive pain or pleasure, into virtue and vice; and are, therefore, alike ignorant both of good and evil: but here, the perspicacity of Divine wisdom discerns all things as they are: the judgment of men, from external appearances, is reversed; what they have admired, is frequently condemned, and what they have condemned, approved.

These words, to the boaster of philosophic virtue, were like a stroke of thunder; and he was unable to sustain the shock. The self-complacency with which he had been used to contemplate his moderation, his fortitude, his generosity, was now changed to anguish and regret: the view of his own heart, at enmity with the gods, became his punishment: he now saw, and was doomed, for ever, to see himself by the light of truth: he perceived, that the approbation of men, which all his actions had been directed to acquire, was erroneous and vain. When he looked inward, he found every thing totally changed; he was no longer the same being; and all comfort was eradicated from his heart. His conscience, which had hitherto witnessed in his favour, now rose up against him, and reproached him even with his virtues; which, not having deity for their principle and end, were erroneous and illusive. He was overwhelmed with consternation and trouble; with shame, remorse, and despair. The furies, indeed, forbore to torment him: he was delivered over to himself, and they were satisfied: his own heart was the avenger of the gods, whom he had despised. As he could not escape from himself, he retired to the most gloomy recesses, that he might be concealed from others: he sought for darkness, but he found it not; light still persecuted and pursued him: the light of

mismo, y no de ellos, te dexaran para tí. Busca, pues, ahora, si puedes, tu consuelo dentro de tu corazón. Héte aquí separado por siempre de los hombres, á los quales has querido agrandar: héte aquí solo contigo mismo, que has sido tu idolo; aprende, que no se halla alguna verdadera virtud sin respeto y amor á los dioses, á quienes somos deudores de todo. Tu fingida virtud, con que han sido engañados los hombres tan largo tiempo, siendo faciles de ser engañados, ya está para ser confundida. No juzgando los hombres de los vicios y las virtudes sino por lo que á ellos agrada, y es conforme á su genio, son ciegos, tanto en discernir el bien, como el mal. Aquí una luz divina vence todos sus juicios superficiales; condena de ordinario lo que ellos admiran y justifican lo que condenan.

Herido aquel filósofo de estas palabras, como de un rayo, no podia sufrirse mas á sí mismo. La complacencia que habia en lo pasado tenido en su moderación; su esfuerzo y generosas inclinaciones, se truecan en desesperacion. La vista de su propio corazón, aborrecible á los dioses, se le transforma en pena. Véese, y no puede hacer ménos que verse: ver la vanidad de los juicios humanos á los quales en todas ocasiones trató de complacer; y se hace en él una general mutacion, como si las entrañas se le revolvieran de arriba abaxo. Hallase ahora muy diferente del que primero. Fáltale toda la asistencia del corazón: su conciencia, cuya aprobacion le habia en lo pasado sido tan agradable, se levanta contra él, y le reprehende furiosamente el desórden y la ilusion de todas sus virtudes que no tuvieron al divino culto, ni por su principio, ni por su fin, y se halla ya turbado, del todo envilecido, lleno de vergüenza, de remordimientos, y de despecho. No le dan tormentos las furias, porque basta dexarle entre sus mismas manos; y porque su corazón venga bastantemente á los dioses, que fueron antes de él desgraciados. Busca el infeliz el lugar mas obscuro, para poderse esconder de los otros, no pudiendo esconderse de sí; mas buscando tinieblas, no las puede encontrar. Una importuna luz le sigue á todas partes: en todas partes los rayos penetrantes de

The contrast of these pictures, widely different, was the punishment of their vanity; and it was remarkable, that the most wicked were the objects of the most extravagant praise; because the most wicked are most to be feared, and because they exact, with less shame, the servile adulation of the poets and orators of their time.

Their groans perpetually ascended from this dreadful abyss, where they saw nothing but the derision and insult, of which they were themselves the objects; where every thing repulsed, opposed, and confounded them. As they sported with the lives of mankind upon the earth, and pretended that the whole species was created for their use; they were, in Tartarus, delivered over to the capricious tyranny of slaves, who made them taste all the bitterness of servitude in their turn: they obeyed with unutterable anguish; and without hope that the iron hand of oppression would lie lighter upon them. Under the strokes of these slaves, now their merciless tyrants, they lay passive and impotent, like an anvil under the hammers of the Cyclops, when Vulcan urges their labour at the flaming furnaces of mount *Ætna*.

Telemachus observed the countenance of these criminals to be pale and ghastly, strongly expressive of the torment they suffered at the heart. They looked inward with a self-*abhorrence*, now inseparable from their existence: their crimes themselves were become their punishment, and it was not necessary that greater should be inflicted: they haunted them like hideous spectres, and continually started up before them in all their deformity. They wished for a second death, that might separate them from these ministers of vengeance, as the first had separated their spirits from the body; a death, that might at once extinguish all consciousness and sensibility; they called upon the depths of hell to hide them, from the persecuting beams of truth, in impenetrable darkness: but they are reserved for the cup of vengeance, which though they drink of it for ever, shall be ever full! The truth, from which they fled, has overtaken them, an invincible and unrelenting enemy! The ray, which once might have

bia pintado la lisonja, la contraposición de dos retratos tan contrarios son el suplicio digno de su orgullo. Allí se reparaba, que habian sido los mas malvados Reyes los que habian en vida recibido mas magnificas alabanzas; porque los malos son mas temidos que los buenos, y oyen sin vergüenza la vil adulacion de los poetas, y de los oradores de sus tiempos.

Oyense los lamentos que hacen en aquellas profundas tinieblas, donde no pueden ver sino los insultos y los escarnios, que han de sufrir. No tienen cosa alguna cerca de sí, que no los desprecie, no los contradiga, no los confunda, quando antes se burlaban de la vida de los hombres en el mundo, y pretendian que todo se habia hecho para solamente servirlos. Allí estan abandonados á todos los caprichos de ciertos esclavos, que sucesivamente les hacen tolerar una servidumbre durísima. Ellos les sirven con gran dolor, y en su esclavitud no les queda esperanza de poderla algun tiempo suavizar. A los golpes de los esclavos que son inclementes tiranos, estan ellos como los yunques baxo de los martillos de los Cyclopes, quando en las oficinas ardientes del *Etna* les apremia Vulcano para el trabajo.

Advirtió allí Telémaco ciertos semblantes pálidos, horribles y melancólicos; y que una funesta tristeza roe interiormente á todos aquellos reos. Tienen horror de sí mismos, y no pueden librarse del horror, como no pueden desnudarse de su naturaleza. No han menester mas castigo de sus delitos que los delitos mismos. Vénlos continuamente con toda su fealdad, y se les presentan ánte los ojos, y les van persiguiendo sin piedad, como horribles fastamas. Para escaparse de ellos, quisieran una muerte mas violenta, que aquella que les ha separado de los cuerpos. En la desesperación en que estan, llaman por alivio á la muerte, pero una muerte que les pueda quitar todo sentido y conocimiento. Piden á los abismos que se les traguen, para huir de los rayos vengadores de la verdad, que les acongoja: pero son reservados á la venganza, que destilando gota á gota sobre ellos, jamas se secará. La verdad que temieron ver, es el suplicio que les castiga. Venla, y no tienen ojos sino

illuminated them, like the mild radiance of the day, now pierces them like lightning: a fierce and fatal fire, that, without injury to the external parts, infixes a burning torment at the heart! By truth, now an avenging flame, the very soul is melted, like metal in a furnace: it dissolves all, but destroys nothing; it disunites the first elements of life, yet the sufferer can never die: he is, as it were, divided against himself, without rest, and without comfort; animated by no vital principle, but the rage that kindles at his own misconduct, and the dreadful madness that results from despair!

Among these objects, at the sight of which the hair of Telemachus stood erect, he beheld many of the ancient kings of Lydia; who were punished for having preferred the selfish gratification of an idle and voluptuous life, to that labour for the good of others, which, to royalty, is a duty of indispenible obligation.

These kings mutually reproached each other with their folly, « Did I not often recommend to you, » said one of them to his son, « during the last years of my life, when old age had given weight to my counsel, the reparation of the mischiefs that my negligence had produced? » — « Unhappy wretch! » replied the son; « thou art the cause of my perdition: it was thy example that made me vain-glorious, proud, voluptuous, and cruel. While I saw thee surrounded with flattery, and relaxed into luxury and sloth, I also insensibly acquired the love of pleasure and adulation. I thought the rest of men were, to kings, what horses and other beasts of burden are to men; animals wholly unworthy of regard, except for the drudgery they perform, and the conveniences they procure: this was my opinion, and I learnt it of thee. I followed thy example, and share thy misery! » These reproaches were mingled with the most horrid execrations; and mutual rage and indignation aggravated the torments of hell.

Around these wretched princes, there still hovered, like owls in the twilight, causeless jealousies and vain alarms; mistrust and dread, which revenge, upon

para verla levantarse contra ellos. Su vista es la que los atraviesa, los destroza, y atormenta en sí mismos: ella es como el rayo, que sin destruir afuera cosa alguna, penetra hasta lo íntimo de las entrañas. Semajante al metal de un horno muy encendido, está la alma empapada del fuego vengador. No dexa éste alguna consistencia, y no consume cosa: disuelve hasta los primeros principios de la vida, pero no se puede morir. El condenado está como dividido de sí: no puede ya encontrar, ni ayuda, ni reposo por un momento: y no está unido ya consigo mismo, sino con la rabia que contra sí tiene, y con la pérdida de toda esperanza, que le saca de juicio.

Entre aquellos objetos que hacian erizar los cabellos á Telémaco, vió á muchos antiguos Reyes de Lidia, que eran castigados por haber antepuesto las delicias de una vida suave y afeminada al trabajo, que para alivio de los pueblos no debe separarse de la dignidad Real.

Estos Reyes se impropereaban unos á otros su ceguedad. « No te habia encargado yo muchas veces en mi vejez, antes de salir de la vida, así uno de ellos decia á otro, que habia sido su hijo en el mundo, que repararas los males que habia ocasionado mi descuido? » Ah, padre desdichado! Le respondia el hijo, vos me habeis despenado a este abysmo de perdicion! Vuestro exemplo ha sido el que me ha acostumbrado al orgullo, al fausto y á la crueldad con los otros hombres. Viendoos reynar con tanto regalo, y ceñido de viles aduladores, me acostumbré á amar los placeres y adulación. Creí que eran los demas hombres respecto de los Reyes, lo que son las bestias respecto de los hombres; esto es, que eran animales, de quienes no se hace algun aprecio, sino en quanto son de servicio, y de alguna comodidad. Creílo, y vos me lo hicisteis creer; y ahora padezco tantos males, solo por haberos imitado. A tales impropereos añadian las mas horribles maldiciones, y parecia que los animaba la rabia para despedazarse uno á otro.

En torno de estos Reyes volateaban tambien, como aves nocturnas, las crueles sospechas y vanos espantos, las desconfianzas, que vengán á los pueblos de la

kings, their disregard of mankind, avarice, insatiable of wealth; false honour, ever tyrannical and oppressive; and effeminate luxury, a deceitful demon, that aggravates every evil; and bestows only imaginary good.

Many kings were also severely punished, not for the mischief they had done, but for the good they had neglected to do. Every crime which is committed by the subject, in consequence of laws not enforced, is the crime of the king; for kings reign only as ministers of the law. To kings also are imputed all the disorders that arise from pomp, luxury, and every other excess, which excites irregular and impetuous passions, that cannot be gratified but by the violation of the common rights of mankind. But the princes who, instead of watching over their people, as a shepherd watches over his flock, worried and devoured them like the wolf, were punished with the most exemplary severity.

In this abyss of darkness and misery, Telemachus beheld, with yet greater astonishment, many kings, who had been honoured for their personal virtues upon earth, but were, notwithstanding, condemned to the pains of Tartarus, for implicitly leaving the administration of government to wicked and crafty men; they were punished for mischiefs which they had suffered to be perpetrated under the sanction of their authority. The greater part of them, indeed, had been, by principle, neither virtuous nor vicious; supinely taking the colour impressed upon them from without; they did not shun the truth when it presented itself: but they had no relish for virtue, no delight in doing good.

crudelidad de sus Principes: la hambre insaciable de las riquezas: la engañosa soberbia, siempre tiránica, y la vil afeminación que redobla á los hombres todos sus males, sin que puedan tener algun deleite que sea verdadero.

Veíanse muchos de estos Reyes castigados severamente, no por los males que habian hecho; sino por razon del bien que habian de haber hecho en el mundo. Imputábanse, á los soberanos que no deben reynar, sino para que, mediante su ministerio, reynen las leyes, todas las culpas de los vasallos que procedian de su negligencia en hacer observar las leyes. Imputábanseles tambien todos los desórdenes, que proceden del fausto, de la gala, y de todos los otros excesos, que ponen á los hombres en un estado violento, y los instigan á despreciar las leyes, para adquirir riquezas. Eran especialmente tratados con aspereza aquellos Reyes, que en lugar de ser buenos y vigilantes pastores de sus propios súbditos, no habian pensado sino en destruir el ganado, como lobos hambrientos.

Pero lo que causó á Telémaco harto mayor espanto fué ver en aquel abismo de tinieblas y males un infinito número de Reyes, que habiendo estado en el mundo en reputacion de muy buenos, habian sido arrojados á las penas eternas del Infierno, por haberse dexado gobernar de hombres malvados, y engañadores. Eran castigados allí por aquellos males, que habian dexado de hacer con su autoridad, puesta en manos de sus ministros. A mas de esto, la mayor parte de aquellos Reyes no habian sido buenos ni malos: tan grande habia sido su flaqueza: no habian temido jamas no conocer la verdad: no habian tenido discrecion de la virtud, y no habian puesto su gloria propia en beneficiar á los otros.



# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XIX.

### ARGUMENT.

TELEMACHUS enters the field of Elysium, where he is shown by his great grandfather, Arcesius, who assures him that Ulysses is still alive; that he shall see him in Ithaca, and succeed to his throne. Arcesius describes the felicity of the just, especially of good kings, who have revered the gods, and given happiness to their people: he makes Telemachus observe, that heroes, those who have excelled only in the arts of destruction, have a much less glorious reward, and are allotted a separate district by themselves: Telemachus receives some general instructions, and then returns back to the camp.

WHEN Telemachus quitted this place, he felt himself relieved, as if a mountain had been removed from his breast. This relief, so sudden and so great, impressed him with a strong sense of the misery of those who are confined in it without hope of deliverance. He was terrified at having seen so many kings punished with much greater severity than any other offenders: « Have kings then, » said he, « so many duties to fulfil, so many difficulties to surmount, and so many dangers to avoid? Is the knowledge that is necessary to put them upon their guard, as well against themselves as others, so difficult to be acquired? and, after all the envy, tumult, and opposition of a transitory life, are they consigned to the intolerable and eternal pains of hell? What folly, then, to wish for royalty! How happy the peaceful private station, in which the practice of virtue is comparatively easy! »

These reflections filled him with confusion and trouble; his knees trembled, his heart throbbled with perturbation, and he felt something like that hopeless misery of which he had just been a spectator; but, in

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XIX.

### SUMARIO.

TELÉMACO entra en los campos Elisios, donde le conoce Arcesio su bisavuelo, que le asegura que Ulises vive, que lo volverá á ver en Ithaca, y que reynará en ella despues de él. Le pinta Arcesio la felicidad de que gozan los hombres justos, mayormente los buenos Reyes que, durante su vida, han servido á los dioses, y hecho felices á los pueblos á quienes mandaban. Le hace observar que los heroes que solo han sobresalido en el arte de la guerra estan en un lugar separado, y mucho menos felices. Da instrucciones á Telemaco, y despues se va este para restituirse prontamente al campo de los aliados.

QUANDO salió Telémaco de aquel lugar, se sintió del todo aliviado, como si se le hubiera un monte descargado de encima. De este alivio entendió quan grande era la desgracia de aquellos que allí estaban cerrados, sin poder ya salir; y estaba todo espantado, considerando con quanto mas rigor que los otros reos eran atormentados los Reyes. Luego estan sujetos los soberanos, decia él, á tantas obligaciones, á tantos riesgos: á tantas asechanzas: tan dificultoso les es conocer la verdad para defenderse de los demas, y de sí mismos: y finalmente han de sufrir tormentos tan horribles en el Infierno, despues de haber sido tan envidiados, y de haber padecido tantos trabajos y tantas oposiciones en una vida tan corta? ¡Loco aquel que desea reynar! ¡Feliz el que se ciñe á una condicion privada y pacífica, en que le es mucho ménos dificultoso conservar la virtud!

Haciendo estas consideraciones, se turbó interiormente Telémaco: erizóse y cayó en desmayo, que le hizo sentir alguna parte del despecho de aquellos miserables, que poco ántes habia visto. Mas quanto se

proportion as he advanced, and the realms of darkness, despair, and horror, became more remote, he felt new courage gradually spring up in his breast; he breathed with greater freedom; and perceived, at a distance, the pure and blissful light, which brightens the residence of heroic virtue.

In this place resided all the good kings, who had governed mankind from the beginning of time. They were separated from the rest of the just; for, as wicked princes suffer more dreadful punishment than other offenders in Tartarus, so good kings enjoy infinitely greater felicity than other lovers of virtue, in the fields of Elysium.

Telemachus advanced towards these happy and illustrious beings, whom he found in groves of delightful fragrance, reclining upon the downy turf, where the flowers and herbage were perpetually renewed; a thousand rills wandered through these scenes of delight and refreshed the soil with a gentle and unpolluted wave: the song of innumerable birds echoed in the grove; and while spring strewed the ground with her flowers, autumn loaded the trees with her fruit. In this place the burning heat of the dog-star was never felt; and the stormy north was forbidden to scatter over it the frosts of winter. Neither war, that is athirst for blood; nor envy, that wounds with an envenomed tooth, like the vipers that are wreathed round her arms and fostered in her bosom; nor jealousy, nor distrust, nor fears, nor vain desires, invade these sacred domains of peace: the day is here without end, and the shades of night are unknown. Here the bodies of the blessed are clothed with a pure and lambent light, as with a garment; a light, not resembling that vouchsafed to mortals upon earth, which is rather darkness visible: but a celestial radiance, without a name; an emanation, that penetrates the grossest body, with more subtilty than the rays of the sun penetrate the purest crystal, which rather strengthens than dazzles the sight, and diffuses through the soul, a serenity which no language can express. By this

alejaba de aquella funesta morada de las tinieblas del horror y de la desesperacion, otro tanto poco á poco le comenzaba á renacer el esfuerzo. Respiraba, y ya de léjos vislumbraba la pura luz, y apacible de aquella afortunada habitacion, en donde moran los héroes.

Allí habitaban todos los Reyes buenos, que mientras tuvieron vida habian gobernado sabiamente á sus súbditos, y estaban separados de los otros justos. Como los malos Príncipes en el Tártaro sufrían ciertas penas infinitamente mas crueles que las de los otros reos de condicion privada; así en los campos Elisios gozaban los buenos Reyes una felicidad sin comparacion mayor que la de los demas hombres, que habian en el mundo amado á la virtud.

Adelantóse Telémaco ácia aquellos Reyes que estaban en ciertos bosquecillos fragrantes, sentados sobre algunos céspedes, siempre verdes, y siempre floridos. Mil arroyuelos de agua cristalina regaban aquellos amenos sitios, y mantenian en ellos una deliciosa frescura: una multitud sin número de avecitas hacia resonar con su dulce armonía todos aquellos puestos, que ocupaban los Príncipes bienaventurados; y allí se veian juntas con los frutos mas ricos del Otoño, que estaban pendientes de los árboles, las mas hermosas flores de la Primavera, que nacia baxo sus huellas. Allí nunca se experimentaron los ardores de la Canicula; ni el tempestuoso Aquilon se atrevió jamás á soplar allí, ni hacer que se sintiera el rigor del Invierno. Ni la guerra siempre sedienta de sangre; ni la cruel envidia, que muerde con sus venenosos dientes algunas víboras enroscadas sobre su pecho, y en torno de los brazos; ni los zelos, ni las desconfianzas, ni el temor, ni los deseos vanos se acercan jamás á aquella habitacion dichosa de paz. Allí el día no tiene fin, y no se conoce la noche ni sus tinieblas. En contorno á los cuerpos de los justos se difunde una pura y apacible luz, que con sus rayos los ciñe, como ropage. No es esta luz semejante á aquella con que se iluminan los ojos de los infelices mortales, la qual toda es tinieblas, antes que luz; es aquella una celestial gloria. Ella penetra mas sutilmente por los cuerpos mas densos, que no

ethereal essence, the blessed are sustained in everlasting life; it pervades them. it incorporates with them, as food incorporates with the mortal body; they see it, they feel it, they breathe it, and it produces in them an inexhaustible source of serenity and joy. It is a fountain of delight, in which they are absorbed, as fishes are absorbed in the sea: they wish for nothing, and, having nothing, they possess all things. This celestial light satiates the hunger of the soul: every desire is precluded; and they have a fulness of joy which sets them above all that mortals seek with such restless ardour, to fill the vacuity that aches for ever in their breast. All the delightful objects that surround them are disregarded, for their felicity springs up within; and being perfect, can derive nothing from without; so the gods, satiated with nectar and ambrosia, disdain, as gross and impure, all the dainties of the most luxurious table upon earth. From these seats of tranquillity, all evils fly to a remote distance; death, disease, poverty, and pain; regret, and remorse; fear, and even hope, which is sometimes not less painful than fear itself: animosity, disgust, and resentment, are for ever denied access.

The lofty mountains of Thrace, whose summits, hoary with everlasting snows, have pierced the clouds from the beginning of time, might sooner be overturned from their foundations, though deep as the centre, than the peace of these happy beings be interrupted for a moment. They are, indeed, touched with pity at the miseries of life; but it is a soothing and tender passion, that takes nothing from their immutable felicity. Their countenances shine with a divine glory; with the bloom of unfading youth, the brightness of everlasting joy: of joy, which, superior to the wanton levity of mirth, is calm, silent, and solemn, the sublime fruition of truth and virtue. They feel, every moment, what a mother feels at the return of

penetran los rayos del sol por el transparente cristal: no deslumbra; antes por el contrario fortifica los ojos, y mantiene siempre en lo íntimo de la alma una no sé qué serenidad. Esta sola alimenta aquellos hombres dichosos: de ellos sale, y en ellos entra, se interna, y se incorpora en ellos propios: ellos la ven, la sienten, la respiran, y engendra en ellos una tranquilidad y alegría, que no se agota. Estánse sumergidos en aquel abismo de gozo, como en el mar los peces: no desean alguna cosa, y sin tener cosa, lo tienen todo; porque el gusto de aquella luz purísima contenta toda la hambre de sus corazones. Todos sus deseos están satisfechos, y su abundancia hace que en nada cuiden de aquellas cosas, que los hombres vacíos y hambrientos van buscando en el mundo. No hacen algun aprecio de todas las riquezas y delicias que los rodean; porque el colmo de su felicidad, que proviene de lo interior, no les dexa alguna afición a todo lo que ven delicioso á la parte de afuera; semejantes puntualmente á los dioses, que saciados con el nectar y ambrosia, no se dignarian alimentar de los manjares groseros, que les sirvieran á la mesa mas suntuosa de los mortales. Huyen todos los males lejos de aquellos sitios de eterna tranquilidad: ni puede en ellos entrar la muerte, las enfermedades, la pobreza, el dolor, las allicciones, los remordimientos, los temores, las esperanzas mismas, que á veces cuestan tanto temor; las discordias, los disgustos, y los enojos.

Bien pudieran arrancarse de sus fundamentos, ahondados en el centro de la tierra, las montañas de Tracia, que con las cimas cubiertas de nieve, y hielo, desde el principio del mundo predominan las nubes; pero los corazones de aquellos justos no podrian ni aun conmoverse, ni recibir alteracion alguna. Solamente se compadecen de las miserias que oprimen á los hombres que viven en la tierra; pero esta es una piedad dulce y tranquila, que en nada altera su felicidad inmutable. Descubren en sus rostros una juventud eterna, una dicha eterna, una gloria toda divina. Su alegría no tiene cosa de burlesco, ó de descompuesto. Es una alegría apacible, noble, llena de magestad: es un sublime gozo de la verdad y virtud aquel placer, con

an only son, whom she believed to be dead; but the pleasure, which in the breast of the mother is transient, is permanent in theirs; it can neither languish nor cease; they have all the gladness that is inspired by wine, without either the tumult or the folly.

They converse together concerning what they see, and what they enjoy; they despise the opprobrious luxury and idle pomp of their former condition, which they review with disgust and regret; they enjoy the remembrance of their difficulties and distress during the short period in which, to maintain their integrity, it was necessary they should strive, not only against others, but themselves; and they acknowledge the guidance and protection of the gods, who conducted them in safety through so many dangers, with gratitude and admiration. Something ineffable and divine is continually poured into their hearts something like an efflux of divinity itself, which incorporates with their own nature. They see, they feel, that they are happy; and are secretly conscious that they shall be happy for ever. They sing the praises of the gods, as with one voice: in the whole assembly there is but one mind, and one heart, and the same stream of divine felicity circulates through every breast.

In this sacred and supreme delight, whole ages glide away unperceived, and seem shorter than the happiest hours upon earth; but gliding ages still leave their happiness entire. They reign together, not upon thrones, which the hand of man can overturn, but in themselves, with a power that is absolute and immutable, not derived from without, or dependant upon a despicable and wretched multitude. They are not distinguished by the crowns that so often conceal, under a false lustre, the mournful gloom of anxiety and terror. The gods themselves have placed upon their heads diadems of everlasting splendour, the symbols and the pledge of happiness and immortality.

el qual estan continuamente embelesados. Tienen sin intercadencias en todos los instantes aquel júbilo mismo, que experimenta una madre, que vuelve á ver al hijo que tenia por muerto; pero tal alegría, que en ella es momentánea, no se ausenta jamas de sus corazones: jamas desmaya por un solo momento, antes siempre se renueva en ellos. Tienen de la embriaguez el estar transportados; pero sin turbacion ni ceguedad.

Discurren juntos de lo que ven y oyen: huellan las regaladas delicias, y vanas grandezas de sus condiciones antiguas, de que ahora se conduelen: acuérdanse con gusto de aquellos melancólicos, mas breves años, en que para ser buenos, hubieron menester pelear contra sí propios, y contra el torrente de los hombres malos; y admiran el auxilio y favor de los dioses, que los llevaron como por la mano á la virtud, por medio de tantos y tan graves peligros. Corre en su corazon continuamente no sé qué de divino, como un torrente de la misma divinidad, que con ellos se une. Ven ser felices, lo gustan y conocen que lo serán para siempre. Cantan todos á coros loores á los dioses, y todos juntos no hacen sino una sola voz, un solo pensamiento, un solo corazon, una sola felicidad, que en aquellas almas unidas hace como el fluxu y refluxo del mar.

En aquel éxtasis soberano corren con mas rapidez los siglos, que las horas de los mortales; y sin embargo mil y otros mil siglos no disminuyen alguna parte de su felicidad, siempre nueva, y siempre toda entera. Reynan todos á una, no sobre Tronos, que manos de hombres puedan abatir, sino en sí mismos con poder inmutable; porque no tienen ya necesidad de ser terribles con una potencia prestada de un pueblo vil y desgraciado. No llevan ya las vanas diademas, cuya luz oculta tantos temores, y afaes tan terribles. Los mismos dioses les coronaron con sus propias manos de algunas guirnaldas de flores, que nunca se marchitan.

Telemachus, who looked round these happy fields for his father in vain, was so struck with the calm but sublime enjoyments of the place, that he was now grieved not to find him among the dead, and lamented the necessity he was under himself of returning back to the living: «It is here alone,» said he, «that there is life: the shadow only, and not the reality, is to be found upon earth.» He observed, however, with astonishment, that the number of kings that were punished in Tartarus was great, and the number of those that were rewarded in Elysium, was small: from this disproportion, he inferred that there were but few princes whose fortitude could effectually resist their own power, and the flattery by which their passions were continually excited: he perceived that good kings were, for this reason, rare; and that the greater number are so wicked, that if the gods, after having suffered them to abuse their power during life, were not to punish them among the dead, they would cease to be just.

Telemachus, not seeing his father Ulysses among these happy few, looked round for his grandfather, the divine Laertes. While his eyes were ineffectually employed in this search, an old man advanced towards him, whose appearance was, in the highest degree, venerable and majestic: his old age did not resemble that of men, who bend under the weight of years, upon earth; it was a kind of nameless indication, that he had been old before he died; it was something that blended all the dignity of age with all the graces of youth; for to those who enter the fields of Elysium however old and decrepit, the graces of youth are immediately restored. This venerable figure came up hastily to Telemachus; and looking upon him with a familiar complacency, as one whom he knew and loved; the youth, to whom he was wholly a stranger, stood silent in confusion and suspense.

«I perceive, my son,» said the shade, «that thou dost not recollect me; but I am not offended. I am Arcesius, the father of Laertes; and my days upon earth were accomplished, a little before Ulysses, my grandson, went from Ithaca to the siege of Troy: thou

Telemaco, que andaba en busca de su padre, y en aquellos bellos parages habia esperado encontrarle, quedó así aprisionado de aquel gusto de paz, y de felicidad, que quisiera haber hallado allí á Ulises, y se afligia de haberse de volver al mundo entre los hombres. Aquí, decia él, se encuentra la verdadera vida, y la nuestra no es otra, que una muerte. Pero lo que le daba espanto, era el haber visto en el Tartaro castigados á tantos Reyes, y el ver tan pocos en los campos Elisios. Comprehendió, que hay muy pocos Reyes, que tengan firmeza, y valor suficiente para resistir á su propio poder, y para desechar la adulacion de tantos, que estimulan, y mueven todas sus pasiones. Así que puntualmente son muy raros los Reyes buenos, y la parte mayor son tan malos, que no fueran justos los dioses, si despues de sufrir que abusen en la vida de su potencia, no les castigaran en haber muerto.

No encontrando Telémaco á su padre entre todos aquellos Reyes, buscó si por lo ménos descubrian sus ojos al divino Laertes, su avuelo. Miétras que inútilmente le buscaba, se vino acia él un venerable y magestuoso anciano. No era su vejez semejante á la de los hombres, que en el mundo quedan atropellados del peso de los años; y solamente se podia advertir, que antes de su muerte habia sido viejo entre los mortales. Veianse en él juntas todas las bellezas de la juventud con todo lo que tiene de grave la ancianidad; porque en los viejos mas cadentes renace la belleza en el punto que entran en los campos Elisios. Venia, pues, el anciano apresuradamente á Telémaco, y mirabalo con afecto, como á persona que mucho amaba. Telémaco, que no lo conocia, estaba en pena y con suspension.

Perdónote, si no me conoces, hijo querido mio, le dixo el viejo: Yo soy Arcesio, padre de Laertes, que pasé de la vida un poco ántes que mi nieto Ulises partiese para ir al asedio de Troya. En aquel tiempo eras tú aun muy niño, y estabas en los brazos de la

wast yet an infant, in the arms of thy nurse : but I had then conceived hopes of thee, which are now justified ; since thou hast descended into the dominions of Pluto, in search of thy father, and the gods have sustained thee in the attempt. The gods, O fortunate youth ! regard thee with peculiar love, and will distinguish thee by glory equal to that of Ulysses. I am happy once more to behold thee : but search for Ulysses no more among the dead : he still lives ; and is reserved to render my line illustrious, by new honours at Ithaca. Laertes himself, though the hand of time is now heavy upon him, still draws the breath of life, and expects that his son shall return to close his eyes. Thus transitory is man, like the flower that blows in the morning, and in the evening is withered and trodden under foot : One generation passes away after another, like the waves of a rapid river ; and time, rushing on with silent but irresistible speed, carries with him all that can best pretend to permanence and stability. Even thou, O my son ! alas ! even thou, who art now happy in the vigour, the vivacity, and the bloom of youth ; shalt find this lovely season, so fruitful of delight, a transient flower, that fades as soon as it is blown : without having been conscious that thou wert changing, thou wilt perceive thyself changed : the train of graces and pleasures, that now sport around thee, health, vigour and joy, shall vanish like the phantoms of a dream, and leave thee nothing but a mournful remembrance, that they once were thine. Old age shall insensibly steal upon thee ; that enemy to joy, shall diffuse, through thee, his own languors ; shall contract thy brow into wrinkles, incline thy body to the earth, enfeeble every limb, and dry up, for ever, that fountain of delight, which now springs in thy breast : thou shalt look round upon all that is present with disgust ; anticipate all that is future with dread ; and retain thy sensibility, only for pain and anguish.

This time appears, to thee, to be far distant : but, alas ! thou art deceived ; it approaches with irresistible rapidity, and is, therefore, at hand ; that which draws near so fast, can never be remote ; and the pre-

nodriza,

nodriza, y desde entónces concebi de ti grandes esperanzas ; ni estas han sido vanas ; pues te veo acá baxo, que vienes á buscar a tu padre, y te favorecen los dioses en esta empresa. ¡ Te aman los dioses, ó venturoso jóven ! y te previenen gloria, que ha de igualar la de tu padre Ulises. ¡ O dichoso yo, que te vuelvo á ver ! Dexa, pues, de buscar á Ulises acá en los Elisios : él vive aun, y es aguardado en la vida, para restituir en Itaca a su primer estado nuestra casa. Aunque oprimido del peso de los años, vive tambien Laertes ; y aguarda que vuelva su hijo, y asista á cerrarle los ojos en la última hora de su vida. Asi pasan los hombres como las flores, que se abren á la mañana, y á la tarde estan ya agostadas, y pisadas de los pasajeros. Huye sin detenerse todo el linage humano, como el agua de un rio arrebatado : no hay cosa que pueda detener el tiempo, que lleva consigo, y arrastra todas las cosas, que parecen las mas inmuebles. Tú mismo, hijo mio, hijo querido mio, tú mismo, que gozas al presente una juventud tan viva, y tan abundante de gustos, acuérdate de que esta bella edad no es sino una flor, que apénas se abrirá, quando de repente quedara seca. Tú te veras trocado insensiblemente : la frescura, belleza, y suaves placeres, la fuerza, la salud, la alegría, se desvanecerán como un sueño, y no te quedará otro, que una cruel memoria. Vendrá la desvalida vejez, enemiga de todo gusto, á arrugar tu rostro, á agoviar tu cuerpo, a enflaquecer tus miembros trémulos, á secar en tu corazon la fuente del consuelo, á hacerte disgustado lo presente, á hacerte temeroso lo futuro, y á quitarte todo sentido, sino es para solo el dolor.

Este tiempo te lo imaginas lejos ; pero te engañas, hijo, pues se apresura demasiado á venir, y en este mismo punto te alcanza. No está lejos de tí lo que viene con tanta velocidad ; y esta ya el presente muy

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sent for ever flying, is remote already; even while we speak, it is past, and it returns no more. Let the present, therefore, be light in thy estimation: tread the path of virtue, however rugged, with perseverance; and fix thine eye upon futurity: let purity of manners, and a love of justice, secure thee a place in this happy residence of peace.

Thou shalt soon see thy father resume his authority in Ithaca; and it is decreed, that thou shalt succeed him on the throne. But royalty, O my son! is a deceitful thing; those who behold it at a distance, see nothing but greatness, splendour, and delight: those who examine it near, find only toil, perplexity, solicitude, and fear. In a private station, a life of ease and obscurity is no reproach; but a king cannot prefer ease and leisure to the painful labours of government, without infamy, he must live, not for himself but for those he governs: the least fault he commits, produces infinite mischief; for it diffuses misery through a whole people, and sometimes for many generations. It is his duty to humble the insolence of guilt, to support innocence, and repress calumny. It is not enough to abstain from doing evil; he must exert himself to the uttermost in doing good: neither will it suffice, to do good as an individual; he must prevent the mischief that others would do, if they were not restrained. Think then of royalty, O my son! as a state not of ease and security, but of difficulty and danger, and call up all thy courage to resist thyself, to controul thy passions, and disappoint flattery.»

While Arcesius was yet speaking, he seemed to glow with the divine ardour of inspiration; and when he displayed the miseries of royalty, Telemachus perceived in his countenance strong expressions of pity. «Royalty,» said he, «when it is assumed to procure selfish indulgencies, degenerates into tyranny: when it is assumed to fulfil its duties, to govern, cherish, and protect an innumerable people, as a father protects, cherishes, and governs his children, it is a ser-

lejos, que te huye con tanta prontitud, y se anonada el momento mismo en que hablamos, y es imposible que otra vez vuelva. Advierte pues, hijo mio, que no has de cuidar mucho del presente, ni hacer de él demasiado caso; pero en el difícil, y escabroso camino de la virtud, gobiernate con la vista de lo venidero, y prevenete lugar con la pureza de vida, y amor de la justicia en esta morada dichosa de interminable paz.

Tú has nacido para reynar despues de tu padre, que verás finalmente dominar en Itaca, sin oposicion á sus pueblos: sí, tú has nacido para reynar; pero ¡ó cuánto engaña al mirar la condicion de los Reyes! Quando los hombres la miran á lo lejos, no ven sino delicias, autoridad, y esplendor; pero de cerca toda es espinas. Puede sin nota de infamia una persona particular pasar una vida alegre, y obscura; pero no puede vivir de esa forma un monarca, sin perder su reputacion, ni anteponer sin este inconveniente una vida dulce, y ociosa á los gravosos oficios de su gobierno. El es deudor de sí propio á sus súbditos, y no le es permitido que pueda jamas ser de sí mismo. Sus mas ligeras faltas son de infinito peso; porque ocasionan la desdicha del pueblo, y tal vez para muchos siglos. Está obligado el príncipe á reprimir el atrevimiento de los malos, defender la inocencia, y arruinar la calumnia. No le basta que no haga mal, le conviene hacer todo el bien que pueda, y de que tenga necesidad el estado. No le basta hacer bien por sí mismo: es menester tambien que embarace todos los males, que los otros harian, si no se les tuviera la rienda. Teme pues, hijo mio, teme pues, una tan peligrosa condicion: armate de valor contra tí mismo, contra las pasiones, y contra las lisonjas.

Diciendo estas palabras, parecia abrasarse Arcesio en un fuego divino, y mostraba á Telémaco un semblante lleno de compasion de los males que van unidos á la real dignidad. Quando un hombre, proseguia diciendo, toma el gobierno para satisfacerse á sí mismo, este dia es una tyrania monstruosa: quando lo toma para cumplir con sus obligaciones, y para gobernar un pueblo innumerable, de aquella misma forma que rige á una familia su padre, es una servi-

virtude most laborious and painful, and requires the fortitude and patience of heroic virtue. It is, however, certain, that those who fulfil the duties of government with diligence and integrity, shall here possess all that the power of the gods can bestow, to render happiness complete! »

While Telemachus listened to this discourse, it sunk deep into his heart: it was engraven upon that living tablet, as a sculptor engraves upon brass, the characters which he would transmit to the latest generation. It was an emanation of truth and wisdom, that, like a subtle flame, pervaded the most secret recesses of his soul: it at once moved and warmed him; and he felt his heart, as it were, dissolved by a divine energy, not to be expressed; by something that exhausted the fountain of life: his emotion was a kind of desire, that could not be satisfied; an impulse, that he could neither support nor resist; a sensation exquisitely pleasing; and yet mixed with such pain, as it was impossible long to endure and live.

After some time its violence abated, he breathed with more freedom, and he discovered in the countenance of Arcesius, a strong likeness of Læertes; he had also a confused remembrance of something similar in the features of Ulysses, when he set out for the siege of Troy.

This remembrance melted him into tears of tenderness and joy; he wished to embrace a person, whom he now regarded with reverence and affection; and attempted it many times in vain: the shade, light and unsubstantial, eluded his grasp, as the flattering images of a dream deceive those who expect to enjoy them: the thirsty lip is sometimes in pursuit of water, that recedes before it; sometimes the imagination forms words, which the tongue refuses to utter: and sometimes the hand is eagerly stretched out, but can grasp nothing: so the tender wish of Telemachus could not be gratified; he beheld Arcesius, he heard him speak, and he spoke to him; but, to touch him was impossible. At length he enquired who the persons were that he saw around him.

dumbre pesada, que requiere el esfuerzo, y paciencia de un héroe. Ello es cierto tambien, que los que con verdadera virtud han reynado en el mundo, poseen aqui todos aquellos bienes, que pueden otorgarles los dioses, para hacer cumplida su felicidad.

Hablando Arcesio así, entraban estas sabias palabras basta lo íntimo del corazón de Telémaco, y se le esculpian en él profundamente, como se graban en bronce aquellas indelebles figuras, que entalla con el buril un excelente artífice, para dexarlas ver á la posteridad mas distante. Eran ellas como una sutil llama, que penetraba las entrañas del jóven, el qual se sentia con ellas todo conmovido y ardiente, y parecia que en su interior derretia su corazón no sé qué soberano incendio. Consumiasele secretamente lo que tenia mas íntimo en la mas noble parte de sí mismo: no se podia contener, ni sufrirlo, ni resistir á una tan violenta impresion, que era un dolor dulce, y tranquilo, un placer vivo y suave, mezclado con un tormento bastante para acabar la vida.

Empezó despues Telémaco á respirar con mas libertad; y reparando en el rostro de Arcesio, conoció que semejaba mucho á Læertes. Pareciale tambien acordarse confusamente de haber visto en su padre algunas facciones de aquel aspecto, quando se partió de Itaca, para pasar al asedio de Troya.

Enterneciése con tal recuerdo, y cayéronle de los ojos algunas suaves lágrimas mezcladas con el regocijo; quiso abrazar tan amable persona; pero lo intentó en vano muchas veces. De la manera que un engañoso sueño se desaparece á un hombre, que ya se figura tener lo que le representa su fantasia, mientras con la boca sedienta busca el agua, que se le escapa, ó menea los labios, para formar palabras, que no puede expresar, estando adormecida la lengua, ó dilata las manos con esfuerzo, sin tomar cosa alguna; así puntualmente se huía de los brazos á Telémaco aquella vana sombra, mientras la queria estrechar. No podia satisfacer este su tierno afecto: veia á Arcesio, oia sus palabras, mas no lo podia tocar. Al fin le preguntó, quiénes eran aquellos, que veia cercanos á él.



« You see, » said the hoary sage, « those who were the ornament of their age, and the glory and happiness of mankind; the few kings who have been worthy of dominion, and filled the character of deities upon earth. Those whom you see not far distant, but separated from them by that small cloud, are allotted to much inferior glory: they were heroes, indeed, but the reward of courage and prowess, is much less than that of wisdom, integrity, and benevolence.

« Among these heroes you see Theseus, whose countenance is not perfectly cheerful: some sense of his misfortune in placing too much confidence in a false and designing woman, still remains; and he still regrets his having unjustly demanded the death of his son Hippolytus, at the hands of Neptune: how happy had it been for Theseus, if he had been less liable to sudden anger! You see also Achilles, who having been mortally wounded in the heel by Paris, supports himself upon a spear: if he had been as eminent for wisdom, justice, and moderation, as for courage, the gods would have granted him a long reign: but they had compassion for the nations whom he would have governed, by a natural succession, after the death of Peleus his father; and would not leave them at the mercy of rashness and presumption; of a man more easily irritated than the sea by a tempest. The thread of his life was cut short by the fates; and he fell as a flower, scarce blown, falls under the ploughshare, and withers, before the day is past in which it sprung up. They made use of him only as they do of torrents and tempests, to punish mankind for their crimes: he was the instrument by which they overthrew the walls of Troy, to punish the perjury of Laomedon, and the criminal desires of Paris. When this was done they were appeased; and they were implored in vain, even by the tears of Thetis, to suffer a young hero to remain longer upon the earth, who was fit only to de-

Ves, hijo mio, le respondió el sabio anciano, aquellos Reyes, que han sido honra de sus edades, gloria y felicidad del linage humano: ves el pequeño número de aquellos príncipes, que merecieron serlo, y que teniendo el lugar de los dioses, fielmente cumplieron con su oficio en el mundo. Aquellos otros, á quienes ves muy cerca, pero apartados con aquella pequeña nube, tienen gloria mucho menor. Es verdad que son héroes; pero la recompensa de su valor, y de sus militares empresas, no puede cotejarse con la de los Reyes, que fueron en el mundo sabios, justos y beneficiosos.

Mira á Teseo entre aquellos héroes un poco melancólico de semblante, porque sintió en lo vivo la desgracia de haber dado sobrada fé á una muger engañosa, y está aun alligido por haber pedido tan injustamente á Neptuno la muerte de su hijo Hypólito. Dichoso de él, sino hubiera sido tan fácil, y tan pronto para enojarse. Mira tambien á Aquiles apoyado sobre su lanza; porque no puede tenerse bien á causa de la herida, que dada en el talon á manos del cobarde París, le ocasionó la muerte. Le hubieran permitido los dioses reynar en el mundo mas tiempo, si hubiera sido tan cuerdo, justo y moderado, como era intrépido; pero ellos se apiadaron de los Beyotos, y de los Dolopes, en cuyo gobierno Aquiles habia naturalmente de suceder á Peleo, no quisieron sujeta tantos pueblos al poder de un hombre precipitado en la ira, y mas fácil de provocarse á enojo, que el mar mas borrascoso. La muerte puso fin á sus días, y un héroe tal fué como la luz del relampago, que espira al mismo punto en que empezó á rayar sin mayor duracion, que la de un brevisimo espacio. No han querido los dioses servirse de él, sino como de los torrentes, y de las tempestades, para castigar á los hombres de sus delitos; y lo emplearon en abatir las murallas de Troya, para vengar el perjuero de Laomedonte, y el amor injusto de Paris. Despues de haber usado de esta manera del instrumento de su venganza, al fin se han aplacado, y no otorgaron al

troy cities, to subvert kingdoms, and to fill the world with confusion and trouble.

« You see another, remarkable for the ferocity of his countenance; that is Ajax, the son of Telamon, and the cousin of Achilles: you cannot be ignorant of his glory in battle. After the death of Achilles, he laid claim to his arms, which, he said, ought not to be given to another: but they were claimed also by your father, who insisted upon his right: the Greeks determined in favour of Ulysses, and Ajax slew himself in despair. The marks of rage and indignation are still visible in his countenance: approach him not, my son, for he will think you come to insult the misfortune that you ought to pity: he has discovered us already, and he rushes into the thick shade of the wood that is behind him, to avoid a sight that is hateful to his eyes. On the other side you see Hector, who would have been invincible, if the son of Thetis had lived in another age. That gliding shade is Agamemnon, whose countenance still expresses a sense of the perfidy of Clytemnestra. O my son! the misfortunes that have avenged the impiety of Tantalus in his family, still make me tremble: the mutual enmity of the two brothers, Atreus and Thyestes, filled the house of their father with horror and death. Alas! how is one crime, by a kind of dreadful necessity, the cause of more! Agamemnon returned in triumph from the siege of Troy: but no time was allowed him to enjoy, in peace, the glory he had acquired in war. Such is the fate of almost all conquerors! all that you see have been great in battle, but they have neither been amiable nor virtuous; and they enjoy only the second place in the fields of Elysium.

« Those, who have reigned with justice, and loved their people, are considered as the friends of the gods; while Achilles and Agamemnon, still full of their quarrels and their combats, are not perfect even here, but retain their natural defects, and suffer the here, but retain their natural defects, and suffer the infelicity they produce. These heroes regret, in vain, the life that they have lost; and grieve at their change

llanto de Tetis la gracia, de que ese jóven héroe quedara por mas tiempo sobre la tierra, en la qual no podia servir sino de rendir ciudades y reynos, y alterar el sosiego de los hombres.

¿Pero no ves tambien aquel otro con tan feroz semblante? Es Ajax, hijo de Telamon, y primo de Aquiles. Bien sabes quan célebre ha hecho su nombre en las batallas. Despues de la muerte de Aquiles sus armas no se podian dar á otro, que á él. Pareció á su padre no deber cedérselas, y decidieron los Griegos á favor de Ulises. Ajax se mató de despecho; y la saña, y furor se ven todavia expresados al vivo en su semblante. Mira pues, hijo mio, no te le acerques, porque podia pensarse, que tú en sus males le querias aun insultar: y quiere la razon, que se tenga piedad de su desgracia. ¿No adviertes, que nos mira con pena, y que se entra presurosamente en aquel bosquecillo sombrío, porque le es sensible, y odiosa nuestra vista? Mira á Ector á otra parte, que hubiera sido invencible, si no hubiera estado en el mundo el hijo de Tetis; mas hé allí á Agamemnon, que Plata, y lleva en sí mismo las señales de la perfidia de Clytemnestra. Horrorízome, hijo, pensando en las desgracias de la familia del impio Tantaló. La discordia de los dos hermanos, Atreo y Tieste llenó de sangre, y de horribles delitos á toda aquella casa. Ay de mí, un solo pecado quantos otros arrasta. Volviéndo Agamemnon del asedio de Troya con los Griegos, á quienes mandaba, no tuvo tiempo de gozar pacificamente de aquella gloria, que antes habia adquirido: tal es puntualmente el destino de todos los conquistadores. Todos los que ves, han sido formidables en la guerra; pero no han sido amables y virtuosos; y por eso no estan sino en la segunda mansion de los campos Elysios.

Estos que estan conmigo, reynáron con justicia, y amáron á sus pueblos. Son amigos de los dioses, miéntras que Aquiles y Agamemnon no pensando en otro que en contiendas, y en guerras, conservan aun aquí sus cuidados, y los defectos de su antigua naturaleza, y se alligen de no ser mas que sombras sin poder, y espíritus sin cuerpo. Estando estos reyes

from a substance to a shade. But the kings, who, with an equal hand, have dispensed justice and mercy, being purified by the divine light which perpetually renovates their being, feel their wishes anticipated, and their happiness complete. They look back upon the vain solicitude of mankind with compassion, and despise the great affairs that busy ambition, as the play of an infant: they drink of truth and virtue at the fountain head, and are satisfied they can suffer nothing, either from themselves or others: they have no wants, no wishes, no fears: with respect to them, all is finished, except their joy, which shall have no end.

«The venerable figure you see yonder, is Inachus, who founded the kingdom of Argos. The character of old age is tempered with ineffable sweetness and majesty: he moves with a light and gliding pace, that resembles the flight of a bird, and may be traced by the flowers that spring up under his feet; he holds a lyre of ivory in his hand, and an eternal rapture impels him to celebrate the wonders of the gods with eternal praise: his breath is a gale of fragrance, like the breath of the morning in spring; and the harmony of his voice and his lyre, might add to the felicity, not of Elysium only, but Olympus. This is the reward of his paternal affection to the people, whom he surrounded with the walls of a new city, and secured in the blessings of society by legislation.

«Among those myrtles, at a little distance, you see also Cecrops the Egyptian, the first sovereign of Athens, a city dedicated to the goddess of wisdom, whose name it bears. Cecrops, by bringing excellent laws from Egypt, the great source from which learning and good morals have flowed through all Greece, softened the natural ferocity of the people that he found in the scattered villages of Attica, and united them by the bands of society. He was just, humane, and compassionate: he left his people in affluence, and his family in a modest mediocrity: for he was not willing that his children should succeed to his power, because there were others whom he judged more worthy of the trust.

justos purificados de aquella luz divina, que los alimenta, no tienen mas que desear por cumplimiento de su felicidad. Muévense á compasión de las inquietudes de los mortales; y les parecen como juegos de niños los negocios grandes, que á los hombres soberbios ocasionan tantos cuidados sobre la tierra. Sus corazones estan hartos de la verdad, y virtud, que van á tomar en su fuente: no tienen que sufrir mas cosa alguna, ni de los otros, ni de sí propios: no tienen mas deseos: no tienen mas necesidad ni temor alguno: todo está acabado para ellos, fuera de la alegría, que no puede acabárseles.

Considera, hijo mio, aquel antiguo Rey Inaco, que fundó en lo pasado el Reyno de Argos. Miralo con aquella tan apacible ancianidad, y tan magestuosa: nacen las flores sobre sus huellas, y camina tan desembarazado y ligero, que parece una ave que vuela. Tiene en la mano una lira de oro, y canta las obras admirables de los dioses, arrebatado con el exceso de un eterno júbilo. Exhala de su pecho, y de su boca una exquisitísima fragancia, y oyeran admirados los hombres, y los dioses la harmonia de su lira, y su voz. De esta suerte es galardonado por haber amado á los pueblos, que juntó dentro del recinto de sus nuevas murallas, á quienes dió ciertas leyes con que se pudieran regir.

De aquella otra parte puedes ver á Cérope Egypcio, que reynó el primero en Atenas, ciudad consagrada á la sabia diosa, de quien tiene tambien el nombre. Sacó Cérope algunas leyes proverbosas de Egipto, que es la fuente de donde dimanaron á Grecia las ciencias y las buenas costumbres. Amanzó la feroz naturaleza de los moradores de la Atica, y los reduxo á que vivieran juntos en compañía: fué justo, humano, compasivo; dexó los pueblos en abundancia, y su familia en estado mediano, no queriendo que le sucedieran sus hijos para reynar; porque juzgaba que habia otros con mas mérito para la corona.

« But I must now shew you Eriethon : you see him in that little valley. Eriethon was the first who introduced the use of silver as money , in order to facilitate commerce among the islands of Greece ; but he foresaw the inconveniences which would naturally result from his expedient : « Apply yourselves , » says he to the people , among whom he circulated his new coin , « to accumulate natural riches ; for they only deserve the name. Cultivate the earth , that you may have wealth in corn and wine , and oil and fruit : multiply your flocks to the utmost , that you may be nourished by their milk , and clothed with their wool ; and it will then be impossible that you should be poor. The increase even of your children , will be the increase of your wealth , if you inure them early to diligence and labour ; for the earth is inexhaustible ; and will be more fruitful in proportion as it is cultivated by more hands : it will reward labour with boundless liberality ; but , to idleness , it will be parsimonious and severe. Seek principally , therefore , for that which is truly wealth , as it supplies that which is truly want. Make no account of money , but as it is useful either to support necessary wars abroad , or for the purchase of such commodities as are wanted at home ; and , indeed , it is to be wished , that no commerce should be carried on in articles that can only support and gratify luxury , vanity , and sloth.

« My children , » said the wise Eriethon , « who though frequent admonition necessary , I greatly fear that I have made you a fatal present ; I foresee that this money will excite avarice and ambition , the lust of the eye and the pride of life ; that it will produce innumerable arts , which can only corrupt virtue and gratify idleness ; that it will destroy your relish for that happy simplicity , which is , at once , the blessing and the security of life ; and make you look , with contempt , upon agriculture , the support of our existence , and the source of every valuable possession. But I call the gods to witness , that I made you ac-

Conviene tambien , que te muestre en aquel valle- zuelo a Erictonio , que halló el uso de la plata redu- cida á moneda. Hizolo con idea de facilitar el comer- cio entre las islas de Grecia : pero previó el inconven- iente que se originaria de esta invencion. Aplicaos , decia , á todos los pueblos , á multiplicar en vuestras casas las riquezas naturales , que son las verdaderas : cultivad la tierra , para tener abundancia grande de granos , vino , aceyte y frutos : tened muchos , y aun innumerables ganados , que os den el alimento de la leche , y os cubran con sus lanas ; y os pondréis con eso en estado de no temer jamas á la pobreza. Quanto tengais mayor número de hijos , con que les hagais laboriosos , tanto seréis mas ricos ; porque la tierra es incansable en aumentar su fecundidad , á proporcion de la muchedumbre de los habitantes , que tienen el cuidado de cultivarla. Paga liberalmente á todos su trabajo ; y al contrario , se hace ingrata , y avara á los que la cultivan con negligencia. Aplicaos pues principalmente á adquirir las riquezas verdaderas , que satisfacen las verdaderas necesidades de los hombres : de la plata labrada en la moneda , no es menester hacer algun aprecio sino en quanto es necesaria , ó para guerras inexcusables , que deben mantenerse contra otras gentes , ó para compra de las mercaderias , que hubiereis menester , y no las hay en vuestro pais. Por lo demas , se habria de desear , que feneciera totalmente el comercio de aquellas cosas , que no sirven sino de mantener la soberbia , la afeminacion y el regalo.

Temo mucho , hijos míos , decia con frecuencia el cuerdo Erictonio , haberos hecho una funesta dádiva , dándoos la invencion de la moneda. Preveo que mo- verá la avaricia , el fausto , la soberbia en vuestro co- razon : que mantendra una cantidad infinita de artes dañosas , que no miran á otro , que á afeminar , y gastar las costumbres : que os hará aborrecer aquel venturoso candor , de que precede toda la quietud , y seguridad de la vida ; y que finalmente os hara des- preciar la labranza , que es fundamento de la vida hu- mana , fuente de donde manan los verdaderos bienes. Pero los dioses me son testigos de la pureza de mi in-

quainted with money, a thing useful in itself, in the integrity of my heart!» Eriethon, however, having lived to see the mischiefs that he dreaded come to pass, retired, overwhelmed with grief, to a desert mountain; were he lived, to an extreme old age, in poverty and solitude, disgusted with government, and deploring the folly of mankind.

«Not long afterwards, Greece beheld a new wonder in Triptolemus, to whom Ceres had taught the art of cultivating the earth, and of covering it every year with a golden harvest. Mankind were, indeed, already acquainted with corn, and the manner of multiplying it by seed; but they knew only the first rudiments of tillage; and Triptolemus, being sent by Ceres, came with the plough in his hand, to offer the bounty of that goddess to all who had spirit to surmount the natural love of rest, and apply themselves diligently to labour. The Greeks soon learnt of Triptolemus to part the earth into furrows, and render it fertile by breaking up its surface. The yellow corn soon strewed the fields under the sickle of the reapers; and the wandering barbarians, that were dispersed in the forests of Epirus and Etolia, seeking acorns for their subsistence, when they had learnt to sow corn and make bread, threw off their ferocity, and submitted to the laws of civil society.

Triptolemus made the Greeks sensible of the pleasure that is to be found in that independent wealth which a man derives from his own labour: and in the possession of all the necessaries and conveniences of life, the genuine produce of his own field. This abundance, so simple and so blameless, arising from agriculture, recalled to their minds the counsel of Eriethon. They held money in contempt; and all other factitious wealth, which has no value but in the vain imaginations of men: which tempts them to pleasures that are neither sincere nor safe; and diverts them from that labour, which alone supplies all that is of real value, with innocence and liberty. They were now convinced, that a paternal field, with a

tencion, dandoos esta invencion provechosa en sí misma. Finalmente, quando vió Eriethon, que el diuero viciaba los hombres, como antes lo habia previsto, retiróse de pena á una montaña inculta, donde sin quererse ingerir en el gobierno de las ciudades, vivió pobre, y distante de los hombres hasta su postrera vejez.

Pasado poco tiempo, despues que se retiró Eriethon, se vió parecer en la Grecia el famoso Tritolemo, á quien habia Ceres enseñado el arte de cultivar las tierras, y hacer que cada año se vistiesen de doradas cosechas. No ya porque antes los hombres no conocieran los granos, y el modo de aumentarlos en las sembranzas; pero aunque conocian la agricultura, no sabian la perfeccion. Tritolemo, enviado de Ceres, vino con el arado en la mano á ofrecer los dones de aquella diosa á todos los pueblos, que tuviesen bastante esfuerzo para vencer su natural pereza, y entregarse al continuo trabajo. Luego enseñó á los Griegos á surcar la tierra, y á fecundarla, destrozandola el seno: al instante los segadores calorosos, é infatigables, descargaron sus cortantes hoces en las rubias espigas, que tenian poblada la campaña. Los mismos pueblos salvages y feroces, que esparcidos corrían acá, y allá por las selvas de Epiro y de la Etolia, para alimentarse de las bellotas, despues que aprendieron á hacer crecer las mieses, y á cocer el pan, amaron sus costumbres, y se sujetaron á ciertas leyes.

Tritolemo dió á entender á los Griegos, qué gusto causa el no ser obligado de las riquezas, sino es á su propia fatiga, y hallar en las posesiones todo lo que es menester en la vida, para hacerla feliz y encomendada. Aquella tan sencilla, é inocente abundancia, que va unida á la Agricultura, les traxo á la memoria todos los consejos, que de Eriethon habian recibido. Despreciaron ya los dineros, y todas las riquezas artificiales, que no son riquezas sino en quanto las hace tales la opinion de los hombres, que las aplican á buscar los placeres nocivos, y los apartan del trabajo, que les haria lograr plenísima libertad, y les daría todos los verdaderos bienes, juntamente con la pureza de las costumbres. Conociéron pues, que un

kindly soil and diligent cultivation, was the best inheritance for those that were wisely content with the simple plenty that contented their fathers; who, wanting nothing that was useful, desired nothing that was vain. Happy would it have been for the Greeks, if they had steadily adhered to these maxims, so fit to render them free, powerful, and happy; and to inspire and maintain an uniform and active virtue, which would have made them worthy of such blessings! but, alas! they began to admire false riches: by degrees, they neglected the true; and they degenerated from this admirable simplicity!

O my son! the sceptre of thy father shall, one day, descend to thee: in that day, remember to lead thy people back to agriculture, to honour the art, to encourage those that practise it, and to suffer no man either to live in idleness, or employ himself only to propagate luxury and sloth. These men, who governed with such benevolence and wisdom upon earth, are here the favourites of heaven! They were, in comparison with Achilles and other heroes, who excelled only in war, what the gentle and genial gales of spring are to the desolating storms of winter; and they now as far surpass them in glory, as the sun, that gives the day, surpasses, in splendour, the moon that can only lessen the darkness of the night.»

While Arcesius was thus speaking, he perceived that Telemachus had fixed his eyes upon a little grove of laurels, and a rivulet of pure water, that was bordered with roses, violets, lilies, and a thousand other odoriferous flowers, the vivid colours of which resembled those of Iris, when she descends upon earth, with some message from the gods to man. He saw, in this delightful spot, an inhabitant of Elysium, whom he knew to be Sesostris. There was, now, a majesty in the appearance of this great prince, infinitely superior to that which distinguished him upon the throne of Egypt: his eyes sparkled with a divine radiance, that Telemachus could not steadfastly behold: and he appeared to have drank, even to excess, of immortality and joy; such was the rapture, beyond all that mortals have the power to feel, which the

campo fértil, y bien cultivado, es el verdadero tesoro de una familia, que quiere vivir sóbriamente, como vivieron sus padres. Dichosos los Griegos, si no se hubieran olvidado de estas máximas, que eran tan propias para hacerlos poderosos, felices, amadores de la libertad, y de la virtud, y si hubieran sido constantes en conservarlas. ¡Mas ay! que apartandose ellos de aquella maravillosa llaneza, empiezan a admirar las falzas riquezas y abandonan poco á poco las verdaderas.

Vendrá un día, hijo mio, en que tu reynarás tambien despues de tu padre. Acuérdate entónces de encaminar otra vez los hombres á la labranza, de honrar esta arte, de consolar á los que se emplean en ella, y de no sufrir que tus súbditos vivan ociosos, ni ocupados en artes, que mantienen la afeminacion y el regalo. Aquí Eritonio, y Tritolemo son amados de los dioses, porque fueron tan sabios en el mundo. Repara, hijo mio, que sobrepuja tanto su gloria á la de Aquiles, y de los demas héroes que no han sido excelentes, sino solamente en la guerra, quanto es mas deleytosa la alegre primavera que el helado invierno, y quanto es mas brillante que el de la luna, el resplandor del sol.

Mientras que Arcesio discurría á este modo, reparó en que Telémaco miraba fixamente siempre á una parte, en la qual habia un bosquecillo de laureles y un arroyo todo guarnecido de violetas, y de rosas, de azucenas, y muchas otras olorosas flores, cuyos bellos colores parecian á los de la diosa Iris, quando despachada de los dioses á insinuar sus preceptos á algun hombre, baxa desde el cielo á la tierra. En aquel tan hermoso sitio reconoció Telémaco á Sesostris. Estaba este gran Rey mil veces mas magestuoso, que lo habia estado jamas sobre su trono de Egipto; y echaba de sus ojos copiosos rayos de una apacible luz: de suerte, que Telémaco quedó deslumbrado con ellos. Qualquiera al verle se hubiera figurado que estaba embriagado de nectar: tanto por galardón de su virtud lo habia el espíritu divino llenado de un

divine spirit, as the reward of his virtue, had poured into his breast!

« O my father! » said Telemachus to Arcesius, « I know him; it is Sesostris, the wise and good, whom I beheld, not long since, upon his throne in Egypt! »

« It is he, » replied Arcesius: « and in him you have an example of the boundless liberality with which good kings are rewarded by the gods; yet all the felicity, which now overflows his bosom, and sparkles in his eye, is nothing, in comparison of what he would have enjoyed, if, in the excess of prosperity, he had been still moderate and just. An ardent desire to abase the pride and insolence of the Tyrians, impelled him to take their city. This acquisition kindled a desire of more, and he was seduced by the vain glory of a conqueror: he subdued, or rather he ravaged, all Asia. At his return into Egypt, he found the throne usurped by his brother, who had rendered the best laws of the country ineffectual, by an iniquitous administration. His conquest of other kingdoms, therefore served only to throw his own into confusion: yet he was so intoxicated with the vanity of conquest, that he harnessed the princes, whom he had subdued, to his chariot. This was less excusable, than all the rest: but he became, at length, sensible of his fault, and ashamed of his inhumanity. Such was the fruit of his victories; and the great Sesostris has left an example of the injury done by a conqueror to his country and himself, when he usurps the dominions of others: this degraded the character of a prince, in other respects so just and beneficent; and this has diminished the glory which the gods intended for his reward.

« But seest thou not another shade, my son, distinguished by a wound, and a lambent light that plays round it like a glory? That is Dioclesides, a king of Caria, who voluntarily gave up his life in battle, because an oracle had foretold, that, in a war between the Carians and Lycians, the nation, whose king should be slain, would be victorious.

« Observe yet another: that is a wise legislator, who, having instituted such laws as could not fail to

solaz superior á quanto puede alcanzar el entendimiento humano.

Padre, dixo á Arcesio Telemaco, allí veo á Sesostris, prudente Rey de Egipto que vi poco tiempo hace en el mundo.

Helo ahí, le respondió Arcesio, y bien ves por su exemplo, quán liberales sean los dioses en recompensar á los Reyes buenos. Mas te importa saber que toda esta felicidad es nada en parangon de aquella, que se destinara aquí á un tal Principe, si no le hubiera liecho olvidar las reglas de la moderacion y justicia, una prosperidad demasiado grande. El deseo de humillar la insolencia y orgullo de los Tirios, lo empenó á sujetar aquella ciudad. Esta conquista lo preciso tambien á hacer algunas otras. Dexóse arrastrar de la soberbia: vicio que es familiar en los conquistadores, y sojuzgó, ó por mejor decir, saqueó toda la Asia. A su vuelta de Egipto halló que habiendo su hermano ocupado el dominio, habia con injusto gobierno alterado las leyes mejores del Reyno. Así no sirvieron sus grandes conquistas sino para alborotar su Reyno. Pero lo que le hizo mas inexcusable, fué el haberse embriagado con su propia gloria: el ató á un carro los reyes mas soberbios que jamás prevencido. Conoció despues su yerro, y avergonzose de haber sido tan inhumano. Este fué el fruto de sus victorias. Estos son los daños que ocasionan á sus Estados los conquistadores, queriéndose usurpar los de sus vecinos; esto es lo que menoscaba la felicidad de un Rey, por lo demas muy sabio, justo y benéfico; y esto es lo que disminuye la gloria que los dioses le habian prevenido.

Mira, hijo mio, á aquel otro que derrama por una herida rayos de luz tan bella. Es Dioclesides, que fué Rey de Caria, que por la salud de su pueblo sacrificó su vida en una batalla, porque habia dicho el Oraculo que en una guerra entre los suyos, y los pueblos de Licia, la nacion cuyo Rey muriese tendria la victoria.

Considera aquel otro que es un sabio legislador, que habiendo dado á sus pueblos algunas leyes, para

render his people virtuous and happy, and bound them by a solemn oath not to violate them in his absence, immediately disappeared, became a voluntary exile from his country, and died poor and unnoticed on a foreign shore, that his people might, by that oath, be obliged to keep his laws inviolate for ever.

« He, whom thou seest not far off from these, is Eumesimus, a king of Pylos, and an ancestor of Nestor. During a pestilence, that desolated the earth, and crowded the banks of Acheron with shades newly dismissed from above, he requested of the gods that he might be permitted to redeem the lives of his people with his own: the gods granted his request; and have, here, rewarded it with felicity and honour, in comparison of which, all that royalty upon earth can bestow, is vain and unsubstantial, like a shadow or a dream.

« That old man, whom you see crowned with flowers, is Belus. He reigned in Egypt, and espoused Anchinoe, the daughter of the god Nilus, who fertilizes the earth with a flood that he pours over it from a secret source. He had two sons; Danaus, whose history you know; and Egyptus, from whom that mighty kingdom derives its name. Belus thought himself more enriched by the plenty which he diffused among his people, and the love that he acquired in return, than by all the levies he could have raised; if he had taxed them to their utmost ability.

These, my son, whom you believe to be dead; these only are the living: those are the dead who languish upon earth, the victims of disease and sorrow! the terms are inverted, and should be restored to their proper place. May the gods vouchsafe thee such virtue as this life shall reward; a life which nothing shall embitter or destroy! But haste, now, from this world, to which thou art yet unborn: it is time the search for thy father should be renewed. Alas, what scenes of blood shalt thou behold, before he is found! What glory awaits thee in the fields of Hesperia!

hacerlos con ellas buenos y felices, hizo que le juráran que no quebrantarían alguna, mientras él estubiese ausente. Despues de esto se partió de su patria; condenóse á destierro por sí mismo, y murió pobre en pais extraño, para obligarles con el juramento á mantener unas leyes tan provechosas, y á observarlas perpetuamente.

Aquel otro que ves es el Rey Onceno de Pilo, y uno de los ascendientes del prudente Nestor. En una peste que assolaba la tierra, y llenaba el Infierno de nuevas almas, rogó á los dioses que permitieran que aplacára el su enojo, dando satisfacción con su muerte por tantos millares de hombres inocentes. Los dioses atendieron sus ruegos, y aquí le colocaron en los Elisios, en una condicion á la verdad real, de la qual las del mundo solo son vanas sombras.

Aquel viejo á quien ves con guirnalda de flores, es el famoso Belo que dominó á Egipto. Se desposó con Aquinoe, hija del dios Nilo, que oculta su desconocida fuente, y enriquece las tierras que riega con inundarlas. Tuvo en ella dos hijos: uno fue Danao, cuya historia bien sabes; y otro fue Egipto, que dió nombre á aquel reyno. Túvose por mas rico Belo, por la abundancia que mantenía en sus pueblos, y por el amor que le tenían los súbditos, que por todas las imposiciones, de que como Soberano les podría agravar.

Viven, hijo mio, todos estos, que teniais por muertos; y no hay verdadera muerte, sino aquella infelice vida que los hombres pasan sobre la tierra: solamente se han trocado los nombres. Plegue á los dioses concederte una bondad tal que te haga merecer una vida tan venturosa, cuya felicidad no puede tener fin, ni interrupción. Pero se acortarán todas las detenciones, y es ya tiempo de irte á buscar á tu padre. Sin embargo ántes de encontrarle, ¡ Hay cuánta sangre verás que se derrama! ¡ Pero qué gloria te se reserva en los campos de Hesperia! Acuerdate de los documentos del



Remember the counsels of Mentor : let these be the guide of thy life : and thy name shall be great to the utmost limits of the earth , and the remotest period of time ! »

Such was the admonition of Arceus ; and he immediately conducted Telemachus to the ivory gate that leads from the gloomy dominions of Pluto. Telemachus parted from him , with tears in his eyes ; but it was not possible to embrace him ; and leaving behind him the shades of everlasting night , he made haste back to the camp of the allies ; having joined the two young Cretans in his way , who had accompanied him to the mouth of the cavern , and despaired of his return.



END OF THE NINETEENTH BOOK.

sabio Mentor : con tal que tú los sigas , tu nombre será célebre en todos los pueblos y siglos :

Dixo. Y luego guió á Telémaco ácia el portal de marfil , por donde puede salirse del infierno. Telémaco con las lágrimas en los ojos , le dexó , sin poderlo abrazar ; y saliendo de aquella obscura habitacion , se restituyó cuidadoso al campo de los aliados , despues de haber hallado en el camino los dos mancebos Cretenses que hasta cerca de la caberna le acompañaron ; y no esperaban mas verlo.

FIN DEL LIBRO DECIMO-NONO.

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# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XX.

### ARGUMENT.

VENUSIUM having been left as a deposit by both parties in the hands of the Lucanians, Telemachus declares against seizing it in an assembly of the chiefs, and persuades them to be of his opinion: he discovers great penetration and sagacity with respect to two deserters, one of whom, Acanthus, had undertaken to poison him and the other, Diocorus, had offered to bring him Adrastus's head. In the battle which soon follows, Telemachus strews the field with dead in search of Adrastus: Adrastus, who is also in search of Telemachus, engages and kills Pisistratus, the son of Nestor; Philoctetes comes up, and at the moment when he is about to pierce Adrastus, is himself wounded, and obliged to retire: Telemachus, alarmed by the cry of his friends, among whom Adrastus is making a terrible slaughter, rushes to their assistance: he engages Adrastus, and prescribes conditions, upon which he gives him his life: Adrastus, rising from the ground, attempts treacherously to kill his conqueror by surprise, who engages him a second time, and kills him.

IN the mean time, the chiefs of the army assembled, to consider whether it was expedient to possess themselves of Venusium, a strong town, which Adrastus had formerly taken from a neighbouring people, the Pencesian Apulians. They had entered into the alliance that was formed against him, to obtain satisfaction for the injury; and Adrastus, to soften their resentment, had put the town as a deposit into the hands of the Lucanians; he had, however, at the same time, corrupted the Lucanian garrison, and its commander, with money: so that he had still more authority in Venusium, than the Lucanians; and the Apulians, who had consented that Venusium should be garrisoned with Lucanian forces, were thus defrauded in the negotiation.

TELEMACHO.

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XX.

### SUMARIO,

En una junta de los Xefes, Telémaco hace prevalecer su voto, para que no se sorprendiese Venusia, entregada por ambos partidos á los Lucanos. Hace ver su prudencia, con la ocasion de dos transfugas, de los quales el uno, llamado Acanto habia intentado envenenarle: El otro, llamado Dióscoro ofrecia á los aliados la cabeza de Adrasto. En el combate que sigue despues, lleva Telémaco la muerte por todas partes mientras va en busca de Adrasto; y este rey que tambien le busca á él, encuentra y mata á Pisistrato, hijo de Nestor. Sobreviene Filotetes, y en el mismo instante en que va á travesar á Adrasto, el mismo es herido, y obligado á retirarse de la batalla. Acude Telémaco á los gritos de los aliados á quienes iba Adrasto destrozando horribilmente. Combate á este enemigo, y le da la vida baxo unas condiciones que le impone. Levantado Adrasto quiere sorprehender á Telémaco; este le agarra otra vez, y le quita la vida.

JUNTÁRONSE entretanto los capitanes del ejército, para deliberar si habian de apoderarse de la ciudad de Venosa. Era ésta una ciudad fuerte, que habia antes Adrasto usurpado á los de la Pulla, vecinos de su Reyno. Habian ellos entrado en la alianza, para pedir justicia contra este Príncipe. Para apaciguarlos Adrasto habia puesto en depósito la ciudad en manos de los pueblos de Lucania; pero habia ganado con dinero la guarnicion y á su capitán; de manera que los Lucanos no tenian efectivamente en Venosa mas autoridad que él; y los Pulleses que habian convenido en que las milicias Lucanas la guarnecieran, habian quedado engañados en este Tratado.

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A citizen of Venusium, whose name was Demophantes, had secretly offered to put the allies in possession of one of the gates by night; an advantage which was of the greater importance, as Adrastus had placed his magazine of military stores and provisions in a neighbouring castle, which could not hold out against an enemy that was in possession of Venusium. Philoctetes and Nestor had already given their opinion, that this offer should be accepted; and the rest of the chiefs, influenced by their authority, and struck with the facility of the enterprise, and its immediate advantages, applauded their determination: but Telemachus, as soon as he returned, exerted his utmost abilities to set it aside.

« I confess, » said he, « that if any man can deserve to be surprised and deceived, it is Adrastus, who has practised fraud against all mankind; and I am sensible that the surprise of Venusium, will only put you into possession of a town, which, by right, is yours already; because it belongs to the Apulians, who are confederates in your expedition: I also acknowledge that you may improve this opportunity with the greater appearance of justice, as Adrastus, who has made a deposit of the town in question, has, at the same time, corrupted the commander and the garrison, to suffer him to enter it, whenever he shall think fit: and I am convinced, as well as you, that if you should take possession of Venusium to-day, you would, to-morrow, be masters of the neighbouring castle, in which Adrastus has formed his magazine; and that, the day following, this formidable war would be at an end. But is it not better to perish, than to conquer by means like these? Must fraud be counteracted by fraud? Shall it be said, that so many kings, who united to punish the perfidy of Adrastus, were themselves perfidious! If we can adopt the practices of Adrastus without guilt, Adrastus himself is innocent; and our attempt to punish him injurious. Has all Hesperia, sustained by so many colonies of Greece, by so many heroes returned from the siege of Troy, no other arms to oppose the fraud and treachery of Adrastus, than treachery and fraud?

Habia un ciudadano de Venosa que se llamaba Demofante ofrecido á los aliados que la noche siguiente les entregaria una puerta de la ciudad. Era tanto mayor la ventaja de esta sorpresa quanto se sabia, que Adrasto habia puesto todas sus provisiones de guerra, y boca en un castillo vecino que habia de rendirse sin remedio luego que se rindiera la ciudad. Nestor y Filotetes habian dicho ya su parecer, y juzgado que convenia aprovecharse de una tan buena ocasion. Todos los capitanes, arrebatados de su autoridad y alucinados con la utilidad de tan facil empresa, aprobaban este dictamen; pero en su lugar Telemaco hizo el último esfuerzo, para apartarlos de este proposito.

Bien sé, dixo, que si hombre jamas mereció ser engañado de todos tan frecuentemente es Adrasto; veo tambien que sorprendiendo á Venosa, no hariais otro que apoderaros de una ciudad que os pertenece, puesto que tienen derecho sobre ella los Pulleses, que son miembro de la liga. Confieso que pudierais hacerlo con tanta mas apariencia de razon, quanto Adrasto ha puesto en tercera la ciudad, ha sobornado al capitan, y la guarnicion para poderla entrar, quando le pareciere tiempo oportuno. Conozco al fin no ménos que vos que si os apoderais de Venosa, el dia siguiente sereis dueños del castillo en que estan todas las provisiones de Adrasto, y que de esa manera poniais fin en dos dias á una guerra tan formidable. Pero no es mejor el morir que vencer con estos medios? Se debe por ventura rechazar un engaño con otro engaño? Y se podrá decir que mientras tantos Reyes coligados castigan los engaños del impio Adrasto, se semejan á él en ser engañadores? Si nosotros podemos imitarle sin culpa, no es culpado Adrasto, y somos injustos queriendolo castigar. Toda la Hesperia pues defendida de tantas colonias Griegas y de los héroes que han vuelto del asedio de Troya, no tiene otras armas contra la perfidia, y perjuros de Adrasto, sino la misma perfidia, y el perjuo mismo?

You have sworn by all that is most sacred, to leave Venusium a deposit in the hands of the Lucanians: the Lucanian garrison, you say, is corrupted by Adrastus, and I believe it to be true; but this garrison is still Lucanian; it receives the pay of the Lucanians, and has not yet refused to obey them; it has preserved, at least, an appearance of neutrality; neither Adrastus nor his people have yet entered it; the treaty is still subsisting; and the gods have not forgotten your oath. Is a promise never to be kept, but when a plausible pretence to break it is wanting? Shall an oath be sacred only, when nothing is to be gained by its violation? If you are insensible to the love of virtue, and the fear of the gods, have ye no regard to your interest and reputation? If you give so pernicious an example to mankind, by breaking your promise and violating your oath, in order to put an end to a war, how many wars will this impious conduct excite? By which of your neighbours will you not be at once dreaded and abhorred; and by whom will you afterwards be trusted in the most pressing necessity? What security can you give for your faith, when you design to keep it; and how will you convince your neighbours, that you intend no fraud, even when you are sincere? Shall this security be a solemn treaty? You have trodden treaties under foot. Shall it be an oath? Will they not know that you set the gods at defiance when you can derive any advantage from perjury? With respect to you, peace will be a state of no greater security than war; for whatever you do, will be considered as the operations of war, either secret or avowed. You will be the constant enemies of all, who have the misfortune to be your neighbours. Every affair, which requires reputation, probity, or confidence, will, to you, become impracticable, and you will never be able to make any promise that can be believed.

But there is yet another interest, yet nearer and more pressing, which must strike you, if you are not

Vos habeis jurado por lo mas sagrado dejar depositada la ciudad de Venosa en manos de los pueblos de Lucania. Estan, me decís, sobornados los soldados Lucanos de la guarnicion con dinero de Adrasto. Persuádome eso no ménos que vosotros; todavía se hallan pagados al sueldo de Lucania, no han rehusado nunca obedecer á los depositarios; y á lo ménos en la apariencia han conservado la debida neutralidad. Ni Adrasto, ni los suyos han entrado jamas en Venosa: el tratado subsiste, y no se han olvidado los dioses del juramento que les hicisteis: ¿ Luego no se mantendrán las promesas, sino quando no hubiere especiosos pretextos para violarlas? ¿ No habrá fidelidad, ni puntualidad en guardar lo jurado, sino quando nada se pueda conseguir con faltar á la propia fe? Si no os mueve el amor de la virtud, y el temor de los dioses, muévaos por lo ménos vuestra reputacion, y vuestro mismo interes. Si mostrais al mundo tan dañoso exemplar de faltar á la fe, y violar un juramento para terminar una guerra, ¿ qué guerras no levantarais contra vosotros mismos, con un porte tan impio? ¿ Qué pueblo vecino vuestro no se verá obligado á temeros, y á detestaros? ¿ Quién en lo venidero podrá fiarse de vos en sus necesidades mas urgentes? ¿ Quando querais tratar sinceramente, y quando vuestra sinceridad os permita hacerse creer de los pueblos vecinos, qué seguridad podreis dar? ¿ Será acaso algun tratado solemne? Ya habeis hollado otro. ¿ Por ventura será un juramento? ¿ Pero no se sabrá que no teneis en algun aprecio á los dioses, quando esperais sacar con el perjurio alguna conveniencia? Luego será igualmente mal seguro estar con vos en guerra que estar en paz; y todas las fianzas que diereis, se recibirán, ó como una guerra fingida, ó como una guerra declarada. Seréis enemigos perpetuos de todos aquellos que tengan la desgracia de confinar con vuestros estados; se os harán imposibles todos los negocios, que hayan menester el buen nombre, la estimacion y la rectitud; ni os quedará algun modo de hacer que se dé crédito á vuestras promesas.

Mas hé aquí un interes mas relevante que debe venceros, si teneis todavía lumbre de razon para juz-

lost to all sense of probity, and wholly blind to your advantage: a conduct so perfidious, will be a canker in the very heart of your alliance, which it must finally destroy. The fraud that you are about to practise against Adrastus, will inevitably render him victorious.»

At these words, the assembly demanded, with great emotion, how he could take upon him to affirm that the alliance would be ruined by a measure, that would procure them certain and immediate victory.

«How can you,» said he, «confide in each other, if you violate the only bond of society and confidence, your plighted faith? After you have admitted this maxim, that the laws of honesty and truth may be violated, to secure a considerable advantage; who, among you, would confide in another, when that other may secure a considerable advantage, by breaking his promise and defrauding you? and when this is the case, what will be your situation? Which of you would not practise fraud, to preclude the fraudulent practices of his neighbour? What must become of an alliance consisting of so many nations, each, of which has a separate interest, when it is agreed among them, in a public deliberation, that every one is at liberty to circumvent his neighbour, and violate his engagements? Will not the immediate consequence be distrust and dissension; an impatience to destroy each other, excited by the dread of being destroyed? Adrastus will have no need to attack you: you will effect his purpose upon yourselves, and justify the perfidy you combined to punish.

«Ye mighty chiefs! renowned for magnanimity and wisdom, who govern innumerable people with experienced command, despise not the counsel of a youth. Whatever is your danger or distress, your resources should be diligence and virtue. True fortitude can never despair: but if once you pass the barrier of integrity and honour, your retreat is cut off, and your ruin inevitable: you can never more establish that confidence, without which no affair of importance can succeed: you can never make those hold virtue sacred, whom you have once taught to despise it. And, after

gar de las cosas, y preveer lo futuro: y es que un portel tan engañoso, ataca internamente, y destruye vuestra alianza. Vuestro perjuo hará que Adrasto triunfe de todos vosotros.

A estas razones todo el congreso alterado le preguntaba, cómo se atrevia á decir, que una accion, de que resultaria á la liga una victoria segura, podia ocasionar su destruccion.

Si una vez, respondió Telémaco, quebrantais la fe que es el único lazo de la confederacion y seguridad, ¿Cómo podreis fiaros unos de otros? Despues de haber sentado la máxima, de que para sacar alguna grande utilidad, se pueden violar las leyes de la rectitud, y fidelidad, ¿Quién de vosotros se fiará del otro, quando á este se le podrá seguir crecida conveniencia, saltando á la palabra, y engañando al amigo? A qué términos os veréis reducidos entónces? ¿Quién con las suyas no querrá prevenir las fraudes de sus enemigos y de sus vecinos? ¿Qué fundamento tiene una alianza de tantos pueblos, quando en una deliberacion comun han quedado de acuerdo que se permita engañar al vecino, y violar la fe dada? ¿Qual será vuestra mútua desconfianza, vuestra discordia, vuestro ardor en destruirlos alternativamente? No tendrá ya Adrasto necesidad de arruinaros; bastantemente os arruinaréis vos mismos, y justificaréis todas perfidias.

No os desdeñeis, sabios y magnánimos Reyes, que gobernais innumerables pueblos, con tan larga experiencia de mandar: no os desdeñeis de dar oidos á los consejos que os vienen por la boca de un mozo. Si hubierais dado en los mas lastimosos extremos, á que tal vez la guerra precipita á los hombres, seria menester que vuestra vigilancia y los esfuerzos de vuestra virtud os sacaran de estado tan infeliz; porque el valor verdadero nunca se dexa rendir, pero en habiendo roto una vez el reparo de la honra, y de la buena fé que os conservan, esta es una pérdida irrepara-

all, what have you to fear? Will not your courage conquer, without so base an auxiliary as fraud? Are not your own powers, and the strength of united nations, sufficient? Let us fight; and if we must, let us die; but let us not conquer with the loss of virtue and of fame. Adrastus, the impious Adrastus, is in our power; and nothing can deliver him, but our participation of the crimes that expose him to the wrath of heaven. »

When Telemachus had done speaking, he perceived that his words had carried conviction to the heart. He observed, that, of all who were present, not one offered to reply: their thoughts were fixed; not, indeed, upon him, nor the graces of his elocution; but upon the truths that he had displayed. At first, all was silent astonishment, expressed only by the countenance; but, after a short time, a confused murmur spread by degrees through the whole assembly: they looked upon each other; and all were impatient to declare their sentiments, though every one was afraid to speak first. It was expected, that the chiefs of the army should give their opinion: and the venerable Nestor, at length, spoke as follows:

« The gods, O son of Ulysses! have spoken by thy voice; Minerva, who has so often inspired thy father, has suggested to thee the wise and generous counsel which thou hast given to us. I think not of thy youth: for when I hear thee, Pallas only is present to my mind. Thou hast been the advocate of virtue. The greatest advantage, without virtue, is lost: without virtue, men are suddenly overtaken by the vengeance of their enemies, they are distrusted by their friends, abhorred by good men, and obnoxious to the righteous anger of the gods. Let us then leave Venusium in the hands of the Lucanians, and think of defeating Adrastus only by our own magnanimity. »

able. No podriais de nuevo fiar unos de otros con recíproca seguridad, qual es precisa, para conducir á buen fin todos los negocios que importan, ni hacer que recobran los hombres sus máximas primeras de virtud habiéndoles enseñado vosotros mismos á despreciarlas. Pero decidme, ¿de qué teméis? ¿No tenéis bastante valor para vencer sus engaños? ¿No basta por ventura vuestro corage junto con la fuerza de tantos pueblos? Peleemos pues: muramos pues, si es menester, mas presto que vencer con tanta indignidad. Adrasto, el impio Adrasto, está ya en vuestras manos, con tal que estemos lejos de imitarlo y tengamos horror á su mala fé, y a su traicion infame.

Quando acabó Telémaco de hablar, reparó que sus voces, con dulce persuasión, habian penetrado hasta lo íntimo de todos los corazones, y advirtió en el congreso un profundo silencio. Cada uno admiraba, no á él, ni á la elegancia de sus palabras, sino la fuerza de la verdad, que en el progreso de su razonamiento se hacia sentir en los animos de los que le oían. Vefase en los rostros de todos vivamente expresada la admiracion; y al fin se oyó un silencioso murmullo, que se iba poco á poco extendiendo. Mirabanse unos á otros, y no habia quien se atreviera á ser el primero en hablar: esperabase que los capitanes del ejército explicaran su parecer, y entretanto cada uno tenia harto trabajo para contenerse de no decir su interior sentimiento. Finalmente pronunció estas palabras el autorizado Nestor.

Los dioses os han hecho hablar, ó digno hijo de Ulises, y Minerva que tantas veces inspiró la alma de vuestro padre, ha puesto en vuestro pecho el cuerdo y generoso consejo que ahora nos habeis dado. No me detengo en vuestra juventud, y no atiendo sino á Minerva en todo lo que habeis dicho. Habeis hablado por la virtud: sin ella las mayores ventajas son verdaderas pérdidas: sin ella luego se arrastran la venganza enemiga, la desconfianza de los aliados, el odio de los hombres de bien, y la cólera justa de los dioses. Dexemos, pues, á Venosa en poder de las gentes de Lucania, y no pensemos mas sino en vencer á Adrasto con solo nuestro esfuerzo.

Thus Nestor spoke, and the whole assembly applauded: but their eyes were fixed upon Telemachus; and every one thought he saw the wisdom of the goddess that inspired him, lighted in his countenance.

This question being determined, the council began immediately to debate another, in which Telemachus acquired equal reputation. Adrastus with a perfidy and cruelty natural to his character, had sent one Acanthus into the camp as a deserter, who had undertaken to destroy the principal commanders of the army by poison; and had a particular charge not to spare Telemachus, who was already become the terror of the Daonians. Telemachus, who was too generous and brave easily to entertain suspicion, readily admitted this wretch to his presence, and treated him with great kindness: for having seen Ulysses in Sicily, he recommended himself by relating his adventures. Telemachus took him under his immediate protection, and consoled him under his misfortunes; for he pretended to have been defrauded, and treated with indignity, by Adrastus. Telemachus, however, was warming and cherishing a viper in his bosom, which his kindness only could enable to destroy him.

Acanthus had dispatched another deserter, whose name was Arion, from the camp of the allies to Adrastus, with particular intelligence of its situation; and assurances, that he would give poison to the chief commanders, and in particular to Telemachus, the next day, at an entertainment, to which he had been invited as a guest. It happened that this man was detected and seized, as he was escaping from the camp; and, in the terror and confusion of conscious guilt, he confessed his treachery. Achantus was suspected to have been his accomplice, because a remarkable intimacy had been observed between them; but Acanthus, who had great courage, and was profoundly skilled in dissimulation, made so artful a defence, that nothing could be proved against him, nor could the conspiracy be traced to its source.

Many of the princes were of opinion, that he ought certainly to be sacrificed to the public safety. « He

Dixo; y todo el congreso aplaudió tan sabias palabras; pero en el mismo tiempo, cada uno admirado volvía la atención á el hijo de Ulises, y parecía á todos ver traslucirse en él la sabiduría de Minerva que le inspiraba.

Ofrecióse bien presto otra cuestión en el consejo de los Reyes, en la qual se adquirió Telémaco no ménos reputacion que en la primera. Adrasto, siempre cruel, y siempre pérfido, envió al campo de los aliados un fugitivo, llamado Acante, para atosigar por su medio á los capitanes de mayor garvo. A este tal se habia especialmente encargado que se valiera de todo el artificio para quitar la vida á Telémaco que era ya terror de todos los Daunos. Telémaco, que era sobrado corajoso, y sobrado sincero para inclinár á la desconfianza, acogió á este infeliz amorosamente sin alguna dificultad; y él, que en Sicilia habia visto á Ulises, le referia los acontecimientos de aquel heroe. Proveyó del sustento preciso, y procuraba consolarle en su desventura; porque se lamentaba de haber sido engañado de Adrasto, y tratado de él indignamente; pero era alimentár, y avivar en el seno la venenosa vibora, que ya estaba á punto de hacer mortal herida.

Tomóse presto otro fugitivo, llamado Arion, que Acante despachaba para Adrasto á darle aviso del estado del campo de los aliados, y para asegurarle de que el dia siguiente atosigaría á los principales reyes á una con Telémaco, en un convite, en que éste les habia de regalar. Preso Arion, confesó su traicion, y se sospechó que estuviera de acuerdo con Acante, porque eran los dos muy amigos; pero Acante, profundamente disimulado, é intrepido, se defendía con tanta astucia, que no se le podia convencer, ni descubrir el fondo de la conjuracion.

Fuéron de parecer muchos reyes que en una dudal se debia sacrificar Acante á la pública seguridad.

must, at all events, » said they, « be put to death; for the life of a private individual is nothing, in competition with the lives of so many kings. It is possible he may die innocent; but that consideration should have no weight, when the vicegerents of the gods are to be secured from danger. »

« This horrid maxim, said Telemachus, « this barbarous policy, is a disgrace to human nature. Is the blood of men to be so lightly spilt; and are they to be thus wantonly destroyed by those that are set over them only for their preservation? The gods have made you to mankind, what the shepherd is to his flock; and will you degrade yourselves into wolves, and worry and devour those, whom you ought to cherish and protect? Upon your principles, to be accused, and to be guilty, is the same thing; and every one that is suspected must die. Envy and calumny will destroy innocence at pleasure; the oppressed will be sacrificed to the oppressor; and, in proportion as tyranny makes kings distrustful, judicial murderers will depopulate the state. »

Telemachus uttered this remonstrance with a vehemence and authority that gave it invincible force, and covered those, who gave the counsel he had reproved, with confusion. He perceived it and softened his voice: « As for myself, » said he, « I am not so fond of life, as to secure it upon such terms. I had rather Acanthus should be wicked, than Telemachus; and would more willingly perish by his treason, than destroy him unjustly, while I doubt only of his crime. A king is, by his office, the judge of his people; and his decision should be directed by wisdom, justice, and moderation: let me, then, examine Acanthus in your presence. »

Every one acquiesced, and Telemachus immediately questioned him concerning his connexion with Arion: he pressed him with a great variety of particulars; and he frequently took occasion to intimate a design of sending him back to Adrastus, as a deserter: this, if he had really deserted, would have alarmed him; for Adrastus would certainly have punished

Conviene, decian, que muera: no debe hacerse caso de la vida de un hombre, por salvar la de tantos reyes. ¿Qué importa que muera un inocente, quando se trata de conservar aquellos que representan en la tierra los dioses?

¿Qué máxima inhumana, qué cruel política! dixo luego Telémaco. ¿Luego sois tan pródigos de la sangre humana? ¿O, vosotros que sois escogidos para ser pastores de los hombres, y que no los regís sino para conservarlos como un pastor conserva la manada propia! luego sois lobos crueles, y no pastores; ó no sois á lo ménos pastores sino para degollar el ganado en vez de guiarle, como debierais al pasto. Segun vuestra opinion, quando es acusado un hombre al punto es delinquente, y es delito digno de muerte una sola sospecha. De esta suerte los inocentes se dexan á merced de los envidiosos, y calumniadores, y quando vaya creciendo en vuestros corazones la desconfianza tiranica, será menester degollar á proporción las víctimas.

Decia estas palabras Telémaco con una autoridad, y una fuerza que obligaba á todos los ánimos á probar sus razones, y hacia colorirse de avergonzados á los autores de tan infame consejo. Despues componiéndose con un ayre mas apacible, les dixo de esta suerte: Por quanto á mí, no amo tanto la vida que desee vivir á semejante precio: mas gusto de que Acante sea malvado que de serlo yo mismo; y que él me quite con traición la vida, que hacerle yo morir injustamente con la sola sospecha de su delito. Pero oidme, ó vos, que teniendo el grado de reyes, esto es, de jueces de vuestros pueblos, debéis juzgar los hombres con justicia, con prudencia, y moderacion. Dexadme interrogar á Acante á vista de todos vosotros.

Interrogólo pues sin detencion de muchas cosas, en orden á su inteligencia con Arion: estrechólo, preguntándole de infinitas circunstancias, y fingió muchas veces que le queria remitir á Adrasto, como á transfuga, que merecia castigo, para observar si con esta amenaza concebía temor: mas conserváronse tan tranquilos la voz, y el semblante de Acante que con-



him with death: but Telemachus, who watched the effect of this experiment with great attention, perceived not the least token of fear, either in his countenance or his voice; and, therefore, thought it probable, that he was guilty of the conspiracy. Not being able, however, fully to convict him, he demanded his ring: «I will send it,» said he, «to Adrastus.» At the demand of his ring, Acanthus turned pale: and Telemachus, who kept his eyes fixed upon him, perceived that he was in great confusion. The ring being delivered, «I will send Polytronus,» said Telemachus, «a Lucanian, whom you well know, to Adrastus, as a messenger dispatched with private intelligence from you; and he shall produce this ring as a token. If it is acknowledged by Adrastus, and, by this means, we discover that you are his emissary, you shall be put to death by torture; but if you will now voluntarily confess your guilt, we will remit the punishment it deserves, and only banish you to some remote island, where every thing shall be provided for your subsistence.» Acanthus being now urged both by fear and hope, made a full confession; and Telemachus prevailed with the kings to give him his life, as he had promised it; and he was sent into one of the Echinadian islands, where he passed his days in security and peace.

Not long afterwards, a Daunian of obscure birth but of a daring and violent spirit, whose name was Dioscorus, came into the camp of the allies by night, and offered to assassinate Adrastus in his tent: this offer it was in his power to make good; for, whoever despises his own life, can command that of another. Dioscorus had no wish, but for revenge; Adrastus had forcibly taken away his wife, whom he loved to distraction, and who was equal in beauty to Venus herself; and he had determined either to kill the tyrant, and recover his wife, or perish in the attempt. He had received secret instructions how to enter the tent in the night; and had learnt, that his enterprise would be favoured by many officers in the service: but he thought it would also be necessary, that the allies should attack the camp at the same time; as the

cluyó Telémaco, que tal vez no se hallaba culpado. Viendo al fin que no le era posible sacarle la verdad del corazón: Dadme, le dixo, vuestro anillo que le quiero despachar á Adrasto. Demudóse Acante á esta petición y quedó confuso. Advertiólo Telémaco, que siempre le miraba fixamente, y le tomó al instante el anillo. Ahora mismo, le dixo, le remito á Adrasto: llevará-selo un Lucano advertido, llamado, Politropio, que vos conoceis bien; y dará á entender que va allá con secreto de vuestra parte. Si por este camino podemos descubrir vuestra inteligencia con Adrasto, se os hará morir sin piedad con los mas atroces tormentos; pero si al contrario confesais vuestra culpa ahora, se os perdonará, y nos contentaremos con enviaros á una isla del mar, donde no dexaremos que os falte cosa. Acante entónces lo confesó todo; Telémaco alcanzó de los reyes que le concedieran la vida, que él ántes le habia ofrecido. Fué pues despachado el traidor á una de las islas Equinades, en donde pasó con sosiego el resto de su vida.

Pasado breve tiempo, un Dauno de baxo linage, pero de un espíritu violento y atrevido que se llamaba Dióscoro, vino de noche al campo de los aliados, para ofrecerles degollar á Adrasto en su tienda; y bien podía hacerlo, porque quien no hace aprecio de su vida, es dueño de las ajenas. Respiraba sangre y venganza, porque Adrasto le habia robado la muger, á quien él amaba perdidamente, y que en hermosura igualaba á la misma Venus. Habia resuelto morir, ó matar á Adrasto recobrando á su muger. Tenia Dióscoro secreta inteligencia para entrar de noche en la tienda del Rey, y para ser ayudado de muchos capitanes de los Daunos en la execucion de su intento; pero tenia por necesario, que al mismo tiempo fuese atacado el campo de Adrasto del ejército de los coligados, para poder salvarse en la confusion, y recobrar su muger; porque

confusion would facilitate his escape, and afford him a fairer opportunity to carry off his wife.

As soon as this man had made the confederate princes acquainted with his design, they turned towards Telemachus, as referring implicitly to his decision

« The gods, » said he, « who have preserved us from traitors, forbid us to employ them. It would be our interest to reject treachery, if we had not sufficient virtue to detest it: if we should once practise it against others, our example would justify others in the practice of it against us: and then, who among us will be safe? If Adrastus should avoid the mischief that threatens him, it will recoil upon ourselves; the nature of war will be changed; military skill and heroic virtue will have no object; and we shall see nothing but perfidy, treason, and assassination: we shall ourselves experience their fatal effects; and deserve to suffer every evil, to which we have given sanction by our practice. I am, therefore, of opinion, that we ought to send back this traitor to Adrastus; not for his sake, indeed; but the eyes of all Hesperia, and of all Greece are upon us, and we owe this testimony of our abhorrence of perfidy to them, and to ourselves; we owe it also to the gods, for the gods are just. »

Dioscorus was accordingly sent away to Adrastus, who trembled at the review of his danger, and was beyond expression amazed at the generosity of his enemies; for the wicked have no idea of disinterested virtue; he contemplated what had happened with admiration, and a secret and involuntary praise; but he did not dare to applaud it openly; being conscious that it would condemn himself; it brought into his mind the fraud and cruelty he had practised, with a painful sense both of guilt and shame. He endeavoured to account for appearances, without imputing to his enemies such virtue as he could not emulate; and while he felt himself indebted to them for his life, he could not think of ingratitude without compunction; but, in those who are habitually wicked, remorse is

si no podia recobrarla, estaba contento con perder la vida tambien.

Al punto que él descubrió su intencion á los reyes confederados, se volviéron todos acia el hijo de Ulises, como para pedirle la decision.

Los dioses, les dixo Telémaco, que nos han preservado de traidores, nos vedan que nos sirvamos de ellos. Aun quando no tuviéramos virtud bastante para detestar la traicion, bastaría para no admitirla la consideracion sola de nuestro propio interés, luego que la hubieremos autorizado con nuestro exemplo, merecerémos que se vuelva contra nosotros. De aquí en adelante, ¿Quién habra de nosotros que pueda vivir seguro? Bien podrá Adrasto evitar el golpe que le amenaza, y hacerle desconfiar sobre las cabezas de los reyes aliados: la guerra no será ya guerra: no se usará ya mas de la prudencia y de la virtud, y no se verá otro que perfidiás, que asesinamientos, y que traiciones. Concluyo pues, que conviene remitir el traidor á Adrasto. Confieso que no lo merece el impio Rey, pero toda la Hesperia, y Grecia, que atentamente nos miran, merecen que tengamos este porte, para adquirirnos su aprecio. De semejante modo hemos de obrar por respeto á nosotros mismos; y finalmente por respeto á los justos dioses, debemos tener un tal aborrecimiento á la perfidia de los traidores.

Fué luego Dioscoro remitido á Adrasto, que horrorizado todo con el riesgo, en que habia estado no podia bastantemente admirarse de la generosidad de sus enemigos; porque no pueden los malvados ni figurarse, ni comprehender una pura virtud. Admirabase Adrasto, á su pesar, de lo que entonces él mismo veia, y no se atrevia á alabar. Esta accion noble de los coligados traia á su memoria con vergüenza todas las fraudes, y todas las crueldades por él executadas: procuraba disminuir el crédito á la generosidad de su enemigo, y avergonzabase de parecer ingrato, mientras que le debia la vida. Pero los hombres malvados se endurecen presto contra todo lo que pudiera vencer la obstinacion de sus corazones. Viendo Adrasto crecer de dia en dia la reputacion de los aliados, juzgó ser

of short duration. Adrastus, who saw the reputation of the allies perpetually increase, thought it absolutely necessary to attempt something of importance against them immediately: as he found they must of necessity foil him in virtue, he could only hope to gain the advantage of them in arms; and therefore prepared to give them battle without delay.

The day of action arrived; and Aurora had scarce strewed her roses in the path of the sun, and thrown open the gates of the east before him, when Telemachus, anticipating the vigilance of experience and age, broke from the soft embraces of sleep, and put all the commanders in motion. His morion, covered with horse-hair that floated in the wind, already glittered upon his head: his cuirass diffused a new sun-shine upon the plain; and his shield, the work of Vulcan, besides its natural beauty, shone with a divine effulgence, which it derived from the ægis of Minerva that was concealed under it, in one hand he held a lance, and, with the other, he pointed out the posts which the several divisions of the army were to occupy.

Minerva had given a fire to his eye that was more than human, and animated his countenance with an expression of awful majesty, that seemed to be an earnest of victory. He marched, and all the princes of the confederacy, forgetting their dignity and their age, followed him by an irresistible impulse; their hearts were inaccessible even to envy; and every one yielded, with a spontaneous obedience, to him, who was under the immediate but invisible conduct of Minerva. There was now nothing impetuous or precipitate in his deportment: he possessed himself, with the most placid tranquillity, and condescending patience; he was ready to hear every opinion, and to improve every hint: but he shewed also the greatest activity, vigilance, and foresight: he provided against the remotest contingencies; he was neither disconcerted himself, nor disconcerted others; he excused all mistakes, regulated all that was amiss, and obviated difficulties even in their causes, before they could take effect: he exacted no unreasonable service, he left every man at liberty, and enjoyed every man's confidence.

necesario hacer alguna accion señalada contra ellos; y como no podia executar alguna que fuera virtuosa, quiso á lo ménos alcanzar con las armas alguna gran venganza, y se dió priesa para pelear.

Habiendo ya llegado el dia de la batalla, apenas pareció en el oriente la roxa aurora, precursora del sol, quando el jóven Telémaco, previniendo su diligencia al desvelo de los capitanes mas veteranos, se levantó temprano, é hizo igualmente que todos los oficiales se pusieran á punto de cumplir con su obligacion. Ya resplandecia en su cabeza el yelmo, cubierto todo de trémulos penachos, y la cofaza de que iba guarnecido, deslumbraba los ojos del ejército que la miraba. El escudo labrado de Vulcano, tenia, á mas de su natural hermosura, el resplandor de la Egide que se ocultaba en él. Tenia en una mano la lanza: señalaba con la otra diferentes puestos que convenia ocupar.

Hábale Minerva derramado en los ojos una divina luz, y en el semblante una majestad feroz, que ántes de tiempo prometia ya la victoria. Abanzabanse, y todos los reyes olvidandose de su edad y grado, se sentian tirar de una superior fuerza que les obligaba á seguirle. No podian ya entrar en les corazones los villanos zelos: ya todo cede á Telémaco, á quien sin ser sentida guia de la mano Minerva. Su porte no tenia cosa inconsiderada, ó impetuosa: era agradable, sosegado, paciente, pronto siempre para oir á los otros, y para aprovecharse de sus consejos; pero juntamente era activo, pródigo, atento á reparar las mas remotas urgencias: disponia oportunamente todas las cosas; no se descomponia por nada, y ménos confundia á los demas: excusaba las faltas, remediaba los yerros, prevenia las dificultades; nunca pedia á nadie cosas imposibles; é inspiraba á todos una denodada franqueza, y suma confianza.

When he gave an order, he expressed himself with the greatest plainness and perspicuity; he repeated it, to assist the apprehension and memory of those that were to execute it; he consulted their looks while he was speaking, to know whether he was perfectly understood, and he made them express their sense of his orders in their own words. When he had satisfied himself of the abilities of the persons he employed, and perceived that they perfectly entered into his views, he never dismissed them without some mark of his esteem and confidence; every one, therefore, that was engaged in the execution of his designs, was interested in the success? from a principle of love to their commander; whom they wished, more than all things, to please. Nor was their activity restrained, by the fear of having misfortune imputed to them as a fault: for he blamed none that were unsuccessful even by mistake, if their intentions appeared to have been good.

The first rays of the sun now tinged the horizon with a glowing red, and the sea sparkled with the reflected fires of the rising day: the plain was thronged with men and arms, and horses and chariots were every where in motion. An almost infinite variety of sounds produced a loud but hoarse noise, like that of the sea, when a mighty tempest, at the command of Neptune, moves the world of waters to its foundation; and Mars, by the din of arms, and the dreadful apparatus of war, began to scatter the seeds of rage in every breast. Spears stood erect in the field as thick as corn, that hides the furrows of the plough in autumn; a cloud of dust rose in the air, which hid both heaven and earth, by degrees, from the sight of man; and inexorable death advanced, with confusion, horror, and carnage in his train.

The moment the first flight of arrows was discharged, Telemachus, lifting up his hands and eyes to heaven, pronounced these words:

« O Jupiter, father both of gods and men! Thou seest justice on our side; and peace, which we have not been ashamed to seek: we draw the sword with reluctance; and would spare the blood of man. Against

Si daba un orden, usaba de los términos mas llanos y mas claros: volvía otra vez á repetirlo, para darlo á entender mejor á quien lo habia de executar: descubriale por los ojos, si habia bien comprehendido su sentimiento: despues se hacia familiarmente explicar, cómo habia entendido sus palabras, y el principal intento de lo que se debia efectuar.

Habiendo hecho esta prueba de la buena inteligencia de aquel á quien él despachaba, para poner en obra sus designios, y habiéndole hecho comprehender su intencion, no le dexaba partir, sino habiéndole dado alguna señal de estima, y habiéndole monstrado tener buena opinion de su talento para animarlo. Así todos aquellos á quienes él enviaba á executar algo, se empeñaban con todo zelo por darle gusto, y por conducir á buen fin la empresa: mas no tenian miedo que él inputaria á culpa suya el mal suceso de la cosa que les encomendaba; porque escusaba Telémaco todos los yerros que no se originaban de malicia.

Bermejeaba ya el orizonte, inflamado con los rayos primeros del sol, y estaba lleno el mar de la luz del dia que despuntaba. Toda la playa estaba cubierta de hombres de armas, de caballos y de carros que estaban en movimiento, y oíase en todas partes cierto rumor confuso, como el de las ondas furiosas: quando Neptuno mueve en el mas hondo seno del mar las desapoderadas borrascas. Así comenzaba la guerra á mover el enojo en los corazones de todos en el estruendo de las armas, y con la prevencion horrorosa de la batalla. Toda la campaña se miraba llena de espesas picas, como las espigas que cubren las tierras fecundas en el tiempo de la cosecha. Levantábase ya una nube de polvo, que hacia poco á poco perder de vista tierra, y cielo; y ya las sombras, el horror, el estrago, y la cruel muerte, empezaban á aparecer.

Apénas se arrojaron las primeras flechas, quando levantando Telémaco los ojos, y las manos al cielo, hizo esta humilde oracion:

O Júpiter, padre de los dioses, y de los hombres, veis bien de nuestra parte la justicia y la paz, que no hemos tenido vergüenza de pedir. Nosotros peleamos con disgusto, porque quisieramos ser piadosos con los

even his enemy, however cruel, perfidious and prophane, we have no malice. Judge, therefore, between him and us. If we must die, it is thy hand that resumes the life it has given! If Hesperia is to be delivered, and the tyrant abased, it is thy power, and the wisdom of Minerva, that shall give us victory! The glory will be due to thee, for the fate of battle is weighed in thy balance. We fight in thy behalf, for thou art righteous; and Adrastus is, therefore, more thy enemy than ours. If, in thy behalf, we conquer, the blood of a whole hecatomb shall smoke upon thy altars, before the day is past!»

Then, shaking the reins over the fiery and foaming coursers of his chariot, he rushed into the thickest rank of the enemy. The first that opposed him was Periander the Loerian: he was covered with the skin of a lion, which he had slain when he was travelling in Cilicia; and he was armed, like Hercules, with a club of enormous size: he had the stature and the strength of a giant; and, as soon as he saw Telemachus, he despised his youth, and the beauty of his countenance: «Is it for thee,» said he, «effeminate boy! to dispute the glory of arms with us? Hence; and seek thy father in the dominions of the dead!» He spoke, and lifted his ponderous and knotted mace against him; it was studded with spikes of steel, and had the appearance of a mast. All that were near trembled at its descent; but Telemachus avoided the blow, and rushed upon his enemy, with a rapidity equal to the flight of an eagle. The mace falling upon the wheel of a chariot that was near him, dashed it to pieces; and, before Periander could recover it, Telemachus pierced his neck with a dart. The blood which gushed in a torrent from the wound, instantly stifled his voice; his hand relaxed; and the reins falling upon the neck of his coursers, they started away with un-governed fury. He fell from the chariot; his eyes were suffused with everlasting darkness; and his countenance, pale and disfigured, was still impressed with

hombres, escasear su sangre; antes no tenemos odio, ni aun contra ese enemigo, bien que cruel, pérfido y sacrilego. Mirad pues á unos y á otros, y decidid entre ellos y nosotros. Si es menester morir, en vuestra mano estan nuestras vidas: si hemos de rendir al tirano, y librar la Hesperia, los que nos daran la victoria serán vuestro poder, y la virtud de vuestra hija Minerva. Toda la gloria de ella se deberá á vos solo, que distribuis las suertes de los hombres, y gobernais á vuestro arbitrio la fortuna de las batallas. Pelearémos por vos, puesto que sois juez. Adrasto es harto mas enemigo vuestro que de nosotros mismos. Si antes de fenecerse el dia quedare vencedora vuestra causa, se hará correr la sangre de cien victimas sobre vuestros altares.

Dixo, é impelió al mismo tiempo los espumosos y ardientes caballos á las mas espesas esquadras de los enemigos. Arrojóse luego á Periandro Loicense que iba cubierto de la piel de un leon que habia muerto en un viage que hizo en Sicilia. Estaba armado á lá manera de Hércules, con una maza de desmedida grandeza, y lo hacian semejar á Gigante, no ménos que la fuerza, la estatura. Luego que él vió á Telémaco empezó á despreciar su juventud y belleza de su semblante. ¿A tí, dixo jóven afeminado, conviene puntualmente disputarnos la honra de la victoria? Anda, niño, ve al infierno á buscar á tu padre. Diciendo estas palabras, levantó su pesada y poderosa maza, que estaba toda armada de agudas puntas de acero, y parecia un árbol de baxel. Mientras que cada uno temia que estaba para caerle sobre su propia cabeza, iba ya á descargar sobre la del hijo de Ulises; pero desvióse este del golpe, y echóse encima de Periandro con una velocidad como de águila, que rasga el ayre. La maza al caer destrozó la rueda de un carro, cercano á aquel en que estaba Telémaco. En esto Periandro fué atravesado á mano del mancebo Griego, que le metió una flecha por la garganta, y la sangre, que á borbotones salia por la grande abertura de aquella herida, le ahogó en las fauces la voz. Sus feroces caballos, no sintiéndose ya detenidos de la flaca mano de su señor, empezárou á correr impetuosa-

the agonies of death. Telemachus was touched with pity at the sight, and immediately gave the body to his attendants; reserving to himself the lion's skin and mace as trophies of victory.

He then sought Adrastus in the thickest of the battle, and overturned a crowd of heroes in his way: Hileus, who had harnessed to his chariot two coursers, bred in the vast plains that are watered by the Ausidius, and scarcely inferior to those of the sun; Demoleon, who, in Sicily, had almost rivalled Eryx in combats with the cestus: Crantor, who had been the host and the friend of Hercules, when he passed through Hesperia, to punish the villainies of Cacus with death: Menecrates, who, in wrestling, was said to have rivalled Pollux; Hypocoön the Salapian, who, in managing the horse, had the grace and dexterity of Castor; the mighty hunter Eurimedes, who was always stained with the bloods of bears and wild boars, that he slew upon the frozen summits of the Appennine, and who was said to have been so great a favourite of Diana, that she taught him the use of the bow herself; Nicostrates, who had conquered a giant, among the rocks of mount Garganus, that vomited fire; and Eleanthus, who was betrothed to Pholoe, a youthful beauty, the daughter of the god that pours the river Liris from his urn. She had been promised, by her father, to him who should deliver her from a winged serpent, which was bred on the borders of the stream, and which an oracle had predicted should, in a few days, devour her. Eleanthus, for the love of Pholoe, undertook to destroy the monster, and succeeded; but the fates withheld him from the fruits of his victory; and, while Pholoe was preparing for their union, and expecting the return of her hero with a tender and timid joy, she learnt that he had followed Adrastus to the war, and that his life was cut off by an untimely stroke. Her sighs were wafted to the surrounding woods and mountains, upon every  
mente

mente acá y allá por en medio del campo con las riendas sueltas, y ondeando sobre el cuello. Cayó debaxo del carro el miserable, cerrados ya los ojos á la luz, y desfigurado el rostro, en todo el qual se esparció una palidez mortal. Tuvo de él compasion Telémaco, y permitiendo luego el cadáver á los criados del muerto, guardó para sí la maza, y la piel del leon por señales de la victoria.

Corrió de aquí sin parar á lo mas espeso de la batalla para buscar á Adrasto: pero buscándole, mató una grande muchedumbre de combatientes. Cayéron á su mano Ileo, cuyo carro tirában dos caballos, como los del sol, criados en las vastas praderías, que bañan las corrientes del Ausido: Demoleonte, que casi habia igualado en Sicilia al grande Erix en la lucha del Cesto: Grantero, amigo de Hércules, á quien habia albergado en su casa, quando pasando por la Hesperia el gran hijo de Júpiter, mató al infame Caco: Menecrates, de quien se decia, que en la lucha se parecia á Polux: Ipoconte de Salapia, que imitaba la destreza, y el noble garvo de Castor en manejar un caballo: el famoso cazador Eurimides, siempre manchado de sangre de osos y jabalies, que mataba en las cumbres nevadas del Apenino; y de quien corria la voz, que habia sido tan agradable á Diana, que ella misma le habia enseñado á manejar el arco, y las flechas; y Nicóstrato, ántes vencedor de un Gigante, que despedía fuego por la boca, y hacia su mansion en los despeñíos del monte Gargano. Fué muerto tambien de Telémaco Eleante, que habia de casar con la doncella Foloe, hijo del rio París. Habiala su padre prometido á aquel que la librara de un dragon, que se habia criado en sus orillas, y que segun la prediccion del oráculo, la habia de tragar dentro de pocos dias. Eleante con amor excesivo arriesgó su vida por quitarla aquel monstruo: mas habiendo conducido á buen fin la empresa, no pudo gustar del fruto de la victoria. Mientras Foloe se disponia para las bodas, y mientras esperaba con impaciencia á Eleante, le llevaron la nueva de haberse partido á la guerra con el Rey de los Daunos; y que en una batalla habia perdido la vida. Llenó de gemidos los bosques, y los

gale; her eyes overflowed with tears; and the flowers which she had been wreathing into garlands were neglected: in the distraction of her grief, she accused heaven of injustice; but the gods beheld her with compassion; and accepting the prayers of her father, put an end to her distress. Her tears flowed in such abundance, that she was suddenly changed into a fountain, which at length mingled with the parent stream; but the waters are still bitter; no herbage blossoms upon its banks; and no tree, but the cypress, refreshes them with a shade.

In the mean time Adrastus, who had learnt that Telemachus was spreading terror on every side, went in search of him with the utmost ardour and impatience. He hoped to find him an easy conquest, as he had yet scarcely acquired the full strength of a man: the tyrant did not, however, trust wholly to this advantage, but took with him thirty Daunians, of uncommon boldness, dexterity, and strength, to whom he had promised great rewards for killing Telemachus in any manner. If, at this time, they had met, and the thirty Daunians had surrounded the chariot of the young hero while Adrastus had attacked him in front, he would certainly have been cut off without difficulty: but Minerva turned this formidable band another way.

Adrastus, thinking he distinguished the voice and figure of Telemachus among a crowd of combatants, that were engaged in a small hollow at the foot of a hill, rushed to the spot, that he might satiate his revenge: but, instead of Telemachus, he found Nestor, who, with a feeble hand, threw some random shafts, that did no execution. Adrastus, in the rage of disappointment, would instantly have slain him, if a troop of Pylians had not surrounded their king.

And now, a multitude of arrows obscured the day, and covered the contending armies like a cloud: nothing was to be heard but the groans of death, and the clashing armour of those that fell: the ground was

montes cercanos al río: derramó de sus ojos copia grande de lágrimas: desgreñó sus hermosos cabellos: dexó de coger flores, con que antes acostumbraba texer guirnaldas: volvióse contra el cielo, y lo acusó de injusto. Como nunca cesaba de llorar de noche y de día, movidos de sus quejas los dioses, y de los ruegos del río, pusieron fin á su llanto. A fuerza de sus lágrimas fué de improviso transformada en fuente, que corriendo acia el río, va á mezclar sus caudales con los de su padre. Pero guardan todavía sus aguas su primera amargura: cerca de ella nunca nace, ó florece yerba; y fuera de la sombra de los cipreses, no ve alguna otra sobre sus funestas riberas.

Avisado entretanto Adrasto, que aterraba Telémaco, y ponía en fuga á los Daunos por todas partes, lo buscaba con gran cuidado en la batallá. Esperaba que facilmente vencería al hijo de Ulises, hallándose aun en edad tan tierna, y llevaba consigo treinta Daunos de suma fuerza y destreza, y de extraordinaria osadía, á quienes habia ofrecido crecidos premios, si de alguna manera podian, en el combate quitar la vida á Telémaco. Si entónces le hubiera encontrado, ciertamente que rodeando el carro de Telémaco treinta hombres, mientras que Adrasto le acometiera de frente, no hubieran habido de trabajar mucho para matarlo; pero dispuso Minerva, que no le pudieran hallar.

Parció á Adrasto que veía, y oía á Telémaco en un sitio de la llanura, que estaba al pie de un collado, donde se hallaba entónces peleando un gran tropel de gente. Corrió allá al punto con tal velocidad, que por decirlo así, volaba deseoso de hartarse de sangre; pero encontró á Nestor en lugar de Telémaco, que arrojaba con mano tremula á la ventura muchos dardos inútiles, y sin herir con ellos. Arrebatado Adrasto con el furor, ya le pretendia atravesar; pero rodeó á Nestor para defenderlo una tropa de Piliios.

Obscureció entónces el ayre una nube de flechas, que cubrió á todos los combatientes. No se oían sino los alharidos lastimosos de los moribundos, y el estruendo que hacian las armas de los que iban cayendo

loaded with mountains of slain, and deluged with rivers of blood. Mars and Bellona, attended by the infernal furies, and clothed in garments that dropped with gore, enjoyed the horrors of the battle, and animated the combatants with new fury. By these relentless deities, enemies to man, pity, generous valour, and mild humanity, were driven from the field; and slaughter, revenge, despair, and cruelty, raged amidst the tumult without controul. Minerva, the wise and invincible, shuddered, and turned with horror from the scene.

Philoctetes, in the mean time, though he walked with difficulty with the shafts of Hercules, limped to the assistance of Nestor with all his might: Adrastus, not being able to penetrate the guard of Pylians that surrounded him, laid many of them in the dust. He slew Etesilaus, who was so light of foot, that he scarcely imprinted the sand; and, in his own country, left the rapid waves of Eurotas and Alpheus behind him: he overthrew also Eutiphron, who exceeded Hylas in beauty, and Hypolitus in the chase; Pterelaus, who had followed Nestor to the siege of Troy, and was beloved by Achilles for his prowess and valour; Aristogiton, who, having bathed in the river Achelous, was said to have received from the deity of the stream, the secret gift of assuming whatever form he desired, and who had, indeed, a suppleness and agility, that eluded the strongest grasp; but Adrastus, by one stroke of his lance, rendered him motionless for ever, and his soul rushed from the wound with his blood.

Nestor, who saw the bravest of his commanders fall under the cruel hand of Adrastus, as ears of corn, ripened into a golden harvest, fall before the sickle of the reaper, forgot the danger to which, tremulous and feeble with age, he exposed himself in vain: his attention was wholly fixed upon his son Pisistratus,

en la pelea: gemia oprimida la tierra baxo de un monton de cadaveres, y corría á arroyos la sangre de todas partes. Belona, y Marte, á una con las furias infernales, vestidas de ropas talaras, que destilaban sangre, apacentaban sus crueles ojos en tan funesto espectáculo, y alentaban sin cesar el furor en los corazones combatientes. Estas dejdades, contrarias del linage humano, endurecian á los soldados de ambas partes, y alejaban de ellos la piedad generosa, el valor moderado, y todo sentimiento de ternura. En aquel confuso tropel de hombres cuidadosos de dañarse, todo era estrago, venganza, desesperacion y furor brutal. Hasta la sabia, é invencible Palas se estremeció al mirar tragedia tan funesta, y se retiró horrorizada.

En tanto Filotetes, empuñando las flechas de Hercules, se avanzaba con lentos pasos, y procuraba ir con la mayor presteza á socorrer á Nestor. Adrasto, habiendo intentado en vano llegar á emparejarse con Nestor, habia empleado las flechas en muchos Pilios, que habian caido á tierra á exhalar entre el polvo sus alientos. Habia abatido ya á Ctisilas, tan agíl y ligero, que apenas estampaba sus huellas sobre la arena, y que en la velocidad excedia en su pais la de Alfeo, y la corriente mas rápida del Eurota. Habian caido á sus pies Eurifonte, mas bello que Ila, y no menos valiente cazador que Hipólito; Ctisilas, que habia ido al asedio de Troya con el sabio Nestor, y que con el valor, y con la fuerza se hacia estimar del mismo Aquiles. Hizose al encuentro de Adrasto Aristogiton, que habiéndose bañado en las aguas del rio Aqueloo, habia recibido interiormente de aquel dios la virtud de tomar qualquiera figura. Era éste en todos sus movimientos tan doblegable, y pronto, que se le escapaba de las manos, hasta á los hombres mas fuertes; pero Adrasto de una lanzada lo dexó inmóvil, y huyó envuelta en su sangre la alma de Aristogiton.

Viendo Nestor, que á manos de Adrasto caian sus valientes capitanes como caen las espigas en tiempo de la cosecha con la cortante hoz del segador, se olvidaba del riesgo á que se despeñaba sin provecho. Habia ya dexado de ser viejo, ni pensaba ya en otro, que en seguir con los ojos á Pisistrato, su hijo, que por su



whom he followed with his eye, as he was bravely sustaining the party that defended his father. But now the fatal moment was come, when Nestor was once more to feel the infelicity of having lived too long.

Pisistratus made a stroke against Adrastus with his lance, so violent, that if the Daunian had not avoided it, it must have been fatal. The assailant having missed his blow, staggered with its force; and before he could recover his position, Adrastus wounded him with a javelin in the belly: his bowels, in a torrent of blood, followed the weapon; his colour faded like a flower that is broken from its root; his eyes became dim, and his voice faltered. Alcæus, his governor, who fought near him, sustained him as he fell; and had just time to place him in the arms of his father, before he expired. He looked up, and made an effort to give the last token of his tenderness; but having opened his lips to speak, the spirit issued with his breath.

Nestor, now defended against Adrastus by Philotetes, who spread carnage and horror round him, still supported the body of his son, and pressed it in an agony to his bosom. The light was now hateful to his eyes; and his passion burst out into exclamation and complaint: «Wretched man,» said he, «to have been once a father, and to have lived so long! Wherefore, O inexorable fates! would ye not take my life when I was chasing the Caledonian boar, sailing in the expedition to Colchis, or courting danger in the first siege of Troy? I should then have died with glory, and tasted no bitterness in death. I now languish with age and sorrow! I am now feeble and despised; I live only to suffer, and have sensibility only for affliction! O my son! O my dear son, Pisistratus! when I lost thy brother Antilochus, I had still thee to comfort me, but I now have thee no more; I possess nothing, and can receive no comfort! with me all is at an end; and even in hope, that only solace of

parte sostenia el ataque con esfuerzo para desviar de su padre el peligro que le amenazaba. Pero habiale ya llegado aquel fatal momento, que en Pisistrato habia de hacer conocer á Nestor, quan frequentemente es desgracia haber vivido sobrado.

Tiró contra Adrasto el mancebo una lanza con tal esfuerzo, que traspasara el Dauno, si él no la desviara, é hiriera al mismo tiempo á Pisistrato con otra pequeña lanza por en medio del vientre, mientras que él titubeando recobraba las que ya habia disparado y executado en vago su golpe. Comenzáron luego á salirle las entrañas, con gran copia de sangre de la herida: mudó de color á manera de una flor, cogida de la mano de una ninfa en el hermoso prado: perdiéron casi toda la luz los ojos, y quedóle la voz débil y desmayada. Alcíe, á quien se habia dado el cuidado de su enseñanza, y que se hallaba cerca en aquel lance, le sostuvo mas tiempo para caer, y no tuvo mas tiempo, que para conducirlo á los brazos de su desventurado padre. Quiso hablar en ellos Pisistrato, y dar á Nestor las últimas muestras de su cariño; mas al abrir la boca, despidió su postrer aliento.

Mientras que Filotetes, para rechazar los esfuerzos de Adrasto, echaba á los contrarios, que le ceñian; haciendo estrago, y arruinándolo todo, estrechaba Nestor entre sus brazos el cadaver de su hijo; y llenando de alharidos el ayre, aborrecia la vida, y no podia tolerar mas la luz. Gran desgracia, decia, ha sido para mí ser padre, y haber vivido tan largo tiempo! ¡Ah, destino cruel! ¿por qué mucho tiempo antes no me quitastes la vida, ó en la caza del jabali en Calidonia, ó en el viage de Etolia, ó en el primer asedio de Troya? Hubiera muerto con lauro, y sin experimentar tan amargo tormento. Tendré ahora una vida infeliz, en una vejez dolorosa, débil y despreciada: no vivo mas que para padecer, ni me queda otro sentimiento sino es el de mi dolor. Hijo mio, hijo mio Pisistrato, quando perdi á Antiloco, tu hermano, me quedabas tú por lo ménos para consuelo. Ahora que tambien me hallo sin ti, todo se me ha acabado, ni habrá ya cosa que me consuele. La esperanza misma,

human misery, I have no portion! O my children! Antilochus and Pisistratus! I feel, this day, as if this day I had lost ye both; and the first wound in my heart now bleeds afresh. Alas! I shall see you no more! Who shall close my eyes when I die, and who shall collect my ashes for the urn! Thou hast died, O my dear Pisistratus! like thy brother, the death of a hero; and to die is forbidden only to me!

In this transport of grief, he would have killed himself with a javelin that he held in his hand: but he was prevented by those that stood by. The body of his son was forced from his arms; and sinking under the conflict, he fainted: he was carried, in a state of insensibility, to his tent; where, soon after reviving, he would have returned to the combat, if he had not, by a gentle force, been restrained.

In the mean time, Adrastus and Philoctetes were mutually in search of each other. Their eyes sparkled like those of the leopard and the lion, when they fight in the plains that are watered by the Caister; their looks were savage, and expressed hostile fury and unrelenting vengeance: every lance that they dismissed, was fatal; and the surrounding warriors gazed at them with terror. At last they got sight of each other; and Philoctetes applied one of those dreadful arrows to his bow, which, from his hand, never missed the mark, and which inflicted a wound that no medicine could cure. But Mars, who favoured the fearless cruelty of Adrastus, would not yet suffer him to perish: it was the pleasure of the god, that he should prolong the horrors of the war, and increase the number of the dead: and he was still necessary to divine justice, for the punishment of man.

Philoctetes, at the very moment when he was fitting the shaft against Adrastus, was himself wounded with a lance; the blow was given by Amphimachus, a young Lucanian, more beautiful than Nireus, who, among all the commanders at the siege of Troy, was excelled in person only by Achilles. Philoctetes, the moment he received the wound, discharged the ar-

que es el único alivio de las aflicciones humanas, es un bien á que no puedo ya aspirar. Antiloco, Pisistrato, queridos hijos, á los dos parece que pierdo este día: la muerte de uno me renueva en el corazón la herida, que me habia hecho el otro. ¿Luego no os veré mas? ¿Quién sera quien me cierre los ojos en el último punto de mi vida? ¿Quién recogerá las cenizas de mi cadáver? Tú has muerto como tu hermano, como hombre valeroso, ó amado Pisistrato, yo soy solo quien nunca puede morir.

Diciendo estas palabras, se quiso atravesar con un dardo; pero le tuviéron la mano, y le quitaron el cadáver del hijo; y cayéndose desmayado el infeliz anciano, fué llevado á su tienda, en donde recobradas un tanto las primeras fuerzas, se queria volver á la batalla, si no le detuvieran á su pesar sus amigos.

Andábanse entretanto buscando Adrasto y Filotetes, para investirse. Tenian encendidos los ojos, y centelleando, como los de un leon, ó un leopardo, que uno á otro procuran despedazarse; descubriáanse en sus fieros semblantes las amenazas, el guerrero furor, y la venganza. Adonde quiera que arrojaban sus dardos, mataban ciertamente, y todos los soldados les miraban amedrentados. Pero ya se ven uno á otro, y avanza Filotetes, empuñando una de aquellas terribles flechas, que disparadas de él, jamas erraron tiro, siendo sus heridas irremediabiles. Con todo eso Marte, que defendia al intrépido y cruel Adrasto, no pudo tolerár que muriera tan presto; porque queria alargar, por medio de aquel príncipe, los destrozos horribles de la guerra, y multiplicar los estragos. Aun habia la justicia divina de servirse de Adrasto para castigar á los hombres, y derramar su sangre.

Al mismo punto en que quiso investirle Filotetes, fué él mismo prevenido de la lanza de Anfimaco, que era un jóven Lucano, aun mas galan que el célebre Nireo, y que entre todos los Griegos, que militaron en el asedio de Troya, no cedia en belleza sino á Aquiles. Apenas quedó herido Filotetes, tiró luego la flecha contra Anfimaco, y pasóela por medio del co-

row at Amphimachus. The weapon transfixed his heart: the lustre of his eyes, so beautifully black, was extinguished, and they were covered with the shades of death: his lips, in comparison of which, the roses, that Aurora scattered in the horizon, are pale, lost their colour; and his countenance, so blooming and lovely, became ghastly and disfigured. Philoctetes himself was touched with compassion: and, when, his body lay weltering in his blood, and his tresses, which might have been mistaken for Apollo's, were trailed in the dust, every one lamented his fall.

Philoctetes, having slain Amphimachus, was himself obliged to retire from the field: he became feeble by the loss of blood: and he had exerted himself so much in the battle, that his old wound became painful, and seemed ready to break out afresh; for notwithstanding the divine science of the sons of Æsculapius, the cure was not perfect. Thus exhausted, and ready to fall upon the heaps of slain that surrounded him, he was borne off by Archidamas, who excelled all the Oebalians that he brought with him to found the city of Petilia, in dexterity and courage, just at the moment when Adrastus might, with ease, have laid him dead at his feet. And now the tyrant found none that dared to resist him, or retard his victory: all his enemies were either fallen or fled: and he might justly be resembled to a torrent, which, having overflowed its bounds, rushes on with tumultuous impetuosity, and sweeps away the harvest and the flock, the shepherd and the village together.

Telemachus heard the shouts of the victors at a distance: and saw his people flying before Adrastus, with disorder and precipitation, like a timid hind, that, pursued by the hunter, traverses the plain, rushes through the forest, leaps the precipice, and plunges into the flood.

A groan issued from his breast, and his eyes sparkled with indignation: he quitted the spot where he had long fought with so much danger and glory, and hastened to sustain his party: he advanced, covered

razon. Faltó al punto toda la luz en los negros hermosos ojos del jovencillo, y cubriéronse con tinieblas de muerte: perdiéron su colorido los labios, mas bermejos que aquellos vivos, y purpúreos matices con que al nacer la Aurora arrebola nuestro orizonte: corrió una amarillez horrorosa á asombrar sus mejillas; y aquel rostro gentil y delicado se desfiguró en un instante. El mismo Filotetes se conoció movido á compasion, y suspiráron los combatientes de la una y otra parte, viendo al mísero jóven, que caído en tierra, se revolvía en su propia sangre, y arrastraba en el polvo sus hermosas trenzas, que en ninguna cosa cedían á las de Apolo.

Despues que Filotetes hubo muerto á Anímaco, fué obligado á retirarse de la batalla. A vueltas de la saugre perdía tambien el vigor; y parecia asimismo, que con el esfuerzo de la pelea estaba á punto de volvérselo á abrir la herida antigua, y de renovárselo los primeros dolores; porque los hijos de Esculapio con su ciencia divina no habian podido enteramente curarle. Estaba ya para caer sobre un monton de cuerpos sangrientos que le cercaban, sino le hubiera sacado de en medio del combate, en aquel lance mismo en que Adrasto le hubiera sin trabajo abatido, Arquidamante, el mas atrevido, y mas avisado de todos aquellos, que habia llevado Filotetes consigo, para fundar á Petilia. No encontraba ya el Dauno quien se atreviera á hacerle resistencia, y embarazara una cumplida victoria, caian todos, todos huian, y él era semejante á un furioso torrente, que vencidas las márgenes, se lleva tras sí las cosechas, los ganados, los pastores y las majadas.

Oyó de léjos Telémaco los gritos de los vencedores, vió el desorden de sus soldados, que iban fugitivos de Adrasto, como una tropa de ciervos tímidos, que trasiegan los campos, los bosques, los montes, y aun los rios mas rápidos, quando son perseguidos de los cazadores.

Echó Telémaco un suspiro entonces de lo mas íntimo de su corazón: encendieronse los ojos de ira, y partiéndose luego de aquel lugar, donde por largo tiempo habia combatido con tanto riesgo y gloria,

with the blood of a multitude, whom he had extended in the dust; and, in his way, he gave a shout, that was at once heard by both armies.

Minerva had communicated a kind of nameless terror to his voice, which the neighbouring mountains returned. The voice even of Mars was never louder in Thrace; when he called up the infernal furies, war and death. The shout of Telemachus animated his people with new courage, and chilled his enemies with fear; Adrastus himself was moved, and blushed at the confusion that he felt. A thousand fatal presages thrilled him with secret horror; and he was actuated rather by despair than courage: his trembling knees thrice bend under him, and he thrice drew back, without knowing what he did; his countenance faded to a deadly pale, and a cold sweat covered his body; his voice became hollow, tremulous, and interrupted; and a kind of sullen fire gleamed in his eyes, which appeared to be starting from their sockets. All his motions had the sudden violence of a convulsion, and he looked like Orestes, when he was possessed by the furies. He now began to believe there were gods; he fancied that he saw them, denouncing vengeance; and that he heard a hollow voice issuing from the depths of hell, and calling him to everlasting torment. Every thing impressed him with a sense that a divine and invisible hand was raised against him; and that it would crush him in its descent. Hope was extinguished in his breast: and his courage fled, as light flies when the sun plunges in the deep, and the earth is enveloped in the shades of night.

Adrastus, whose tyranny would already have been too long, if the earth had not needed so severe a scourge; the impious Adrastus had now filled up the measure of his iniquity, and his hour was come. He rushed forward to meet his fate, with a blind fury, which horror, remorse, indignation, and despair,

corrió á socorrer á los suyos; y adelantandose todo cubierto de sangre, por el estrago hecho en los enemigos, que habia tenido en el campo, levantó de lejos un grito, que igualmente le oyéron los soldados de ambos exercitos.

Minerva le habia puesto en los ojos no sé qué de terrible, y habia á su voz dado un sonido espantoso, con el qual resonaron todas las vecinas montañas. Nunca en la Tracia levanta la voz Marte mas fuertemente, quando llama á las furias, la guerra, y la cruel muerte. El grito de Telémaco inspiró el esfuerzo, y la osadía en el corazon de los suyos, é hizo helarse de espanto el de los enemigos. Avergonzóse Adrasto de sentirse con miedo interiormente: horrorizábanle ciertos funestos presagios; y lo que le animaba era un turbulento despecho, mas presto que un valor sossegado. Tres veces le flaqueáron las rodillas trémulas, y tres veces cejó ácia atras, sin saber lo que hacia. Corrió por todos los miembros un sudor frio, y una palidez fea, que provenia de un repentino desmayo de los espíritus: la voz ronca, é intercadente no podia acabar de articular palabra; y parecia que llenos los ojos de turbia y centelleante luz, se le salian fuera de la frente. Veíase que él era agitado de las furias de la suerte que Orestes: todos sus movimientos eran convulsivos, y parecia que miraba á los dioses irritados, y oía una voz silenciosa, salida del seno mas hondo del abismo, que le llamaba al infierno. Descubria en qualquier objeto, y en todas partes una celestial mano, é invisible, que estaba encima de su cabeza, é iba librando el golpe, para herirle con mayor fuerza. Habia fenecido en lo profundo de su corazon hasta la esperanza, y se desvanecia su temeraria osadía, como quando se trasmonta el sol, y las sombras nocturnas ciñen la tierra, toda la luz del dia desaparece.

El impio Adrasto, á quien demasiado tiempo se le habia permitido la vida, y tolerado en el mundo (si demasiado tiempo, si no hubieran los hombres necesitado de un tal castigo) estaba ya finalmente cercano á morir. Corria desatinado á encontrar su inevitable destino; y el espanto, el remordimiento, la conster-

united to inspire. At the first sight of Telemachus, he thought that Avernus opened at his feet, and the fiery waves of Phlegeton roared to receive him: he uttered a cry of terror, and his mouth continued open, but he was unable to speak; like a man terrified with a frightful dream, who makes an effort to complain, but can articulate nothing. He discharged a lance at Telemachus, with tremor and precipitation: but Telemachus, serene and fearless, as the friend of heaven, covered himself with his buckler; and victory seemed to overshadow him with her wings, and suspended a crown over his head; in his eye there was something that expressed, at once, courage and tranquillity; and such was his apparent superiority to danger, that he might have been taken for Minerva herself. He turned aside the lance that was thrown against him by Adrastus, who instantly drew his sword, that he might prevent Telemachus from discharging his lance in return; Telemachus, therefore, relinquished his spear; and seeing the sword of Adrastus in his hand, immediately unsheathed his own.

When the other combatants on each side saw them thus closely engaged, they laid down their arms; and fixing their eyes upon them, waited, in silence, for the event that would determine the war. Their swords flashed like the bolts of Jove, when he thunders from the sky: and their polished armour resounded with the strokes. They advanced, retired, stooped, and sprung suddenly up; till at length closing, each seized his antagonist at the same moment. The clasping ivy less closely embraces the elm, than these combatants each other. The strength of Adrastus was undiminished; but that of Telemachus was not yet mature. Adrastus frequently endeavoured to surprise and stagger him, by a sudden and violent effort, but without success: he then endeavoured to seize his sword; but the moment he relinquished his grasp for that purpose, Telemachus lifted him from the ground,

nacion, el furor, la rabia, la desesperacion, eran las que le acompañaban. Apenas vió á Telémaco, le pareció que veía abrirse el Infierno, y que salian de él torbellinos de fuego, vomitados de Phlegetonte, los quales ya lo iban á devorar: dió un grito, mas quedóle abierta la boca, sin poder pronunciar palabra alguna; como la de un hombre dormido que abriéndola con desasosiego de algun terrible sueño, hace muchos esfuerzos para hablar; mas faltanle las voces, se fatiga en vano para encontrarlas, Adrasto con mano trémula y precipitada disparó su dardo contra Telémaco; y en el mismo punto el hijo de Ulises, con ánimo intrépido, y sin alterarse nada, levantó el escudo, y se guareció. Parecia que la victoria le tenia cubierto con sus alas, y que ya le tenia una corona pendiente sobre la cabeza. Resplandecia en los ojos del jóven un esfuerzo apacible y tranquilo, y podia parecerse á Minerva: tan sabio se mostraba tan mesurado en los mayores riesgos. Rechazó el escudo aquel dardo que Adrasto le habia tirado; y apresuróse entónces el Dauno á echar mano á la espada, para quitar al contendidor la ventaja de poder arrojar su lanza. Telémaco, mirando con la espada en la mano á Adrasto, dexó el dardo, y empuñó tambien prontamente la suya.

Quando viéron á entrambos chocar así de cerca, silenciosos todos los otros, reposaron las armas por mirarlos con atencion, aguardando la decision de toda la guerra en este solo combate. Cruzáronse una con otra las dos espadas á fuer de dos relampagos que son seguidos de espantosos rayos, y descargan en vano muchos golpes sobre las armas, que con ellos hacen estruendo. Estiéndense los dos combatientes, se doblan, se baxan, se vuelven á levantar en un punto y últimamente se aferran. No aprieta con mayor estrechura al tronco duro y medroso la yedra que nació al pie de un olmo, y sube á la mas alta cima, enlazándose por las ramas, de lo que ambos guerreros se esrecharon el uno al otro. No habia Adrasto perdido nada de sus fuerzas: y Telémaco aun no tenia todas las suyas. Hizo el Dauno muchos esfuerzos por coger de improviso al enemigo, y derribarle; y procuró

and laid him at his feet. In this dreadful moment, the wretch, who had so long defied the gods; betrayed an unmanly fear of death. He was ashamed to beg his life, yet not able to suppress his desire to live, he endeavoured to move Telemachus with compassion: «O son of Ulysses!» said he, «I now acknowledge that there are gods, and that the gods are just: their righteous retribution has overtaken me! It is misfortune only that opens our eyes to truth: I now see it, and it condemns me. But let an unhappy prince bring thy father, now distant from his country, to thy remembrance, and touch thy breast with compassion!»

Telemachus, who kept the tyrant under him with his knee, and had raised the sword to dispatch him, suspended the blow: «I fight,» said he, «only for victory, and for peace; not for vengeance, or for blood. Live then: but live, to atone for the wrongs you have committed: restore the dominions you have usurped; and establish justice and tranquillity upon the coast of Hesperia, which you have so long polluted by cruelty and fraud! Live from henceforth, a convert to truth and virtue! Learn from your defeat, that the gods are just; and that the wicked are miserable: that to seek happiness in violence and deceit, is to ensure disappointment; and that there is no enjoyment like the constant exercise of integrity and benevolence! As a pledge of your sincerity, give us your son Metrodorus, and twelve chiefs of your nation, for hostages.»

Telemachus then suffered Adrastus to rise: and, not suspecting his insincerity, offered him his hand. But the tyrant, in this unguarded moment, perfidiously threw a short javelin at him, which he had hitherto kept concealed: the weapon was so keen, and thrown with such dexterity and strength, that it would have pierced the armour of Telemachus, if it had not been of divine temper: and Adrastus, being now without arms, placed himself, for security, behind a tree.

muchas veces, mas siempre en vano, el quitarle la espada. Mientras que con la mano le buscaba, Telémaco le levantó de la tierra, y le derribó en el campo. Aquel impio que habia siempre despreciado á los dioses, mostró entónces un vil temor á la muerte: se avergonzaba de pedir la vida, y no podia hacer menos que mostrar, que la deseaba, y procuraba mover á compasion á Telémaco. Ahora, le dixo, ó hijo de Ulises, llevo finalmente á conocer á los justos dioses, y confieso que me castigan segun mis méritos. Solas las desventuras abren á los hombres los ojos para ver la verdad. Al presente la reconozco: ella es la que me condena; mas la vista de un Rey desventurado debe haceros memoria de vuestro padre que va errante léjos de Itaca, y moveros á piedad de su suerte.

Telémaco que apretándole encima las rodillas, habia levantado el acero, para degollarlo, le respondió al momento: Yo no he tenido otro fin, sino el de la victoria y la paz de estos pueblos, en cuyo socorro he venido, ni gusto de derramar la sangre de ninguno: Vivid pues, Adrasto; pero vivid para emendar vuestras faltas: restituid todo lo que habeis usurpado: haced que de nuevo florezcan la paz y la justicia en toda la grande Hesperia, que con tantas traiciones habeis contaminado, y con tantos estragos: vivid y haceos un hombre totalmente diverso del primero. Aprended de vuestra caída, que los dioses son justos, que los malos son infelices, y que se engañan en buscar la dicha con la violencia, con la fiereza, con la mentira; y que finalmente no hay cosa tan dulce y venturosa, como una sencilla é inmutable virtud. Dadnos en rehenes á vuestro hijo, y con él doce de los principales de vuestros súbditos.

Habiendo dicho estas palabras, dexó Telémaco á Adrasto que se levantára, y le alargó la mano sin miedo de traicion; mas incontinenti Adrasto le tiró otro dardo harto corto que tenia escondido. Era él tan agudo, y le arrojó con tanta destreza, que si las armas de Telémaco no hubieran sido divinas, ciertamente las hubiera pasado. Al mismo tiempo se retiró el traidor detras de un arbol, porque no pudiera Telémaco seguirlo ni cogerlo. Entónces gritó el hijo de

Telemachus then cried out, « Bear witness, Daunians, the victory is ours! The life of your king was mine, by conquest; and it is now forfeited by treachery. He that fears not the gods, is afraid of death; he that fears the gods, can fear nothing else. »

He advanced hastily towards the Daunians, as he spoke; and made a sign to his people, that were on the other side of the tree, where Adrastus had taken refuge, to cut off his retreat. The tyrant perceiving his situation, would have made a desperate effort to force his way through the Cretans; but Telemachus rushing upon him, sudden and irresistible as the bolt which the father of the gods launches from the summit of Olympus, to destroy the guilty, seized him with his victorious hand, and laid him prostrate in the dust; as the northern tempest levels the harvest, not yet ripe for the sickle. The victor was then deaf to entreaty, though the perfidious tyrant again attempted to abuse the goodness of his heart: he plunged the sword in his breast; and dismissed his soul to the flames of Tartarus, the just punishment of his crimes.

END OF THE TWENTIETH BOOK.

Ulises: Vosotros lo veis, Daunos: la victoria es nuestra; el impio no se salva sino á traicion. Quien no teme á los dioses, tiene miedo á la muerte: y al contrario, quien á ellos tiene miedo, de ninguno otro teme.

Diciendo estas palabras, se avanzó ácia los Daunos, é hizo seña á los suyos, que estaban á la otra parte del árbol, para que se opusieran al pérfido Adrasto, y atajasen su fuga. El, que tenia miedo de ser cogido, mostró que queria cejar, y quiso descomponer los Cretenses que se le ponian delante, para estorvarle el paso; pero arrebatado Telémaco, como un rayo que arroja la diestra de Júpiter desde el cielo sobre la cabeza de algun reo, llegó improvisamente á arrojarse encima. Ya lo aferra con mano victoriosa: ya lo abate de aquella misma forma que un Aquilon cruel aterra la cosecha de las mieses aun tiernas, con que se pone rubia la campaña, y no escuchándolo mas, bien que el impio procure nuevamente abusar de su bondad, le mete la espada en el pecho, y lo precipita á las llamas del Infierno, digno castigo de sus delitos.

FIN DEL LIBRO VICESIMO.

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# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XXI.

### ARGUMENT.

Adrastus being dead, the Daunians offer their hands to the allies in token of peace, and request that one of their own nation may be given them for a king; Nestor being inconsolable for the loss of his son, absents himself from the assembly of the chiefs, where some are of opinion that the conquered lands should be divided among them, and allot the territory of Arpi to Telemachus. Telemachus rejects this offer, and convinces the chiefs that it is their common interest to appoint Polydamas king of the Daunians, and leave them in possession of their country. He afterwards persuades the Daunians to bestow Arpi upon Diomedes, who had accidentally landed upon their coast. Hostilities being now at an end, the allies separate, and every one returns to his country.

**T**he Daunians, as soon as Adrastus was dead, instead of deploring their defeat, and the loss of their chief, rejoiced in their deliverance; and gave their hands to the allies, in token of peace and reconciliation. Metrodorus, the son of Adrastus, whom the tyrant had brought up in the principles of dissimulation, injustice, and cruelty, pusillanimously fled; but a slave, who had been the confidant and companion of his vices, whom he had enfranchised, and loaded with benefits, and to whom alone he trusted in his flight, thought only how he might improve the opportunity to his own advantage: he therefore attacked him behind, as he fled; and having cut off his head, brought it into the camp of the allies, hoping to receive a great reward for a crime, which would put an end to the war; the allies, however, were struck with horror at the fact, and put the traitor to death. Telemachus, when he saw the head of Metrodorus, a youth of great beauty and excellent endowments,

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XXI.

### SUMARIO.

MURRO Adrasto, los Daunos tienden la mano á los aliados pidiéndoles la paz y un rey de su nacion. Nestor inconsolable de haber perdido á su hijo, se ausenta de la junta de los Xefes, en la qual opinan muchos que se debe repartir el pais de los vencidos, dando á Telemaco la tierra de Arpi. Lejos de aceptar lo que le ofrecen, Telemaco haee ver que el comun interes de los aliados es elegir á Polidamas por rey de los Daunos, dexando á estos sus tierras. Persuade despues á estos pueblos que den la tierra de Arpi á Diomedes sobrevenido casualmente. Acabados así los disturbios, se separan todos para volver cada uno á su pais.

**A**PÉNAS murió Adrasto, quando todos los Daunos, en lugar de dolerse de haber sido deshechos, y perdido su cabo, se alegraron de verse libres de aquel tirano, y tendieron las manos á los coligados en señal de reconciliacion y de paz. Metrodoro, hijo de Adrasto, que le habia criado con ciertas máximas de disimulo, inhumanidad é injusticia, se puso vilmente en fuga; pero un esclavo, cómplice de sus delitos, y sus crueldades, que él mismo habia hecho libre, y enriquecido mucho, y en quien solo fió para huir, no pensó sino en hacerle traicion, movido de interes. El le mató de una herida que le dió al huir, en la espalda; y cortándole la cabeza, la llevó al campo enemigo, esperando un gran galardón de su delito, que ponía fin á la guerra. Pero los coligados se horrorizaron de tan atroz delito, y le hicieron morir sin compasion. Habiendo visto Telémaco la cabeza de Metrodoro, jóven de maravillosa belleza, y de natural excelente, que se habia gastado con los placeres, y los malos exem-



whom the love of pleasure and bad example had corrupted, could not refrain from tears: «What an instance,» said he, «of the mischief of prosperity to a young prince! The greater his elevation, and the keener his sensibility, the more easy and the more certain is his seduction from virtue! And what has now happened to Metrodorus, might, perhaps, have happened to me; if I had not been favoured by the gods with early misfortune, and the counsels of Mentor.»

The Daunians being assembled, required, as the only condition of peace, that they should be permitted to chuse a king of their own nation, whose virtues might remove the disgrace which Adrastus had brought upon royalty: they were thankful to the gods, who had cut him off: they came, in crowds, to kiss the hand of Telemachus, as the instrument of divine justice; and they celebrated their defeat as a triumph. Thus, the power, which threatened all Hesperia, and struck united nations with terror, fell, in a moment, totally and for ever! So the ground, that is gradually undermined, in appearance maintains its stability: the slow progress of the work below is disregarded or despised; nothing shakes, nothing is broken, and; in appearance, nothing is weak: yet, the secret support is certainly, though insensibly, destroyed; and the moment, at last, arrives, when the whole falls at once into ruin; and nothing remains but an abyss, in which the surface, and all that covered it, is swallowed up. An illegal authority, however founded, is gradually subverted by fraud and cruelty: it is gazed at with admiration and terror, and every one trembles before it, till the moment when it sinks into nothing: it falls by its own weight, and it can rise no more; for its support is not only removed, but annihilated; justice and integrity are wanting, which alone can produce confidence and love.

plos, no pudo detener las lágrimas. ¡Ay de mí! gritó: estos son los efectos que ocasiona en un jóven Principe la prosperidad? Quanto mas le levanta la fortuna, quanto es dotado de mayor viveza, tanto se aparta mas del camino derecho, y se aleja del todo de la virtud. Ahora por ventura me veria yo reducido á semejante estado, si las desgracias en que nací, por favor de los dioses, y de los documentos de Mentor, no me hubieran enseñado á moderarme.

Los Dannos juntos pidiéron como única condicion de la paz, que se les permitiera el elegirse Rey de su nacion, que pudiera con su virtud librar la grandeza Real de la ignominia con que la habia manchado el impio Adrasto. Daban á los dioses las gracias de haberles quitado el tirano, y venian en tropas á besar la mano á Telemaco, que la tenia bañada en la sangre de aquel horrible monstruo; y su destrozo les era como triunfo. Así cayó en un punto, sin que le quedara esperanza de levantarse mas, aquella potencia que amenazaba á todas las de la Hesperia, y hacia temblar tantos pueblos. Así como quando debaxo de tierra se caban poco á poco aquellos terrenos que parecen firmes, é inmobiles; mientras que largo tiempo rien los hombres de aquel trabajo, que procede tan lentamente, pretendiendo arruinar los fundamentos, y mientras que parece que se mantienen unidas todas sus partes; que nada se enflaquece, nada se menea, de improviso se hunde el terreno, y se abre una sima; de la misma manera un poder engañoso é injusto, por mas que en qualquier forma se procure con la violencia hacer venturoso, se abre baxo sus pies un precipicio horrible, y la fraude y crueldad caban poco á poco los fundamentos mas sólidos de la potencia ilegítima. Todos la admiran, todos la temen; y tiemblan á su vista hasta aquel lance en que parece abismada, y ella se precipita con su propio peso; ni se puede mas levantar, porque ha con su mano arruinado los verdaderos apoyos de la buena fe, y la justicia que le adquieren á un Principe la estimacion y amor de todos los hombres.

On the next day, the chiefs of the army assembled to give the Daunians a king: they saw the two camps intermingled by an amity so sudden and unexpected, and the two armies, as it were, incorporated into one, with infinite pleasure. Nestor indeed, could not be present; for the death of his son was more than the weakness of age could support: he sunk under this misfortune, in the decline of life, as a flower sinks under the showers of the evening, which was the glory of the field, when Aurora first gave the day: his eyes continually overflowed, from an inexhaustible source; the lenient hand of sleep closed them no more; and the soothing prospects of hope, in which misery itself can rejoice, were cut off. All food was bitter to his taste, and light was painful to his eye; he had no wish, but to be dismissed from life, and covered with the veil of eternal darkness. The voice of friendship soothed and expostulated in vain; for even kindness itself disgusted him, as the richest dainties are disgusting to the sick. To soft condolence, and tender expostulation, he answered only by sounds of inarticulate sorrow: yet he was, sometimes, heard to break out into passionate exclamations, alone: « O Pisistratus! » he would say, « O my son! thou callest me, and I will follow thee: thou hast made death welcome; and I have no wish, but once more to behold thee upon the borders of the Styx! » After such bursts of grief, he would pass whole hours in silence; except that, lifting up his hands and eyes to heaven, groans would involuntarily escape him.

In the mean time, the princes that were assembled, waited impatiently for Telemachus, who still continued near the body of Pisistratus, burning the richest perfumes, scattering flowers over it with a liberal hand, and mingling the fragrant shower with his tears: « O my dear companion, » said he, « can our first meeting at Pylos, our journey to Sparta, and our meeting on the coast of Hesperia, be forgotten? How many obligations am I under to thee! how tenderly did I love thee! and how faithfully was my love returned! I knew thy valour; it would have rivalled the greatest heroes of Greece! but, alas! it has destroyed thee! It

Junátronse

Juntáronse el día siguiente los capitanes de los coligados, para deliberar si se habia de otorgar Rey á los Daunos. Era de sumo gusto ver entre sí mezclados ambos campos, con una tan no esperada amistad, y á los dos enemigos exércitos que componian ya uno solo. No pudo hallarse en congreso el discreto Nestor; porque el dolor, aumentado á la vejez, le habia enflaquecido el corazon, como la lluvia al obscurecer de la tarde agosta, y abate una flor, que á la mañana al despuntar la aurora era gloria y adorno de la campaña. Los ojos del anciano infeliz se habian hecho dos fuentes de lagrimas que no era posible enxugar, ni se cerraban mas al apacible sueño, que acostumbra dar treguas hasta á las mas crueles penas, y la esperanza misma se habia en él totalmente apagado. Todos los manjares se le hacian amargos; aborrecia hasta la luz del sol, y no deseaba sino la muerte. Hablábanle los amigos en vano para aliviarle, porque á su desmayado corazon daba hastío toda amistad, como á un enfermo, á quien se hacen aborrecibles las viandas de mas sabor. Á todas las razones mas fuertes, que se le podian decir, no respondia sino con gemidos y con sollozos, y oíase que de quando en quando decia así: Pisistrato, Pisistrato, tú me llamas, y yo estoy ya á punto para seguirte. Amado hijo, tú me harás suave el morir; porque solo deseo la fortuna de verte en el otro mundo. Despues de decir esto, se estaba horas enteras sin hacer movimiento: pero arrojaba muchos suspiros, y levantaba al cielo las manos y los ojos todos bañados de lagrimas.

Entretanto, congregados los Príncipes, aguardaban que llegara Telémaco, que cerca del cadáver de Pisistrato derramaba sobre él á manos llenas gran cantidad de flores, con muchos exquisitos perfumes: gimiendo al mismo tiempo con un deshecho llanto. Amado compañero mio, decia, nunca me olvidaré de haberte visto en Pilo, de haberte seguido á Esparta, y haberte al fin hallado en la Hesperia. Yo tengo obligacion de cuidar en todo de ti; porque habiéndote amado mientras vivias, tú me correspondias tambien con igual cariño; y porque he conocido tu valor, que habia ya excedido al de muchos célebres Griegos. ¡Ay

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has, indeed, consecrated thy name; but it has impoverished the world! We have lost the virtues that would have been equal to those of thy father; another Nestor, whose wisdom and eloquence would, in future times, have been the pride and admiration of Greece! That soft persuasion was already upon thy lips, which when Nestor speaks, is irresistible; that native simplicity and truth, that gentle expostulation, which soothes anger into peace; and that authority, which equanimity and wisdom necessarily acquire, were already thy own! To thy voice every ear was attentive; and every heart was inclined to approve thy judgment! Thy words, plain and artless, distilled upon the heart, as the dews of heaven distil upon the rising herbage of the field! In thee, how many blessings, within a few hours, did we possess! with thee, how many blessings have we now lost for ever! Pisistratus, whom, but yesterday I clasped to my breast, is now insensible to my friendship; and a mournful remembrance of him is all that remains! If, instead of our closing thy eyes, thou hadst closed the eyes of Nestor, the gods would have spared him this sight of anguish and horror; and he would not have been distinguished, among fathers, by unexampled calamity!»

After these exclamations of tenderness and pity, Telemachus ordered the blood to be washed from the wounded side of Pisistratus, and the body to be laid upon a purple bier. Upon this bed of death, his head was reclined, and his countenance pale; he resembled a young tree, which having covered the earth with its shade, and shot up its branches to heaven, is cut down by the axe with an untimely stroke: it is severed at once from its root, and from the earth, a prolific mother, that cherishes her offspring in her bosom! The branches languish, and the verdure fades! it is no longer selfsupported; it falls to the ground, and its spreading honours, that concealed the sky, are stretched, withered, and sapless in the dust; it is no more a tree, but a lifeless trunk; it aspires, and is graceful

de mí! que tu mismo valor te ha hecho morir con gloria; mas juntamente ha arrebatado al mundo una virtud muy niña que hubiera emparejado con la de Aquiles. Si, tu cordura y facundia hubieran sido en edad madura semejantes á las del héroe tan grande que hizo quedar á tónita de admiración á toda Grecia. Ya tenias aquel modo suave de insinuarte en los pechos de otros á quien no se podia resistir: aquel arte sencillo de referir, aquella sabia moderación, que es un encanto dulce, para aplacar los ánimos mas irritados; y aquella autoridad que los hombres adquieren con la prudencia, y con la fuerza de los buenos consejos que dan á los demás. Quando hablabas, todos prestaban oídos atentos para escucharte: todos estaban prevenidos con la buena opinión que de tí tenian; y deseaban quedar persuadidos, de que tenias razón, y de ser obligados á concurrir con tu parecer. Tus palabras llanas y sin vanidad venian á caer dulcemente en los corazones, como el rocío sobre la yerba tierna. ¡Ay de mí! tantos bienes que pocas horas ha poseiamos, se nos han para siempre quitado! Ya se perdió Pisistrato, al qual esta mañana misma abracé, y no nos queda otra cosa de él, que una dolorosísima memoria! ¡Ah, si á lo ménos hubieras tú cerrado los ojos á Nestor, y no que háyamos nosotros de haber cerrado los tuyos; no tendria él la pena de ver tan funesto espectáculo, ni de ser el padre mas poco afortunado!

Habiendo dicho Telémaco estas voces, hizo lavar la sangrienta herida que tenia Pisistrato en el costado; después hizo aprestar un lecho de púrpura, donde fué colocado el cadáver con la cabeza reclinada sobre los hombros, y todo demudado con mortal palidez. Así como una tierna planta que cubriendo con su sombra la tierra, y levantando ácia el cielo sus ramas llenas de flores, herida de la cruel segur, es separada no ménos de la propia raíz, que de su madre la segunda tierra; sus marchitos ramos, que embarazando ántes el ayre, quitaban la vista de la hermosa esfera, arrastran va en el polvo, y ella no es mas que un tronco despreciado y despojado de toda su belleza. Levantábase ya las llamas de la funesta pira, y lo que en ella debian poner llevaba el cadáver de Pisistrato.

no more ! Thus fallen, and thus changed, Pisistratus was now borne to the funeral pile, attended by a band of Pylians, moving with a slow and mournful pace; their arms reversed, and their eyes swimming in tears, fixed upon the ground ! And now the flame ascends in ruddy spires to the sky; the body is quickly consumed, and the ashes deposited in a golden urn. This urn, as an invaluable treasure, Telemachus, who superintended the whole, confided to Callimachus, to whom Nestor had once confided the son, whose remains it contained: « Preserve, » said he, « these mournful but precious relics, of one whom you tenderly loved; preserve them for his father; but do not give them, till he has fortitude enough to ask for them: that; which at one time exasperates sorrow, will sooth it at another. »

Telemachus, having thus fulfilled the last duties to his friend, repaired to the assembly of the confederate princes, who, the moment they saw him, became silent with attention: he blushed at the deference that was paid him, and could not be prevailed upon to speak. The acclamations that followed, increased his confusion; he wished to hide himself, and now, for the first time, appeared to be irresolute and disconcerted. At last he intreated, as a favour, that they would praise him no more; « Not, » says he, « because it displeases me, especially from those who are so well able to distinguish virtue; but because I am afraid it should please me too much: praise is the great corrupter of mankind; it renders them arrogant, presumptuous, and vain: and ought alike to be deserved and avoided. Nothing is so like honest praise, as flattery: tyrants, the most wicked of all men, are most the objects of adulation: and what pleasure can I derive from such tribute? Honest praise, if I am so happy to deserve it, will be paid when I am absent; and, if you believe that I have merit, you must also believe that I desire to be humble, and am afraid of being vain. Spare me, then, if you esteem me; and do not praise me, as if you thought praise was delightful to my ear. »

Conducianle muy a espacio muchos Pilios, marchando con los ojos baxos, y vertiendo lagrimas, y arrastrando por tierra las puntas de las armas vueltas atras. Quemado luego el cadáver, se recogieron sus cenizas en una urna de oro; y Telémaco, que cuidaba de todo, la entregó a Callimaco, como un gran tesoro. Guardad, le dixo, estas cenizas, finestas sí, mas preciosas reliquias de una persona, que habeis amado tanto mientras vivia é intruisteis desde su niñez. Guardadlas para su padre, mas dilatad en darselas hasta tanto que recobrado el vigor, esté harto fuerte para pedir las: lo que en un tiempo encruelce el dolor, lo suaviza en otro.

Entró despues Telémaco en el congreso de los Reyes confederados, en donde luego que le miraron, todos hicieron silencio para escucharlo. Coloriose él de esto, no podian hacerle hablar, antes le hicieron el sonrojo mayor las alabanzas que diéron a todo lo que habia obrado, con muchas públicas aclamaciones; y hubiera querido entónces haberse podido ocultar. Esta fué la primera vez que se reconoció Telémaco perplexo y confundido. Finalmente pidióles, como por favor que dexáran ya de alabarle. No es, dixo, porque no estime yo las alabanzas, y especialmente, quando procedé el darlas de tan buenos juicios de la virtud; pero no las quiero, porque tengo temor de estimarlas sobrado. Las alabanzas dañan a los hombres, los llenan de la estima de sí propios, y los hacen vaos y presuntuosos; conviene merecerlas y huirlas. Las alabanzas mejores, suelen parecerse a las falsas: y los tiranos que no son los mas alabados entre los hombres, son los que hacen que los alaben los lisonjeros mas que los demas. ¿Qué deleyte se encuentra en ser alabados como ellos? Las alabanzas verdaderas son las que me daréis en ausencia, si es que tengo la buena suerte de merecerlas. Si me teneis verdaderamente por bueno, debeis tambien tenerme por amante de la modestia, y temeroso de ensoberbecerme. Tenedme pues esta atención, si me amais; y no me deis todos esos elogios, como a hombre que los desea.

Telemachus, having thus expressed the sentiments of his heart, took no farther notice of those, who still continued loud in extravagant encomiums, and his neglect soon put them to silence; for they began to fear that their zeal would displease him: praise, therefore, was at an end, but admiration increased; for the tenderness which he had shewn to Pisistratus, and the affectionate assiduity with which he had paid the last duties of a friend, were universally known; and the whole army was more touched with these testimonies of sensibility and benevolence, than with all the prodigies of wisdom and valour that had distinguished his character with unrivalled lustre. « He is wise, » said they to each other; « and he is brave: he is beloved of the gods; he stands alone, the hero of our age: he is more than man! but this is only wonderful, this excites no passion but astonishment. He is, besides, humane; he is good; he is a faithful and a tender friend: he is compassionate, liberal, beneficent, and devoted, without reserve, to those who merit his affection! Of his haughtiness, indifference, and ferocity, nothing remains; and he is now, not the wonder only, but the delight of mankind! His character is now distinguished by useful and endearing excellence; by qualities that reach the heart, that melt us with tenderness, that make us not only acknowledge, but feel his virtues; and would prompt us to redeem his life with our own. »

The princes, having thus giving vent to their esteem and admiration, proceeded to debate the necessity of giving the Daunians a king. The greater part of the assembly was of opinion, that the territories of Adrastus should be divided among them, as a conquered country; and Telemachus was offered, as his share, the fertile country of Arpi, where Ceres pours out her golden treasures, Bacchus presents his delicious fruit, and the olive, consecrated to Minerva, pays her green tribute twice a year. « This country, » said they, « ought to obliterate Ithaca from your remembrance, its barren soil, its mean cottages, the dreary rocks of Dulichium, and the savage forests of Zacynthus. Think no more of your father, who has

Despues de haber hablado de esta suerte, no respondia cosa alguna mas á los que proseguian en ensalzarlo, y con un ayre de indiferencia puso término luego á los elogios que le formaban. Empezaron á temer todos de darle enfado con alabarle; pero se aumentó mucho la maravilla, porque sabian las tiernas demostraciones, que habia hecho á Pisistrato, y el cuidado que habia tenido de hacer á su cadaver las postreras honras. Estas contraseñas de afecto, y la bondad de su corazon, movieron harto mas al ejército, que todos los milagros de prudencia, y valor, que poco ántes en él se habian visto. Telémaco es cuerdo y valiente, se decian secretamente unos á otros: es el favorecido de los dioses, y el heroé verdadero de nuestra edad, y superior á lo que tolera la condicion humana: mas todas estas cosas son maravillosas, y no hacen otro que causarnos asombro. Lo que es para el uso comun, y de que todos pueden sacar provecho; lo que nos mueve á amarlo, y lo que hace que diéramos por él nuestras vidas, es el ser verdaderamente hombre de un corazon tierno, compasivo, benéfico, que ama entrañablemente á aquellos que merecen ser amados, que es deleyte de los que viven con él, y ha depuesto su altivez, su indiferencia, y su primera soberbia.

Entre semejantes pláticas se pasó á hablar de la necesidad de elegir un sugeto que gobernara á los Daunios. Era de parecer la parte mayor de los Príncipes que se hallaban en el congreso, de que el Reyno de Adrasto, como conquistado con armas, se habia entra ellos de dividir. Ofrecieron por su parte á Telémaco el Pais fértil de Arpi, donde ofrece la tierra cada año dos cosechas; donde dobladamente se fecundan las vides, y donde los oliyos, árboles consagrados á Minerva, duplican siempre sus verdes frutos. Este pais, le decian, debe hacer que olvideis á vuestra pobre Itaca, las incultas selvas de Zacinto, y los espantosos peñascos de Duliquio. Dexad de ir mas en busca de vuestro padre, que habrá muerto en el mar,

certainly been buried in the deep at the promontory of Caphareus, by the vengeance of Nauplius, and the anger of Neptune; nor of your mother, who must have yielded to her suitors in your absence; nor of your country, which the gods have not favoured like that which is now offered you.»

Telemachus heard them patiently: but the rocks of Thessaly and Thrace are not more deaf and inexorable to the complaints of despairing love, than the son of Ulysses to these offers. «I have no wish,» said he, «either for luxury or wealth; and why should I possess a wider extent of country, or command a greater number of men? I should only be more embarrassed, and less at liberty. Men of the greatest wisdom, and most moderate desires, have found life full of trouble; without taking upon them the government of others, who are restless and intractable, injurious, fraudulent, and ungrateful. He that desires to command others for his own sake, without any view but to his own power, and pleasure, and glory, is a tyrant; an enemy to the gods, and a punishment to man! He, who governs mankind with justice and equity, for their own advantage, is rather their guardian than their lord; his trouble is inconceivable; and he is far from wishing to increase it, by extending his authority. The shepherd, who does not riot upon the flesh of his flock, who defends them from the wolf at the hazard of his life, who leads them to the best pasture, and watches over them night and day, has no desire to increase the number of his sheep, or to seize upon those that belong to his neighbour; for this would only increase his care, by multiplying its objects. Though I have never governed, I have learnt from the laws, and from the sages by whom laws have been made, that government is an anxious and laborious task: I am, therefore, content with Ithaca, however small, and however poor; and if I can reign there, with fortitude, justice, and piety, I shall have no need to wish for a larger dominion, to increase my glory. My reign, indeed, may commence but too soon. Would to heaven, that my father, escaping the fury of the waves, may reign himself to the longest

entre las rocas del Promontorio Cafareo, en venganza de Nauplio, y en satisfaccion de la cólera de Neptuno: ni busqueis mas á Penélope, que mucho tiempo ha que está en manos de sus amantes; ni á vuestra patria, á cuya tierra no favorece el cielo con tanto, como á esta que os ofrecemos.

Escuchaba con paciencia Telémaco sus razones; pero no son mas sordas, é insensibles á las quejas de los brutos desesperados las rocas de Tesalia, ó de Tracia, que lo que él lo era á todas las ofertas que le hacia. Para mí, respondió, no cuido de riquezas ó delicias. ¿Qué importa pasar un mas dilatado espacio de tierra, y mandar á un número mayor de hombres? No sirve eso sino para tener mas estorbos, y harto menos de libertad. Esta la vida harto llena de desventuras para las personas cuerdas y moderadas, sin que se le añada el enfado de gobernar á los otros hombres intratables, inquietos, injustos, engañosos, é ingratos. Quando alguno pretende ser dueño de los hombres, solo por amor de sí mismo, no cuidando de otro que de la autoridad propia de sus placeres y de su gloria, es un impío, un tirano, y un azote del linage humano; pero quando al contrario no quiere gobernarlos, sino conforme á las reglas de la razon, y solamente para bien de ellos, es mas tutor que dueño de los propios súbditos: no tiene sino la ocupacion de gobernarlos, que es infinita, y esta del todo ageno de querer extender mas alla su potencia. El pastor que no se come las reses de la manada: que por defenderlas del lobo pone á riesgo la vida; y que noche y día está en continua accion, para guiarlas á mejores pastos, no desea aumentar el número de su ganado, ni robar el vecino, porque esto fuera aumentarse á si mismo la fatiga. Aunque yo nunca he gobernado, proseguia Telémaco, he sin embargo aprendido de las leyes y de los hombres sabios que las hicieron, quanto sea difícil y trabajoso gobernar las ciudades y Reynos. Estoy, pues, contento con mi pobre Itaca, aunque pequeña y pobre; y seré harto glorioso, con tal que llegue á reynar con justicia, con valor y temor de los dioses. Sé, á mas de esto, que en qualquiera tiempo en que llegue á reynar, llegaré demasiado presto.

period of human life; and that, under him, I may learn to subdue my own passions, till I know how to restrain those of a whole nation! »

Telemachus then addressed the assembly in these terms : « Hear, O ye princes, what your interest makes it my duty to declare. If you give the Daunians a just king, he will make them a just people; he will shew them the advantage of keeping their faith unbroken, and of not invading the territories of their neighbours; a lesson, which, under the impious Adrastus, they could never learn. From these people, while they are under the direction of a wise and good prince, you will have nothing to fear; if such a prince you shall give them, they will be indebted for him to you, and they will be indebted to you, for the peace and prosperity that they will enjoy under him: instead of attacking, they will bless you; and both king and people will be, as it were, the work of your own hands. But, on the contrary, if you divide their country among you, the mischiefs which I now predict, will certainly come to pass. The Daunians, pushed to desperation, will renew the war; they will fight in a just cause, the cause of liberty; and the gods, who abhor tyranny, will fight for them; if the gods should take part against you, first or last you must be confounded, and your prosperity will dissipate like a vapour; counsel and wisdom will be withdrawn from your chiefs, courage from your armies, and plenty from your country; your hope will be presumptuous, and your undertakings rash; you will impose silence upon those that warn you of your danger; and your ruin will be sudden and irremediable: it will then be said, « Is this the mighty nation that was to give laws to the world? this, that is now vanquished, pursued, and trampled in the dust? Such is the desert of the lawless, the haughty, and the cruel: and such is the righteous retribution of heaven! » Consider, also, that if you undertake to divide your conquest, you will unite all the surrounding nations against you: your alliance, which was formed in defence of the common

Quiera el cielo que mi padre escape de la furia del mar: que reyne en Itaca hasta una suma vejez, y que pueda yo de él aprender largamente quán necesario es vencer las propias, para saber gobernar las pasiones de todo un pueblo.

Pasó adelante Telémaco despues de este discurso, y prosiguió de este modo: Oíd, Príncipes aquí juntos: oíd lo que me parece deber deciros, por vuestra utilidad. Si diéreis á los Daunos un Rey justo, los gobernará con justicia, y les enseñará quánto importe, y sea provechoso guardar la buena fe, y no usurparse cosa de los pueblos sus confinantes. Esto es lo que baxo del impio Adrasto no han podido entender jamás. Mientras sean gobernados por un Rey sabio y moderado, no tendreis que temerles; y ellos os seran deudores del buen Rey, que habrán recibido de vosotros, y tambien de la paz y prosperidad, que gozarán por vuestro medio. En lugar de invadir, os alabarán de continuo, y no ménos el pueblo que su Rey, os reconoceran todo su ser. Si al contrario queréis entre vosotros dividir el pais, he aquí las desventajas que os pronostico. Constreñidos los Daunos á desesperar, volverán á empezar la guerra, pelearán justamente por mantenerse libres; y pelearán por ellos los dioses, enemigos de la tiranía. Haciendose á su parte los dioses, tarde, ó temprano quedaréis confundidos, y se desvanecerán como el humo todas vuestras prosperidades. Faltarán las resoluciones, y la prudencia á vuestros capitanes, el esfuerzo á vuestros exercitos, y la abundancia á vuestros territorios: os figuraréis ser invencibles: seréis temerarios en vuestras empresas; obligaréis á callar á todos los hombres de bien que querran hablaros verdad, y seréis en un punto vencidos y arruinados. Diráse de vosotros entonces: Luego estas son las gentes que debian dar leyes á todo el mundo, y ahora huyen de sus enemigos, y son ultrages de todas las naciones que les pisan! Hé aquí lo que han hecho los dioses, y lo que merecen los pueblos injustos, vanagloriosos y crueles. Considerad mas que si os poneis á dividir este pais, para dar de él á cada uno una parte, venís á unir á todos los pueblos vecinos contra vosotros. Se hará vuestra alianza aborreci-

liberty of Hesperia, against the usurpations of Adrastus, will become odious; and you will yourselves be justly accused of aspiring at an universal tyranny.

But suppose that you should be victorious against the Daunians, and every other people, your success will inevitably be your ruin. This measure will disunite you: it cannot be taken, without a violation of those very rules, by which alone you can regulate your own pretensions; it will substitute power for justice, and, therefore, each of you will make his power the measure of his claim. Not one of you will have sufficient authority over the rest, to make a peaceable division of the common property; and thus a new war will commence, of which your descendants, that are not yet born, will probably never see the end. Is it not better to sit down in peace, with justice and moderation, than to follow ambition, where all is tumult, danger, and calamity? Is not perfect tranquillity and blameless pleasure, a plentiful country and friendly neighbours, the glory that is inseparable from justice, and the authority that must result from an integrity, to which foreign nations refer their contests for decision, more desirable than the idle vanity of lawless conquest? I speak, O princes! without interest; I oppose your opinions, because I love you; I tell you the truth, though I risk your displeasure: should the counsel of integrity be lightly rejected?»

While Telemachus was thus speaking, with a new and irresistible authority; and the princes were admiring the wisdom of his counsels, in astonishment and suspense, a confused noise spread through the camp, and came at last to the place where they were assembled. It was said, that a stranger had just landed, with a company of men in arms: that he was of a lofty port, and had a military greatness in his aspect and demeanour: that he appeared to have endured great adversity, and to be superior to all sufferance. The soldiers, who were stationed to guard the coast, at first prepared to repulse him as an enemy that was invading their country: upon which he drew his sword with an air of

ble, habiéndose formado para defender las libertades de toda Hesperia contra las usurpaciones de Adrasto: y os acusaran todos de que os quereis usurpar la universal tiranía.

Pero supongo que debéis vencer á los Daunios, y tambien á los demas pueblos; os destruirá sin embargo esa victoria misma; y hé aquí de qué manera. Haced reflexa en que la execucion de una tal idea os desunirá á unos de otros; porque no fundándose en la justicia, no tendréis regla alguna, que pueda limitar las pretensiones de cada uno. Querrán todos que su porcion de pais sea proporcionada á su potencia; ni habrá de vosotros alguno que tenga suficiente autoridad sobre los pueblos, para hacer de ellos la pacífica division. Y hé aquí una nueva guerra, de la qual no verán el fin vuestros nietos. ¿Mas no es mucho mejor ser justo, y moderado que fomentar la discordia contemplando á la soberbia propia, con tanto riesgo, y por medio de tantas inevitables desgracias? No son acaso bienes harto mas deseables, que la necia ambicion de conquistar agenos países, una amabilísima paz, los suaves, é inocentes placeres que la acompañan, la feliz abundancia, el cariño de los vecinos, la gloria inseparable de la justicia, la autoridad que se adquiere, quando se llega con la buena fe á ser arbitro de todas las naciones extrañas? O Príncipes! ó Reyes! bien veis que os hablo sin interés: oid, pues, á quien tanto os ama, hasta contradeciros, y daros sinsabor, diciendos la verdad.

Mientras discurría Telémaco de esta manera, con una autoridad que nunca se vió en algun otro; y mientras que admirados y atónitos todos los Príncipes celebraban sus sabios consejos, se oyó un rumor confuso, que se derramó por el campo, y llegó hasta aquel sitio, en que se tenia el congreso. Un extrangero, dixo uno, ha llegado á esa playa con una tropa de gente armada. Ese no conocido tiene un aspecto noble; todo en él se parece á heroico, y puede fácilmente conocerse que ha padecido muchos, y dilatados contratiempos; pero que su gran corazon le ha hecho vencer todos los males que ha padecido. Al principio la gente del pais, que guarda las riberas, querian re-



intrepidity, and declared that, if he was attacked, he could make good his defence; but that he required only peace and hospitality. He then held out an olive branch as a supplicant; and desiring to be conducted to those who commanded that part of the coast, he was accordingly brought to the royal assembly.

The moment after this intelligence was received, the stranger entered. His majestic appearance struck the whole assembly with surprise; he looked like the god of war, when he calls together his sanguinary bands upon the mountains of Thrace; and he addressed the princes in these terms

« Surely I see the guardians of mankind, assembled to defend their country, or distribute justice! Here, then, a man, persecuted by fortune, may hope to be heard! may the gods preserve you from the like calamity! I am Diomedes, the king of Ætolia, who wounded Venus at the siege of Troy; and her vengeance pursues me, whithersoever I fly. Neptune, who can refuse nothing to the divine daughter of the sea, has given me up to the fury of the winds and waves; and I have suffered shipwreck almost upon every rock. Inexorable Venus has left me no hope of again returning to my kingdom, or clasping my family to my breast! In the country where I first beheld the light, I shall behold it no more: from all that is dear to me, I am severed for ever! Upon this unknown coast: after all my shipwrecks, I seek only security and rest. Jupiter himself is the stranger's titular god: if, therefore, ye have any reverence of heaven; if ye have any feelings of compassion; vouchsafe me some neglected corner of this vast country, some barren spot, some untrodden waste, some sandy plain, some craggy rock, where I may take refuge with my associates in misfortune, and build a little town, a sad memorial of the country we have lost! we ask but a small track of such ground as is useless to you; we

chazarlo, teniéndole por contrario que venia á invadir; pero habiendo con brio intrépido puesto mano á la espada, ha protestado que quando fuere insultado, sabria bien defenderse; y ha añadido despues que no pedia otra cosa sino la paz y hospedage de amigo. Presentó luego un ramo de olivo con ademan de quien ruega. A esto se dió oido á sus voces. Ha pedido ser conducido á la presencia de aquellos que tienen el dominio de esta parte de Hesperia, y viene á vuestra vista, para hablar con los Príncipes que aqui os habeis juntado.

Al fin de estas razones se vió entrar el incognito con una magestad, que causó maravilla á todos los que estaban en la asamblea. Facilmente se hubiera podido tener por Marte, quando en las montañas de Tracia junta sus crueles sequaces. Y entre las admiraciones, empezó á hablar así:

Oid, ¡ ó pastores de los pueblos, que ciertamente estais juntos aqui, ó á defender la patria de enemigos, ó para hacer que florezcan las mas justas leyes! oíd á un hombre perseguido de la fortuna. Quieran los dioses, que nunca vosotros probeis desgracias semejantes. Yo soy Diomedes, Rey de la Etolia, que en el asedio de Troya di á Venus una herida en una batalla. La venganza de esa deidad me persigue por todo el mundo. Neptuno, que no puede negar cosa ninguna á la hija divina del mar, me ha entregado en poder de los vientos, y de las ondas, que me han muchas veces llevado á luchar contra los escollos. La inexorable Venus me ha quitado toda esperanza de restituirme á mi Reyno, mi familia, y aquel pais amado, en que empecé naciendo á ver la luz del dia. No, no tendré jamás el consuelo de volver á ver lo que tuve en el mundo de mas cariño mio. Despues de tantos naufragios, vengo al fin á buscar un poco de sosiego, y un asilo seguro en estas desconocidas riberas. Si teneis amor á los dioses, y en especial á Jupiter, que tiene la tutela de los extrangeros; y si teneis sentimientos de compasion, no me negueis en este dilatado pais algun ángulo de tierra estéril, algun desierto lóbrego, ó algun inaccessible peñasco, donde pueda fundar una ciudad con los que me acompañan, la qual sea á lo menos una imagen

will be peaceful neighbours, and firm allies; we will have no enemy, and no interest, but yours; and we desire no other distinction or peculiarity, than the liberty of living according to our own laws. »

While Diomedes was speaking, Telemachus kept his eyes fixed upon him; and all the changes of passion were, by turns, expressed in his aspect. When the hero, at first, mentioned his long misfortunes, he thought this majestic stranger might be his father, and his countenance brightened with hope; the moment he declared himself to be Diomedes, it faded, like a flower at the chill blast of the north; and when he complained of inexorable anger, and an offended goddess, the heart of Telemachus was melted, by the remembrance of what his father and himself had suffered from the same cause; the conflict was, at last, more than he could sustain; and, bursting into tears of grief and joy, he threw himself upon the neck of Diomedes, and embraced him.

« I am, » said he, « the son of Ulysses, your associate in the war; who, when you carried off the horses of Rhesus, was not idle. The gods have treated him with unrelenting severity, as they have treated you. If the oracles of Erebus may be believed, he is still alive; but, alas! he is not alive to me. I have left Ithaca to seek him; and I have now lost him, and my country, for ever! Judge, from my misfortunes, of my compassion for yours; for misfortune is the parent of pity, and so far it is an advantage. In this country, I am but a stranger myself; and I have, from my infancy, suffered various distress in my own. Yet, O mighty Diomedes! I was not there ignorant of the glory you have acquired; nor am I, here, unable, O next to Achilles in courage and prowess! to procure you some succour. The princes which you see in this assembly, are not strangers to humanity; they are sensible that, without it, there is neither virtue, nor courage, nor honour. The truly great become more illustrious by adversity; without adversi-

de la siempre cruel memoria de nuestra patria perdida. No pedimos sino un corto distrito de tierra inútil, donde se nos permita la libertad de vivir segun nuestras leyes. Por lo demas viviremos en paz y en estrecha amistad con vosotros; vuestros contrarios seran los nuestros, y nos interesaremos con todas nuestras ventajas.

Mientras que Diomedes hablaba de esta manera, le miraba Telémaco sin apartar los ojos, y se le descubrieron en el semblante diferentes afectos. Quando Diomedes empezó a razonar de sus prolixas desgracias, entró en alguna esperanza de que él era su padre. Luego que se descubrió por Diomedes, trocó el color, y se puso palido, como una bella flor a los violentos soplos del borrascoso Aquilon: despues las palabras de Diomedes que se dolia del enojo tenaz de la diosa, le movieron á compasion, trayendole á la memoria los contratiempos mismos sufridos de su padre, y de sí proprio. Corrieronle algunas lagrimas a vueltas del dolor, y la alegria, y arrojóse improvisamente sobre Diomedes para abrazarlo.

Yo, le digo, soy hijo de Ulises que conocéis muy bien; el qual, quando tomasteis los caballos del Reso, no os fue compañero inútil de aquella empresa. Los dioses lo han tratado con la misma crueldad que han usado con vos. Si no me engañau los Oraculos del infierno, Ulises vive aun; mas ¡ ay de mí! que ya para mí no vive. Partime de mi patria para buscarle, y ahora no puedo volver a ver, ni a él ni á ella. Juzgad de mis desgracias, qué compasion me causan las de los otros. La ventaja que da el ser miserable, es hacer que se tenga compasion del dolor ageno. Aunque soy extrangero en esta tierra, bien puedo; ó gran Diomedes! ( así os llamo, porque á despecho de los trabajos que en mi niñez han oprimido á mi patria, no he sido tan mal criado, que no haya tenido noticia de qué célebre hicisteis vuestro nombre en las guerras ) bien puedo, ¡ ó el mas invencible Griego despues de Aquiles! solicitaros algun socorro. Estos Príncipes, que mirais, son de genio cortes, y comun, que sin la cortesia no puede haber virtud, ni se halla verdadero

ty, something is wanting in their character; they cannot be examples either of patience or of fortitude; when virtue suffers, every heart is melted, that is not insensible to virtue. Entrust, then, your affairs implicitly with us, to whom the gods have given you; we receive you as a bounty from their hands; and shall think ourselves happy in the power of alleviating your distress. »

Diomede, astonished at what he heard, fixed his eyes upon Telemachus; and feeling himself moved to the heart, they embraced, as if they had been long united by the most intimate friendship. « O son of the wise Ulysses, » said he, « how worthy art thou of such a father! Thou hast the same sweetness of countenance, the same graceful elocution, the same force of eloquence, the same elevation of sentiment, and the same rectitude of thought! »

The hero was also embraced by Philoctetes: and they related their unfortunate adventures to each other: « You would, certainly, » said Philoctetes, « be glad once more to see Nestor: he has just lost his last surviving child, Pisistratus; and, to him, this world is now only a vale of tears, leading to the grave. Come with me: and comfort him: an unfortunate friend is more likely than any other, to soothe his distress. » They went immediately to his tent: but grief had so much affected both his senses and his understanding, that he recollected Diomede with difficulty. Diomede, at first, wept with him; and the old man felt his grief increased by the interview: the presence of his friend, however, soothed his anguish by degrees: and it was easy to perceive, that the sense of his misfortunes was, in some degree, suspended by the pleasure of relating them, and of hearing what had befallen Diomede in return.

In the mean time, the assembled princes consulted with Telemachus, what was proper to be done. Tele-

valor, ni gloria cierta, ni duradera. A mas que á la reputacion de hombres grandes, se añade un nuevo lustre con la mala fortuna. Faltales algo, quando nunca han sido infelices; porque no tienen en su virtud exemplo alguno de paciencia, y constancia. La virtud desgraciada mueve á piedad á todos quantos tienen alguna discrecion para conocerla. Dexadnos, pues, el cuidado de consolaros. Supuesto que los dioses os ponen en nuestras manos, este es un don, que nos hacen, y debemos tenernos por dichosos; porque podemos dar algun consuelo á vuestras desgracias.

Maravillado Diómedes, miraba atentamente á Telémaco que hablaba, y se sentía todo enternecer. Abrazábanse ambos, como si antes hubieran estado largo tiempo unidos con estrecho vínculo de amistad. Digno hijo del sabio Ulises, decía Diómedes, reconozco en vos aquella apacibilidad, que se descubria en el rostro de vuestro padre, aquella gracia en el razonar, la fuerza de su eloquencia, y la nobleza, y cordura de sus pensamientos.

En esto Filotetes tambien se adelantó á abrazar el grande hijo de Tideo. Despues que se contaron uno á otro sus desgracias, le dixo Filotetes: Persuadome por cierto, que no os disgustaréis de ver al sabio Nestor. Poco ha que ha perdido á Pisistrato, que era el último de sus hijos: no le queda ya en esta vida sino una senda toda de lágrimas, por donde se conduce al sepulcro. Venid pues: le consolareis, porque no hay nadie mas á propósito para aliviar sus penas, que un amigo infeliz. Fueronse luego pues al pavellon de Nestor, el qual apenas pudo reconocer á Diómedes: tan abatidos estaban de la tristeza el animo, y sentidos del miserable viejo. Al principio Diómedes lloró juntamente con él, y el verse uno á otro fué redoblarse el dolor; sin embargo se mitigó poco á poco la pena en el corazon de Nestor con la presencia de un tal amigo, y vino á conocerse fácilmente, que el placer de contar las desgracias, que habia padecido, y oír recíprocamente á Diómedes referir sus trabajos, daba á sus males alguna suspension.

Conversaban ellos así, y los Principes congregados examinaban lo que debian obrar. Telémaco aconse-

machus advised them to bestow the country of Arpi upon Diomede, and to give Polydamas to the Daunians for their king. Polydamas was their countryman; a soldier, of whose eminent abilities Adrastus was jealous; and whom, therefore, he would never employ, lest he should share the glory of success, which he wished to secure to himself. Polydamas had often told him, in private, that in a war against united nations, his life, and the public welfare, were too much exposed: and would have persuaded him to treat the neighbouring states with more justice and equity: but men who hate truth, hate those also who are bold enough to speak it; they are not touched, either with their sincerity, their zeal, or their disinterestedness. A deluded prosperity hardened the heart of Adrastus against the counsels of virtue: and the neglect of them, afforded him, every day, a new triumph; for fraud and violence gave him the advantage over all his enemies. The misfortunes which Polydamas predicted did not happen. Adrastus despised the timid prudence which foresaw nothing but difficulty and danger; Polydamas became, at length, insupportable: he was dismissed from all his employments, and left to languish in poverty and solitude.

Polydamas was, at first, overwhelmed with this reverse of fortune: but at length it supplied what was wanting in his character, a sense of the vanity of external greatness. He became wise at his own expence, and rejoiced that he had felt adversity; he learnt, by degrees, to suffer; to live upon little; to regale with tranquillity upon truth; to cultivate the virtues of private life, which are infinitely more estimable than those that glitter in the public eye; and not to depend, for his enjoyments, upon mankind. He dwelt in a desert at the foot of Mount Garganus, where a rock that formed a kind of rude vault, sheltered him from the weather; a river that fell from the mountain, quenched his thirst; and the fruit of some neighbouring trees allayed his hunger. He had two slaves whom he employed to cultivate a small spot of ground; and

jaba, que dieran a Diomedes el pais de Arpi, y eligiesen Rey de los Daunios a uno de la misma nacion, llamado Polidamante. Era este un célebre capitán, de quien receloso Adrasto, no habia querido servirse jamas, temiendo que se atribuyera a un hombre tan valeroso el éxito feliz de una empresa, de la qual esperaba tener solo toda la gloria. Polidamante le habia muchas veces avisado, que exponia sobrado su vida, y el bien de su estado en aquella guerra contra tantas naciones juntas para su daño, y habia querido obligarlo a usar una manera de proceder mas recta, y mas moderada con los pueblos sus confinantes. Pero los que aborrecen la verdad, aborrecen tambien a aquellos que tienen animo para decir la: ni les mueve nada conocer los sinceros, zelosos, y agenos del interes. La prosperidad engañosa endurecia á Adrasto el corazon contra los mas saludables consejos, y sin executarlos, no dexaba de triunfar cada dia de sus contrarios. Hacianlo victorioso siempre la altivez, la mala fé, y la violencia; y jamas sucedian las calamidades, con que por largo tiempo le habia amenazado Polidamante. Burlaba Adrasto de una temerosa prudencia, que siempre pronosticaba desordenes, y desventuras; y no pudiendo tolerarlo mas, despojado de todas las dignidades, lo dexó á padecer soledad, y pobreza.

Quedó Polidamante al principio oprimido de la desgracia: pero dióle ella lo que le faltaba, porque le abrió los ojos para que viera la vanidad de las grandes fortunas. Hízose cuerdo a expensas propias, y alegróse de haber sido infeliz, aprendiendo poco a poco a exercer la paciencia, a vivir parcamente, a alimentar sossegadamente con la verdad su espíritu, a cultivar en sí mismo las interiores virtudes, que son mas apreciables que las públicas, y ruidosas, y finalmente a no necesitar de los hombres. Resolvióse, pues, a morar en un desierto al pie del monte Gargano, donde le servia de casa el hueco de un peñasco, que formaba la mitad de un arco: templabale la sed un arroyo, que corria de lo alto del monte; y servianle de alimento las frutas de algunos árboles. Tenia dos esclavos, que cultivaban un pequeño campo, y trabajaba él en su compañía,

he assisted them in their work with his own hands. The soil repaid his labour with usury, and he was in want of nothing. He had not only fruit, herbs, and roots, in abundance: but most fragrant flowers of every kind. In this retirement, he deplored the misfortune of those nations, which the mad ambition of their prince pushes on to their ruin. He expected, every day, that the gods, who, though long-suffering are just, would put an end to the tyranny of Adrastus: he thought he perceived that the more the tyrant rose in prosperity, the nearer he approached to destruction: for successful imprudence, and absolute authority in its utmost stretch, are, to kings and kingdoms, the certain forerunners of a fall. Yet when he heard of the defeat and death of Adrastus, he expressed no joy, either in having foreseen his ruin, or in being delivered from his tyranny: he was anxious only for his country, which he feared the conquerors might reduce to a state of slavery.

Such was the man whom Telemachus proposed to give the Daunians for their king. He had been some time acquainted both with his abilities and his virtue; for Telemachus, as he had been advised by Mentor, applied himself, with incessant diligence, to discover the good and bad qualities of all persons who had any considerable trust, whether under the allied princes with whom he served in the war, or among their enemies: and it was one of his principal employments, in every place, to discover and examine men who were distinguished by some singular talent or qualification, wherever they were to be found.

The confederate princes were, at first, something unwilling to bestow the kingdom upon Polydamas. « We have learnt, » said they, « by fatal experience, that a king of the Daunians who has a military disposition, and military skill, must be extremely formidable to his neighbours. Polydamas is a great commander, and he may bring us into great danger. » —

Recompensáble con exceso la tierra todo su trabajo, y no le dexaba necesidad de cosa; porque no solamente tenia frutas, y legumbres en abundancia, sino que tenia á mas de esto muchas hermosas flores para el recreo. Lloraba allí la infelicidad de los pueblos á quienes arrastraba á una irreparable ruina la soberbia de un loco Rey: y esperaba de cada dia, que los dioses, aunque sufridos, pero sin embargo justos, precipitáran á Adrasto del auge de la fortuna á una extremada desgracia. Quanto crecia mas la prosperidad de aquel principe, tanto mas se pensaba que fuera irremediable su caída; porque la temeridad, que es dichosa en sus yerros, y el poder que se llega al mas sublime grado de una autoridad absoluta, son precursores de la ruina de los monarcas y de la destruccion de los reynos. Quando llegó la noticia á Polidamante de la derrota, y muerte de Adrasto, no mostró regocijo alguno, ni de haberlas previsto, ni de verse ya libre de un tan cruel tyrano; y suspiró solamente de miedo, de ver que llegarán los Daunos á ser esclavos de sus enemigos.

Este fué, pues, al que propuso Telémaco en el congreso para elegirle Rey. Hacía ya algun tiempo, que le eran bien conocidos el valor, y esfuerzo de Polidamante; porque segun los consejos de Mentor, no omitía tomar informes de las buenas, y malas calidades de qualquiera persona, que tuviera empleo, que mereciese alguna atencion, no solo entre las naciones confederadas, que militaban en aquella guerra, sino tambien entre los enemigos mismos. Su principal cuidado era descubrir, y buscar diligentemente por todas partes los hombres que tenian algun talento, ó relevante, y singular virtud.

Al principio tuvieron alguna repugnancia los Príncipes coligados en elevar á la dignidad Real á Polidamante. Hemos experimentado, decian, quan formidable sea á sus vecinos un Rey de los Daunos inclinado á la guerra, y que la sepa hacer. Este que proponéis, es un gran capitán, y nos puede meter en muchos graves riesgos. Confieso, respondió Telémaco, que Polidamante sabe hacer la guerra, sin embargo es amante

« It is true, » said Telemachus, « that Polydamas is acquainted with war, but it is also true, that he is a lover of peace: which, together, make the very character that our interest requires. A man who has experienced the difficulties, the dangers, and the calamities of war, is much better qualified to avoid them, than he that knows them only by report; Polydamas has learnt to relish, and to value, the blessings of tranquillity; he always condemned the enterprizes of Adrastus, and foresaw the ruin in which they would terminate. You will have much more to fear from a weak prince, without knowledge, and without experience, than from one who sees all with his own eye, and determines all by his own will. The weak and ignorant prince will see all things with the eyes of another; either of some capricious favourite, or some flattering, turbulent, and ambitious minister; he will therefore be engaged in a war without intending it: and you can certainly have no dependence upon him who acts implicitly by the direction of others; there can be no hope that his promises will be kept: and you will, in a short time, have no alternative but to destroy him, or suffer yourselves to be destroyed by him. Is it not, therefore more advantageous, more safe, and at the same time more just and more generous, faithfully to fulfil the trust which the Daunians have placed in you, and give them a king that is worthy of dominion? »

All scruples being entirely removed by this discourse, Polydamas was immediately proposed to the Daunians, who waited the determination of the assembly with great impatience. As soon as they heard the name of Polydamas, they answered, « The allies have now proved the sincerity of their intentions, and given us a pledge of perpetual peace, by proposing a man of such virtue and abilities for our king: if they had proposed a man without spirit, without virtue, without knowledge, we should have concluded, that they designed only to make us weak and contemptible, by rendering our government corrupt; a cruel enmity, which we could not have seen practised against us without a secret but strong resentment! The choice of Pe-

de

te la paz; estas son las dos cosas que se han de desear. Un hombre, que conoce las desgracias y riesgos, y las dificultades de la guerra, estará harto mas dispuesto á evitarla, que no estaría quien no tuviera de ella experiencia alguna. Polidamante ha aprendido á gustar la felicidad de una vida pacífica, ha reprobado las injustas resoluciones de Adrasto, y ha previsto sus consecuencias fatales. Mas habeis de temer á un Principe débil, é ignorante, que á un hombre, que sabrá conocer las cosas, y que por sí á todas dará de todas la decision. El Principe floxo, é ignorante nada verá, sino con los ojos de un favorecido, tyranizado de las pasiones, ó de un ministro adulator, inquieto y ambicioso; así sin querer hacer guerra, se empeñará ciegamente en ella, y no podréis jamas fiar en él, porque él no podrá jamas fiar de sí. No os guardará las promesas, y os reducirá muy presto á una extremidad terrible, de donde será preciso, ó que le hagais perecer, ó que seáis de el oprimidos. No es por ventura cosa mas provechosa, mas segura, y al mismo tiempo mas justa, y mas noble, condescender facilmente á la buena opinion, que tienen de nosotros los Daunios, y concederles un Rey, que sea digno del mando?

Quedó todo el congreso persuadido de este discurso; y se envió luego á proponer á Polidamante por Rey á aquellos que estaban impacientes esperando respuesta. Quando los Daunios oyeron el nombre de Polidamante: Ahora conocemos bien, exclamaron, que los Principes aliados quieren tratar con nosotros con buena fé, y establecer una buena paz; pues quieren darnos por Rey á un hombre tan virtuoso, tan habil para gobernarnos. Si nos hubieran propuesto un hombre desvalido, afeminado, y mal instruido, creyéramos, que no se buscaba sino oprimirnos, y adular las reglas de nuestro gobierno; y hubiéramos guardado secretamente en el ánimo una memoria de un proceder tan cruel y engañoso. Pero la eleccion de Polida-

Iydamas indeed, is a proof of nobler principles; for, as the allies have given us a king, who is incapable of doing any thing inconsistent with the liberty and honour of our state, it is manifest that they expect nothing which can either degrade or oppress us; and on our part, we take the gods to witness, that if the rivers return not back to their sources, we will not cease to love those who have treated us with so noble a beneficence. May our latest posterity remember the benefits which have this day been conferred upon us; and renew, from generation to generation, the peace of the golden age of Hesperia, till time shall be no more!»

Telemachus then proposed to the Daunians, that the plains of Arpi should be given to Diomedes, for the settlement of a colony: «You will lay this new people,» said he, «under an obligation without expence. You do not occupy the country in which they will settle; yet they will be indebted for their settlement there to you. Remember that all men should be united by the bands of love: that the earth is of an extent much larger than they can fill; that it is necessary to have neighbours; and eligible to have such neighbours as are obliged to you for their settlement: nor should you be insensible to the misfortunes of a prince, to whom his native country is interdicted for ever. An union between him and Polydamas will be immediately formed, upon mutual principles of rectitude and benevolence, the only principles upon which any union can be lasting; you will therefore secure all the blessings of peace to yourselves; and become so formidable to all the neighbouring states, that none of them will attempt the acquisition of greatness and power, that would be dangerous to the rest. As we have given to your country and people, a king that will procure to both the highest degree of prosperity and honour; let your liberality, at our request, bestow a country that you do not cultivate, upon a king who has an indubitable claim to your assistance.»

The Daunians answered, that they could refuse nothing to Telemachus, who had given them Polydamas for a king; and they went immediately to seek him in his desert, that they might place him upon the

monte nos muestra una verdadera abertura de corazón, y ciertamente que los aliados no aguardan de nosotros cosas, que no sean mas nobles, y justificadas; pues nos otorgan un Rey, no ménos incapaz de obrar cosa que se oponga á nuestra libertad, que á nuestra gloria. Podemos así protestar delante de los dioses, que cesarán los rios ácia sus fuentes, primero que dexemos de amar á un pueblo tan benéfico. Quiera el cielo que nuestros últimos nietos se acuerden del beneficio que recibimos hoy dia, y que renueven en toda Hesperia el siglo hermoso de oro, con la paz sucesiva de generacion en generacion.

Propuso despues Telémaco á los Daunos, que dieran á Diomedes las campañas de Arpi, para fundar en ellas una colonia. Esta nueva gente, les dixo, os deberá el haberse establecido en un pays, que no habitais vosotros. Acordaos, que todos los hombres se deben amar mutuamente: que les sobra la tierra: que es menester tener algun vecino, y que es mejor tener por confluantes á los que estan obligados por haber hallado un abrigo en donde asegurarse. Moveos á compasion de la desgracia de un Rey, que no puede volver á su país. Unidos Polidamante, y Diomedes con los lazos de la justicia, y virtud, que son los que solo duran, os mantendrán una quietísima paz, y os harán formidables á los pueblos circunvecinos, que intentarán ensancharse. Bien veis, ó Daunos, que hemos dado á vuestra nacion un Rey capaz de levantar vuestra gloria hasta las estrellas; dad, pues, tambien vosotros, pues nosotros os lo pedimos, un territorio, que no os sirve de nada á un Rey, que es digno de qualquier favor.

Respondieron los Daunos, que no podian negar cosa á Telémaco, pues se habia él empleado en recabar que se les diese Rey; luego se encaminaron á buscar á Polidamante en su desierto, para hacerle admi-

throne. First, however, they granted the fertile plains of Arpi to Diomede, for a new kingdom; and their bounty to him was extremely pleasing to the allies; because this colony of Greeks would powerfully assist them to repress the Daunians, in any future attempt to make encroachments upon the neighbouring states, of which Adrastus had given them so pernicious an example.

All the purposes of the alliance being now accomplished, the princes drew off their forces in separate bodies; and Telemachus departed with his Cretans, having first tenderly embraced his noble friend Diomede; then Nestor, still inconsolable for the loss of his son, and last Philoctetes, who possessed and deserved the arrows of Hercules.

END OF THE TWENTY-FIRST BOOK.

tir el cargo de gobernarlos. Primero que partieran, diéron á Diomedes las fértiles llanuras de Arpi, para que en ellas pudiera echar los fundamentos de un nuevo Reyno. Tuvieron de esto los coligados sumo contento; porque aquella colonia Griega daba notables fuerzas á su faccion, si quisieran los Daunos renovar sus usurpaciones, cuyo mal exemplo habian recibido de Adrasto.

Todos los Príncipes no pensaron sino en separarse. Despues de haber Telémaco tiernamente abrazado al valeroso Diomedes, al sabio, é inconsolable Nestor, y al célebre Filotates, digno heredero de las flechas de Hercules, se partió con las lágrimas en los ojos en compañía de las milicias Creteuses.

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# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XXII.

### ARGUMENT.

TELEMACHUS, at his return to Salentum, is surpris'd to see the country so well cultivated, and so little appearance of magnificence in the city. Mentor accounts for these alterations, and points out the principal causes that prevent national prosperity: he proposes the conduct and government of Idomeneus as a model: Telemachus discovers to Mentor his desire to marry the daughter of Idomeneus, Antiope; Mentor approves of the choice, and assures him that she is designed for him by the gods; but that at present he should think only of returning to Ithaca, and delivering Penelope from her suitors.

TELEMACHUS was now impatient to rejoin Mentor at Salentum, and to embark with him for Ithaca, where he hoped his father would arrive before him. As he approached the city, he was astonished to see that the neighbouring country which he had left almost a desert, was now in the highest state of cultivation; and swarmed like a hive, with the children of industry and labour: this change he imputed to the wisdom of Mentor. But when he entered the city, and perceived that its appearance was much less magnificent, and that fewer hands were employed to furnish the luxuries of life, he was displeas'd, for he was naturally fond of elegance and splendour: his displeasure however soon gave way to other sentiments: he saw Idomeneus and Mentor at a distance coming to meet him; and his heart instantly overflowed with tenderness and joy. It was not, however, without some mixture of anxiety: for, notwithstanding his success in the expedition against Adrastus, he doubted whether his conduct, upon the whole,

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XXII.

### SUMARIO.

TELEMACO llegando à Salento extraña ver los campos tan bien cultivados, y hallar tan poca magnificencia en la ciudad. Mentor le declara los motivos de esta mudanza haciendole observar los defectos que ordinariamente se oponen à la prosperidad de los estados, y le propone por modelo la conducta y gobierno de Idomeneo. Despues confia Telemaco à Mentor el amor que tenia à Antiope, hija de aquel rey, con la qual quoria casarse. Alaba Mentor las buenas prendas de la princesa, asegura à Telémaco que los dioses se la destinan; pero que actualmente no debe pensar sino en marchar para Itaca, y libertar à Penelope de las persecuciones de sus pretendientes.

ARDIA el hijo de Ulises con un impacientísimo deseo de volver à ver à Mentor en la ciudad de Salento, y de embarcarse otra vez con él, para restituirse à la patria, donde esperaba ya habria llegado su padre. Quando se acercó à Salento, quedó muy maravillado de ver toda la campaña vecina, que él habia dexado casi inculta, y desierta al partir, ahora cultivada, como un bello jardin, y llena de solícitos labradores; y entendió bien, que todo esto era efecto de las advertencias del sabio Mentor. Entrando despues en la ciudad, advirtió que no se veian en ella tantos artesanos, que sirviesen para el regalo; y que era mucho menor el número de los que se aplicaban à sola la magnificencia. Esto disgustó no poco à Telémaco, que amaba naturalmente la pompa, y el alio; pero luego sobreviniéron otros pensamientos, que le ocuparon el entendimiento. Vió desde léjos à Idomeneo junto con Mentor, y sentiósse luego movido interiormente de dos afectos, alegría, y ternura. A pesar de toda la buena fortuna, que habia tenido en la

would be approved by Mentor, and endeavoured to read his sentiments in his eyes as he approached.

Idomeneus embraced Telemachus with the affection of a parent; and Telemachus, as soon as he was disengaged, threw himself upon the neck of Mentor, and burst into tears. «I am satisfied,» says Mentor; «you have, indeed, committed great faults; but they have acquainted you with your infirmities, and warned you of self-confidence. More advantage is sometimes derived from disappointment than success. Great achievements frequently produce contemptible vain glory, and dangerous presumption: but disappointments from ill-conduct make the man a censor of himself; and restore the wisdom which success had taken away. You are not to seek praise from men; but to offer it, with humility, to the gods. You have indeed performed noble exploits: but you must confess, that you were rather the instrument than the agent: were they not effected by powers communicated from without? and were they not frequently endangered by your precipitation and imprudence? Are you not secretly conscious, that Minerva exalted you into a nature superior to your own; and that after this transformation only, you became equal to the achievements that you performed? Minerva suspended your passions, as Neptune suspends the swelling of the surge, when he commands the tempest to be still.»

While Idomeneus was gratifying his curiosity, by making various enquiries of the Cretans that were returned with Telemachus from the war, Telemachus was listening to the wisdom of Mentor. At length, looking round him with astonishment, «I see many alterations here,» said he, «of which I cannot comprehend the cause: has any misfortune happened to Salentum in my absence? The magnificence and splendour, in which I left it, have disappeared. I see neither silver, nor gold, nor jewels; the habits of the people are plain, the buildings are smaller and more

guerra contra Adrasto, temia que su amigo no se diera por satisfecho, y mientras caminaba para él, observaba con atencion los ojos de Mentor, para conocer si acaso se debía acusar de alguna cosa.

Primeramente Idomenéo abrazó á Telémaco con ternura de padre; despues Telémaco se le arrojó al cuello á Mentor, y bañóle con muchas lágrimas. Yo, le dixo Mentor, estoy satisfecho de vos: habeis cometido sí algunos no pequeños errores; pero os han ayudado á conocerlos, y á desconfiar de vos mismo. Muchas veces los hombres sacan mayor provecho de sus errores, que de las buenas acciones que hacen. Las acciones grandes llenan el corazon de orgullo, é inspiran una presuncion arriesgada; pero los yerros obligan á que el hombre entre en sí mismo, y le dan la prudencia, que habia perdido con los sucesos prósperos. Lo que os queda que hacer es alabar á los dioses, y no querer ser alabado de otros. Habeis obrado muchas grandes cosas; mas confesad la verdad, que no las habeis hecho vos. ¿No es verdad que las ha obrado una virtud extraña, que estaba infundida en vos, como una cosa no vuestra? ¿Y que ántes erais capaz de echarlas á perder con el ímpetu de vuestro enojo, y con vuestra imprudencia? ¿No os acordábais de que Minerva, por decirlo así, os trocó en otro hombre superior á vos propio para hacer ella misma todo lo heroico que habeis executado? Sí, Minerva puso freno á todos vuestros defectos, como Neptuno, quando tiene al mar irritado, abonanza el furor de las tormentas.

Mientras que Idomenéo hablaba con sus Cretenses, que habian vuelto de militar con Telémaco, escuchabá éste los sabios avisos de Mentor; y mirando por todos lados en su contorno, le dixo: esta es una mudanza, cuya razon no acierto á comprehender. Ha sucedido acaso mientras no he estado en Salento algun contratiempo? ¿De dónde viene, que no se ve ya mas aquella magnificencia primera, la qual ántes de partirme se veia por todas partes en la ciudad? Ya no veo, ni oro, ni plata, ni piedras preciosas: los vestidos son llanos, las fábricas que se hacen, ménos ador-

simple, the arts languish, and the city is become a desert.»

«Have you observed,» replied Mentor with a smile, «the state of the country that lies round it?» — «Yes,» said Telemachus, «I perceive that agriculture is become an honourable profession, and that there is not a field uncultivated.» — «And which is best,» replied Mentor, «a superb city abounding with marble, and silver, and gold, with a sterile and neglected country; or a country in a state of high cultivation and fruitful as a garden, with a city where decency has taken place of pomp? A great city, full of artificers, who are employed only to effeminate the manners, by furnishing the superfluities of luxury, surrounded by a poor and uncultivated country, resembles a monster with a head of enormous size, and a withered enervated body, without beauty, vigour, or proportion. The genuine strength and true riches of a kingdom consist in the number of people, and the plenty of provisions; and innumerable people now cover the whole territory of Idomeneus, which they cultivate with unwearied diligence and assiduity. His dominions may be considered as one town, of which Salentum is the centre; for the people that were wanting in the fields, and superfluous in the city, we have removed from the city to the fields: we have also brought in many foreigners; and as the produce of the earth will always be in proportion to the number of people that till it, this quiet and peaceable multitude is a much more valuable acquisition than a new conquest. We have expelled those arts which divert the poor from procuring, by agriculture, the necessities of life; and corrupt the wealthy, by giving them the superfluities of luxury and pride: but we have done no injury to the polite arts; nor to those who have a true genius for their cultivation. Idomeneus is thus become much more powerful than he was when you admired his magnificence; a false splendour, which, by dazzling the eye, concealed such weakness and misery, as would in a short time have subverted his empire. He has now a much greater number of subjects, and he subsists them with great

nadas, y ménos grandes: todas las artes han desmayado, y la ciudad parece un desierto.

Habéis reparado, le respondió sonriendo Mentor, el estado de la campaña del contorno de la ciudad! Si, dixo Telémaco, he visto en todas partes la labranza estimada, y los terrenos bien trabajados. ¿Qual es mejor, añadió Mentor, una ciudad magnífica, abundante de oro, y plata, con una campaña inculta, é infructuosa, ó una campaña cultivada, y fecunda, con una ciudad mediana, y de modestas costumbres? Una grande ciudad llena de artesanos, ocupados en afeminar las costumbres con las delicias, quando está ceñida de un Reyno pobre y mal cultivado, se semeja á un monstruo, cuya cabeza es de una excesiva grandeza, y todo el cuerpo extenuado, y falto de alimento, sin proporcion alguna con ella: la verdadera fuerza, y las verdaderas riquezas de un Reyno consisten en la muchedumbre del pueblo, y en la abundancia de los mantenimientos. Al presente tiene Idomeneo una cantidad infinita de vasallos infatigables, que llenan todo el distrito de su pais, y todo su pais no es mas que una ciudad sola, de la qual Salento no es mas que el centro. Hemos llevado de la ciudad al campo los hombres que faltaban á este y sobran en aquella. Además, hemos logrado que muchos pueblos extrangeros se viniesen á establecer en el pais. Quanto mas se multiplica la gente, tanto mas ella multiplica con el trabajo los frutos de la tierra; y esta multiplicacion tan suave, y tan pacífica, aumenta mucho mas á su reyno, que una conquista. No se han echado de la ciudad, sino las artes superfluas, que apartan á los pobres de poner la atención debida á sus necesidades verdaderas, y vician á los ricos, despeñándolos en la afeminacion y en el fausto; pero no hemos hecho daño alguno á las bellas artes, ni á los hombres que tienen verdadero talento para cultivarlas: por eso Idomeneo es ahora mucho mas poderoso que no quando admirabais su soberbia magnificencia. Aquel esplendor demasiado ocultaba una debilidad, y miseria que bien presto hubieran abatido su potencia. Ahora tiene número mucho mayor de súbditos, y los sustenta mas facilmente; y estos súbditos amaestrados del amor de las

ter facility: these people, inured to labour and hardship, and set above a fond and effeminate attachment to life, by the wise institutions of the government under which they live, are always ready to take the field in defence of the country which they have cultivated with their own hands; and the state which you think is in decay, will shortly be the wonder of Hesperia.

«Remember, O my son! that there are two evils in government which admit of no remedy; an unequal and despotic power in the prince, and a luxurious depravity of manners in the people.

Princes that have been accustomed to consider their will only as law, and to give the reins to their passions, may do any thing; but their power of doing any thing is necessarily subverted by its own excess; their government is capriciously administered without maxim or principle; they are universally feared and flattered; their subjects degenerate into slaves; and of these slaves, the number is perpetually diminishing. Who shall dare to affront them with truth! Who shall stem the torrent of destruction! It swells over all bounds; the wise fly before it, and sigh in secret over the ruins of their country. Some sudden and violent revolution only can reduce this enormous power within proper bounds; and by that which alone can restrain it, it is frequently destroyed. Nothing is so certain a presage of irremediable destruction, as authority pushed to excess; it is like a bow that is overbent, which, if not relaxed, will suddenly fly to pieces: and who shall venture to relax it? This excessive, this fatal, but flattering power, has been once the ruin of Idomeneus; he was dethroned, but not undeceived: and of that power, which, as it is not intended for mankind, can be assumed only to their ruin, he would still have been the dupe, if the gods had not sent us hither for his deliverance: and, after all, events, scarce less than miracles, have been necessary to open his eyes.

buenas leyes, para ejercitarse en la fatiga y trabajo y en despreciar la vida, estan todos á punto de pelear y defender las tierras, que han cultivado con sus propias manos. Veréis dentro de poco tiempo hecho maravilla de Hesperia á este reyno que os parece tan decaydo de su primer estado.

Acordaos, Telémaco, que hay dos cosas dañosas en el régimen de los pueblos, á las quales no se pone remedio casi jamás; la primera es una autoridad injusta y demasiado violenta en los Reyes; la segunda es el regalo, con el qual se corrompen las costumbres.

Quando se acostumbran los Reyes á no conocer otras leyes mas que sus voluntades, y quando no refrenan sus pasiones, todo lo pueden; pero en fuerza de poderlo todo, desmoronan el fundamento de su potencia. Entónces ellos no tienen regla cierta, ni máximas ajustadas para gobernar; y mientras que á porfía les adulan todos, no les quedan, ni tienen súbditos, sino esclavos. ¿Quién se atreverá á decir la verdad á un Príncipe semejante? ¿Quién será quien se atreva á ponerle término? Cede todo á una fuerza tan impetnosa, huyen, se ocultan, y se lamentan los sabios, ni hay sino una violenta y repentina revolucion, que pueda restituir á su natural curso una potencia, que salió fuera de sus márgenes. Muchas veces tambien sucede, que el golpe que podria moderarla, la postra sin dexarle esperanza de levantarse mas. No hay cosa que amenace tanto á los Reyes una fatal caída, como una autoridad, que se extiende sobrado. Es puntualmente semejante á un arco flechado, que si no se afloxa, al cabo de improviso se rompe; ¿pero quién será el que tenga osadia para aflojarle? Idomeneo interiormente era justo; está tan engañosa autoridad lo habria precipitado del trono, y todavia no se habia encontrado quien le hiciera conocer sus errores. Fué menester, que los dioses nos condujeran acá á Salento; para mostrarle esta ciega y desmeshrada potencia, que no conviene á un hombre. Á mas fué menester, que para abrirle finalmente los ojos, se hicieran cierta especie, por decirlo así, de milagros.

«The other incurable evil is luxury. As the prince is corrupted by an excess of power, the people are corrupted by luxury. It has been said, indeed, that luxury feeds the poor at the expence of the rich: but certainly the poor may be subsisted by useful employments; if they apply themselves to multiply the products of the earth, they will be under no necessity to corrupt the rich by the refinements of luxury. A deviation from the simplicity of nature is sometimes so general, that a whole nation considers the most trifling superfluities as the necessaries of life; these factitious necessaries multiply every day; and people can no longer subsist without things which thirty years before had never been in being. This luxury is called taste, improvement, and politeness; and though a vice which superinduces almost every other, it is cultivated and commended as a virtue. Its contagion spreads from the prince to the meanest of his people: the royal family imitate the magnificence of the king; the nobles, that of the royal family; the middle class, that of the nobles; for who makes a just estimation of himself? and the poor would intrude upon the class above them. Every one lives above his condition; some from ostentation, and to glory in their wealth; some from a false shame, and to conceal their poverty. Even those who discover the mischief of this general folly, want fortitude to set the first examples of reformation: all conditions are confounded, and the nation is undone. A desire of gain to support this idle expence, taints by degrees the purest minds; wealth is the only object of desire, and poverty the only mark of disgrace. You may have learning, talents, and virtue; you may diffuse knowledge, you may win battles, save your country, and sacrifice your interest; and after all, if your merit is not set off by the glitter of fashionable expence, you will sink into obscurity and contempt. Even those who are without money, will not appear to want it; they live at the same expence as if they had it; they borrow, they cheat, and practise a thousand scandalous expedients to procure it: and who shall apply a remedy to these evils? New laws must be instituted, and the taste and

El otro mal, casi incurable es el regalo. Como una autoridad demasiado grande vicia á los Reyes, así el regalo hasta las costumbres de todo un pueblo. Dicen, que el fausto sirve de alimentar los pobres á expensas de los ricos, como si no pudieran los pobres ganarse con mayor utilidad el sustento para su vida, cultivando la tierra, sin afeminar á los ricos con estudios, y siempre nuevos regalos. Acostúmbrase todo un pueblo á mirar como necesarias para la vida las cosas que son mas superfluas; cada dia se inventan ciertas nuevas necesidades, ni pueden ya no haberse menester las cosas, de que no se tenia conocimiento treinta años há; y llámase este exceso buen gusto, perfeccion de las artes, y pulidez de la nacion. Es alabado como virtud un tal vicio, que consiguió se lleva tantos otros, y es tan contagioso, que llega hasta inficionar á las últimas heces del pueblo. Quieren imitar la magnificencia del Rey los que le son ménos cercanos en sangre; los grandes la de los parientes del Rey; las personas de condicion mediana quieren hacerse iguales á los grandes; porque ¿quién es aquel que se hace justicia á sí mismo? Los pequeños se ostentan por medianos; y en suma todos hacen mas de lo que pueden; los ricos por fausto, y por valerse de sus riquezas; y los otros por una mala vergüenza de parecer pobres. Aquellos mismos, que son háto cuerdos para condenar un tan gran desórden, no lo son sufficientemente para tener esfuerzo de hacer los primeros cara, y dar exemplo, que se oponga al comun estilo. Arruinase una nacion entera, todas las condiciones se confunden, y el desmesurado deseo de enriquecer, para mantener gastos vanos, gasta aun los mas puros animos. De ninguna otra cosa se trata mas que de amononar riquezas: es infamia la pobreza. Sea un hombre erndito, hábil, virtuoso, instruya á los demas, gane batallas, salve su patria, sacrifique todos sus intereses; se le desprecia si no realzá el fausto sus talentos. Aquellos mismos que no tienen rentas quieren aparentar tenerlas; y gastan como si las tuvieran. Todos se empeñan, todos engañan, y usan mil artificios para enriquecerse. ¿Mas quién habra que remedie estos males? Es menester trocar el gusto, y las cos-

habit of the whole nation must be changed : and who is equal to such an undertaking , but he who is at once a philosopher and a prince ; who , by the example of his own decency and moderation , can shame the fools that are fond of ostentation and parade , and keep the wise in countenance , who would rejoice to be encouraged in an honest frugality . »

Telemachus , while he listened to this discourse , perceived the delusions of his mind to vanish , like a man that wakes from a dream . He was now conscious to truth ; and his heart was transformed to its image , as marble to the idea of the sculptor , when he gives it the features , the attitude , and almost the softness of life . At first he made no reply ; but while he recollected what he had heard , he attentively reviewed the alterations that had been made in the city .

At length , turning to Mentor , « You have , » said he , « made Idomeneus one of the wisest princes upon earth ; I no longer know either him or his people . I am now convinced that your achievements here are much greater than ours in the field . The success of war is , in a great degree , the effect of personal prowess and chance : and the commander must always share the glory of conquest with his men : but your work is properly and exclusively your own : you have alone opposed a whole nation and its prince ; and you have corrected the manners and principles of both . The success of war is always fatal and horrid : but all here is the work of celestial wisdom : all is gentle , pure , and lovely ; all indicates an authority more than human . When man is desirous of glory , why does he not seek it by works of benevolence like these ? O how false are their notions of glory , who hope to acquire it by ravaging the earth , and destroying mankind ! »

At this exclamation of Telemachus , Mentor felt a secret joy that brightened in his countenance ; for it convinced him , that his pupil had reduced the value

tumbres de todo un pueblo , y darle tambien nuevas leyes . ¿ Quién se podrá poner en tal empresa , sino es un Rey filósofo , que sepa con el exemplo de su propia moderacion hacer colorearse de avergonzados á los que gustan de gastos magníficos y suntuosos , y animar á los hombres sabios , que tendrán sumo gusto de ver al Príncipe autorizar aquella decente templanza , que ellos profesan .

Oyendo este discurso Telémaco , estaba como un hombre que despierta de un pesado sueño : conocia la verdad de estas voces , y se le estampaban en el ánimo , como en el mármol se imprimen de mano de un valiente escultor aquellas facciones , que mas le agradan , dándole no solamente gracia , sino vida tambien y movimiento . Estuvo silencioso , sin responder , y recorriendo con el pensamiento lo que habia oído á Mentor , miraba al mismo tiempo las cosas , que se habían mudado en Salento ; y finalmente vuelto á él , le dixo :

Habeis hecho á Idomenéo el mas sabio de todos los Reyes , y se han mudado tanto , así este Príncipe , como todo su pueblo que ya no los conozco . Confieso tambien , que las cosas que aqui habeis hecho , son infinitamente mayores que las victorias que nosotros habemos obtenido . El acaso , y la fuerza tienen mucha parte en el éxito de las guerras : tenemos que partir la gloria de las batallas con los soldados : pero una cabeza sola obró en lo que hicisteis ; vos solo tuvisteis que resistir á un Rey y todo su pueblo , para enmendarlos . Los sucesos de la guerra son siempre funestos y odiosos . Aqui todo es obra de una sabiduría celestial , todo es dulce , todo es amable , todo es puro , y da á ver claramente una autoridad superior á la humana condicion . Quando los hombres quieren ganarse alguna gloria , ¿ por qué no la procuran , aplicándose de esta suerte á beneficiar á los otros ? ; O quan mal se entienden , esperando alcanzar una firme gloria y maciza , dando á saco la tierra , y vertiendo la sangre humana !

Mostró Mentor entónces en el semblante una alegría sensible , viendo á Telémaco tan desengañado de las victorias , y las conquistas , en una edad en que

of conquest and triumph to their true standard, at an age when it would have been but natural to over-rate the glory he had acquired.

«It is true,» replied Mentor, after a pause, «all that Idomeneus has done here is right, and deserves commendation; but he may do still better. He has now brought his passions under subjection: and he applies himself to the government of his people upon just principles: but he has still great faults, which seem to be the progeny of faults that are past. When we make an effort to leave familiar vices, they seem to follow us; bad habits, relaxation of mind, inveterate errors, and strong prejudices long remain. Happy are those who never deviated into error; for their rectitude, and theirs only, can be uniform and constant. The gods, O Telemachus! require more from you than from Idomeneus; because you have been made acquainted with truth from your earliest infancy: and have never been exposed to the seduction of unbounded prosperity.

«Idomeneus,» continued Mentor, «is by no means deficient, either in penetration or knowledge; but he wastes his abilities upon little things; he is too much busied upon parts to comprehend the whole; and he arranges atoms, instead of conceiving a system. The proof of abilities in a king, as the supreme governor of others, does not consist in doing every thing himself: to attempt it is a poor ambition; and to suppose that others will believe it can be done, an idle hope. In government, the king should not be the body, but the soul; by his influence, and under his direction, the hands should operate, and the feet should walk: he should conceive what is to be done, but he should appoint others to do it; his abilities will appear in the conception of his designs, and the choice of his instruments. He should never stoop to their function, nor suffer them to aspire to his: neither should he trust them implicitly; he ought to examine

era tan natural, que se hubiera embriagado de la gloria que le ceñía.

Es verdad, replicó despues Mentor, que todo esto que veis es bueno, y merece alabanza; pero sabed, Telémaco, que pudieran hacerse cosas mejores. Modera Idomeneo sus pasiones, é igualmente se aplica á moderar tambien á su pueblo; pero aun ahora no dexa de cometer muchos yerros, que son conseqüencias funestas de los que cometió antiguamente. Quando quieren los hombres dexar el mal, parece que aun el mal les persigue por largo tiempo: porque les quedan los malos hábitos, enflaquecida la naturaleza con los yerros pasados, y muchas faltas casi incurables. ¡Venturosos aquellos, que nunca se han desviado del camino derecho de la virtud! Pueden obrar bien con mas perfeccion que los otros: Los dioses, ó Telémaco, os pedirán á vos cosas mayores que á Idomeneo, porque habeis conocido la verdad desde jóven, y porque no habeis tenido una prosperidad demasiado grande, que os pudiera haber pervertido.

Idomeneo, proseguia Mentor, es cuerdo, y de un entendimiento penetrativo; mas se aplica sobrado á las cosas menudas, y no piensa quanto debiera en lo sólido de los negocios. El talento de un Príncipe no consiste en hacerlo todo por sí: es una necia soberbia pensar llegar á tanto, ó querer dar á entender al mundo, que lo puede hacer. Un Rey debe gobernar á su pueblo, escogiendo, y guiando á aquellos que mandan á su mano, y no le es conveniente hacer tambien las cosas mas pequeñas; porque eso es hacer el oficio de sus Ministros. A estos debe solamente pedirles cuenta, y saber quanto baste para tener, y hacer que se le dé tal razon con la discrecion necesaria. Es gobernar muy bien, escoger y emplear á todos aquellos, que gobierna, conforme á sus talentos, conocerlos, corregirlos, y tenerlos á raya, y provocarlos á obrar con rectitud. Queterlo por sí mismo examinar todo es desconfianza, es flaqueza, es tener zelo de los negocios

their proceedings, and be equally able to detect a want of judgment or integrity. He governs well who discerns the various character and abilities of men, and employs them to administer government, under him, in departments that are exactly suited to their talents. The perfection of supreme government consists in the governing of those that govern: he that presides, should try, restrain, and correct them; he should encourage, raise, change, and displace them; he should keep them for ever in his eye, and in his hand: but, to make the minute particulars of their subordinate departments objects of personal application, indicates meanness and suspicion: and fills the mind with petty anxieties, that leave it neither time nor liberty for designs, that are worthy of royal attention. To form great designs, all must be freedom and tranquillity: no intricacies of business must embarrass or perplex, no subordinate objects must divide the attention. A mind that is exhausted upon minute particulars, resembles the lees of wine, that have neither flavour nor strength: and a king, that busies himself in doing the duty of his servants, is always determined by present appearances, and never extends his view to futurity; he is always absorbed by the business of the day that is passing over him; and this being his only object, acquires an undue importance, which, if compared with others, it would lose. The mind that admits but one object at a time, must naturally contract; and it is impossible to judge well of any affair, without considering many, comparing them with each other, and ranging them in a certain order, by which their relative importance will appear. He that neglects this rule in government, resembles a musician, who should content himself with the discovery of melodious tones, one by one, and never think of combining or harmonizing them into music, which would not only gratify the ear, but affect the heart. Or he may be compared to an architect, who should fancy the powers of his art exhausted, by heaping together large columns, and great quantities of stoue curiously carved, without considering the proportion of his building, or the arrangement of his

medianos que consumen el tiempo, y ocupan la libertad de la mente, que se requiere para las cosas grandes. Es menester que el Príncipe tenga el ánimo libre y tranquilo para poder formar grandes ideas, y que piense con todo espacio los negocios difíciles, enteramente desocupado de otros. Un entendimiento, que ha gastado su aplicacion en menudencias es como las heces del vino que no tienen delicadeza, ni fuerza. Aquellos que gobernando se toman el cuidado de qualquiera mínima cosa, se disponen á obrar con la consideracion de lo presente, sin pensar mas allá en un futuro que está distante. Déxanse llevar siempre del negoció del dia en que estan; y siendo este solo negoció el que les ocupa, hace en ellos demasiado grande impresion; porque no se hace juicio sano de algun negoció sino quando se parangonan todos á una, y se ponen en cierto órden, para que tengan entre sí proporcion y respeto unos á otros. El dexar de seguir esta regla en el gobierno, es parecerse á un músico que se contentase en hallar algunos tonos armoniosos de voz; pero que no cuidara de unirlos, y acordarlos por junto, para formar con ellos una dulce, y suave melodía. Un tal Príncipe es puntualmente semejante á un arquitecto, que figurándose haberlo hecho todo, con tal que junte muchas grandes columnas, y muchas piedras bien trabajadas, sin pensar en el órden, y en la proporcion con que ha de disponer estos adornos, quando forma una grande sala, no considera que será menester hacer una grande escalera, que corresponda: quando trabaja el cuerpo de la fábrica, no cuida, ni del atrio, ni de la fachada; y toda la obra no es sino un monton confuso de partes magnificas, no hechas la una para la otra, y que en lugar de adquirir el artífice reputacion, hará su afrenta eterna; porque muestra que no tuvo idea háto capaz, para concebir de una vez todo el diseño general del edificio. Este es el carácter de un entendimiento menguado, y subalterno; y el que nació con ingenio tan limitado, no es suficiente sino para dexarse regir por otro, y executar los órdenes, que de él reciba. Aseguraos, mi querido Telémaco, el gobierno de un Reyno requiere una cierta harmonia, como la música, y algunas



ornaments: such an artist, when he was building a saloon, would not reflect, that a suitable staircase should be added; and when he was busy upon the body of the building, he would forget the court yard, and the portal: his work would be nothing more, than a confused assemblage of parts, not suited to each other, not concurring to form a whole, such a work would be so far from doing him honour, that it would be a perpetual monument of disgrace; it would shew, that his range of thought was not sufficient to include all the parts of his design at once, that his mind was contracted, and his genius subordinate; for he that sees only from part to part, is fit only to execute the designs of another. Be assured, my dear Telemachus, that the government of a kingdom requires a certain harmony like music, and just proportions like architecture.

«If you will give me leave to carry on the parallel between these arts and government, I can easily make you comprehend the inferiority of those, who administer government by parts, and not as a whole. He that sings particular parts in a concert, however great his skill, or excellent his voice, is still but a singer; he who regulates all the parts, and conducts the whole, is the master of music: so, he that fashions the columns, and carries up the side of a building, is no more than a mason: but he who has designed the whole, and whose mind sees all the relations of part to part, is the architect. Those, therefore, who are most busy, who dispatch the greatest number of affairs, can least be said to govern; they are inferior workmen: the presiding mind, the genius that governs the state, is he, who doing nothing, causes all to be done, who meditates and contrives: who looks forward to the future, and back to the past; who sees relative proportions, arranges all things in order, and provides for remote contingencies; who keeps himself in perpetual exercise, to wrestle with fortune, as the swimmer struggles with a torrent; and whose mind is night and day upon the stretch, that anticipating all events, nothing may be left to chance.

«Do you think, my dear Telemachus, that a great

ajustadas proporciones, como las pide la arquitectura.

Si quereis que yo me sirva aun de la comparacion de estas dos Artes, os mostraré como son medianos hombres aquellos que gobiernan de modo semejante. No es mas que un cantor, el que en una capilla canta alguna cosa, aunque muy perfectamente, pero aquel que gobierna toda la capilla, y regla al mismo tiempo todas sus partes, es el solo maestro: asi igualmente, quien labra las columnas, ó levanta un costado del edificio, no es mas que un albañil, y solamente es el arquitecto, quien ha inventado la fabrica, y tiene en su idea todas las proporciones. De la misma manera, los que se fatigan, y despachan muchos negocios, gobiernan ménos que los demas, y no son sino artifices subalternos: el verdadero espíritu motor, que rige el estado, es el Principe, que sin hacer nada hace que se haga todo, que piensa, que idea, que prevé lo futuro, que se acuerda de lo pasado, que ordena, que proporciona, que mucho antes previene las cosas, que hace cara continuamente para contrastar la fortuna, como el nadador contra la corriente del agua, y que noche y dia está siempre atento para reparar todos los acasos.

¿Creéis, Telémaco, que un pintor afane desde la

painter is incessantly toiling, that he may dispatch his work with the greater expedition? No; such drudgery and constraint would quench all the fire of imagination; he would no longer work like a genius; for the genius works as he is impelled by the power of fancy, in sudden, vigorous, but irregular sallies. Does he grind his colours, or prepare his pencils? No; he leaves that to others that are as yet but in the rudiments of his art; he reserves himself for the labours of the mind; he transfers his ideas to the canvass, in some bold and glowing strokes, which give dignity to his figures, and animate them not only with life, but passion. His mind teems with the thoughts and sentiments of the heroes he is to represent; he is carried back to the ages in which they lived, and is present to the circumstances they were placed in. But, with this fervid enthusiasm, he possesses also a judgment, that restrains and regulates it; so that his whole work, however bold and animated, is perfectly consonant to propriety and truth. And can it be imagined, that less elevation of genius, less effort of thought, is necessary to make a great king, than a good painter? Let us therefore conclude, that the province of a king is to think; to form great designs; and to make choice of men properly qualified to carry them into execution.»

«I think,» said Telemachus, «that I perfectly comprehend your meaning: but surely, a king who leaves the dispatch of public business to others, will be often imposed upon.» — «You impose upon yourself,» replied Mentor: «a general knowledge of government will always secure him against imposition. Those who are not acquainted with radical principles, and have not sagacity to discern the talents and characters of men, are always seeking their way, like men in the dark. If these, indeed, escape imposition, it is by chance: for they have not a clear and perfect knowledge of what they seek, nor in what direction they should move to find it: their knowledge is just sufficient to excite suspicion; and they are rather suspicious of integrity that opposes them with truth,  
mañana

mañana á la tarde continuamente para fenecer sus trabajos quanto ántes pueda? No, no, con esta continua, y violenta aplicacion ahogaria en sí mismo el fervor y viveza de la fantasia, y no pintaria con mas inclinacion y gusto. Es menester que lo haga todo de una manera no regular, y segun su capricho, conforme se siente llevado del deseo, y estimulado de su propio genio. ¿Creeis por suerte, que pierde tiempo en moler los colores, y en prevenir los pinceles? Esta es la ocupacion de sus discipulos. El pintor se reserva el cuidado de meditar, y no piensa en otro, que en tirar sobre el lienzo pinceladas de maestro, para dar dulzura, nobleza y expresion á sus figuras. Estas tiene en el pensamiento, y los sentimientos de aquellos heroes, que quiere representar; y considera como presentes los siglos y circunstancias en que ellos se hallaron. Con esta especie de entusiasmo conviene que junte una discrecion, que le contenga, para que todas las partes de sus imagenes sean verdaderas, sean perfectas, y tengan proporcion unas con otras. ¿Podriais comprehender que se requieran pensamientos ménos sublimes, ménos ingeniosos, y menores esfuerzos de entendimiento, para hacer un gran Rey, que para hacer un valiente pintor? Concluid pues, que la ocupacion de un Rey debe consistir en pensar y escoger aquellos que deben emplearse en el gobierno baxo su mano.

Paréceme, dixo Telémaco, comprehender lo que me decis; pero si las cosas corrieran de esa manera, un Rey seria muchas veces engañado; no examinando él propio todos los negocios particulares. Vos os engañais, respondió Mentor; quando el Príncipe tiene conocimiento general del gobierno, él impide que puedan engañarlo. Los que en la expedicion de los negocios no se proponen alguna máxima fundamental, y no tienen discrecion verdadera para conocer los genios de los demas, andan siempre como á tientas; y quando no se engañan, lo deben totalmente á la fortuna. Esos, ni aun saben alguna que es lo que buscan precisamente, ni á qué blanco deben mirar: solo saben ser sospechosos, y desconfian ántes de los hombres honrados, que les contradicen, que de los engañosos

than of fraud that seduces them by flattery. Those, on the contrary, who know the principles of government, and can distinguish the characters of men, know what is to be expected from them, and how to obtain it: they know, at least, whether the persons they employ are, in general, proper instruments to execute their designs; and whether they conceive and adopt their views, with sufficient precision and abilities to carry them into effect. Besides, as their attention is not divided by embarrassing particulars, they keep the great object steadily in view; and can always judge whether they deviate or approach it: if they are sometimes deceived, it is in accidental and trifling matters, that are not essential to the principal design. They are also superior to little jealousies, which are always marks of a narrow mind, and grovelling disposition; they know, that in great affairs, they must in some particulars be deceived, because they are obliged to make use of men, and men are often deceitful; and more is lost by the delay and irresolution which arises from want of confidence in those who must be employed, than from petty frauds, by which that confidence is abused. He is comparatively happy who is disappointed only in affairs of small moment: the great work may go on with success; and it is about this only, that a great man ought to be solicitous. Fraud, indeed, should be severely punished when it is discovered: but he that would not be deceived in matters of importance, must in trifles be content to be deceived. An artificer, in his work-room, sees every thing with his own eye, and does every thing with his own hand; but a king who presides over a great nation, can neither see all, nor do all: he ought, indeed, to do nothing himself, but what another cannot do under him; and to see nothing that is not essential to some determination of great importance.

« You, Telemachus, » continued Mentor, « are a favourite of the gods; and it is their pleasure to distinguish your reign by wisdom. All that you see here, is done less for the glory of Idomeneus, than for your instruction; and if your virtues correspond with the

que les adulan. Al contrario, aquellos que tienen verdadera idea del gobierno, y que como sabios conocen lo que han de desear, y los medios de que han de usar para llegar á ello, advierten por lo ménos en grueso si los hombres de que se sirven, son instrumentos hábiles para efectuar sus designios, y si han comprehendido su intencion, para encaminarse á aquel término, que se proponen. De allende, como no toman el empleo pesado de exâminar parte por parte todos los negocios, tienen el entendimiento mas despejado, para considerar con sola una ojeada lo macizo de la obra, y observar si sus Ministros se adelantan ácia el fin principal á que se deben enderezar. Si alguna vez se engañan, á lo ménos no es en lo esencial. Fuera de que son superiores á ciertos ligeros zelos, que son indicios de un pobre entendimiento, y de un ánimo baxo, y que comprehenden, que no puede ser ménos, sino que han de ser engañados en los grandes negocios; porque es forzoso servirse de hombres que tan frecuentemente suelen ser engañosos. Mas se pierde estandose por resolver á causa de la desconfianza, que no se perderia en dexarse engañar un poco. Es dichosísimo el que no es engañado, sino en cosas medianas; porque no dexan de acabarse entretanto las mas importantes, y estas son las solas en las que ha de pensar un hombre grande. Es menester castigar el engaño severamente quando se llega á averiguarlo; pero si no se quiere ser verdaderamente engañado, es necesario no hacer caso de algun engaño. Un artesano en su tienda todo lo vé con sus ojos, y todo lo hace con sus manos: pero un Rey, en una monarquía grande, no puede hacerlo todo, ni verlo todo. El no debe hacer sino las cosas que otro no puede executar baxo su mando: no debe ver sino lo que hace parte de la decision de los asuntos importantes.

En conclusion, Mentor dixo á Telémaco: Los dioses os estiman, hijo de Ulises, y se disponen á hacer os reynar con prudencia en vuestros pueblos. Todo lo que aquí veis, mas se ha hecho para vuestra enseñanza, que para gloria de Idomeneo. Estas sabias reglas,

designs of heaven, the wise institutions that you admire in Salentum, are but as shadows to the substance, in comparison of what you will one day do in Ithaca. But Idomeneus has now prepared a ship for our departure; and it is time that we should think of quitting the coast of Hesperia. »

At the mention of their departure, Telemachus opened his heart to his friend, with respect to an attachment, which made it impossible for him to leave Salentum without regret. The secret, however, cost him some pain: « You will blame me, perhaps, » said he, « for yielding too easily to impressions of love, in the countries through which I pass; but my heart would always reproach me, if I should hide from you the passion that I have conceived for Antiope, the daughter of Idomeneus. This, my dear Mentor, is not a blind impulse, like that which you taught me to surmount in the island of Calypso. I know that the wound which my heart received from Eucharis, was deep; neither time nor absence can efface her image from my heart; and I cannot even now pronounce her name without emotion. After such experience of my weakness, I must be diffident of myself: yet what I feel for Antiope, is wholly different from what I felt for Eucharis: it is not the tumultuous desire of passion; it is the calm complacency of reason, a tender approbation and esteem. I desire her as the sister of my soul, my friend and companion for life; and if the gods shall ever restore my father to me, and I am permitted to chuse, my fate and the fate of Antiope shall be one. The charms that have attached me to Antiope, are the glowing modesty of her countenance; her silent diffidence and sweet reserve; her constant attention to tapestry, embroidery, or some other useful and elegant employment; her diligence in the management of her father's household, since the death of her mother: her contempt of excessive finery in her dress: and her total forgetfulness, or rather ignorance, of her beauty. When, at the command of Idomeneus, she leads the dance, with the beauties of Crete, to the soft sound of the flute, she might be well taken for Venus, the queen of smi-

que apreciáis tanto, y se han establecido en Salento, no son mas que sombra de lo que algun dia haréis en Ithaca, si con vuestras virtudes correspondéis á aquellos sublimes intentos, que tiene ácia vos el destino. Tiempo es que nosotros pensemos en partirnos, y ya Idomeneo tiene prevenido un baxel para restituírnos á la patria.

Descubrióle luego Telémaco, si bien con alguna dificultad, una secreta afición, que le hacia desapacible partirse de Salento. Por ventura me condenaréis, le dixo, como sobrado fácil de enamorarme por los lugares por donde paso; pero mi corazon me acusaría continuamente, si os ocultara que soy amante de Antiope, hija de Idomeneo. No, mi amado Mentor, no es ya esta una ciega pasión, como aquella de que me curásteis en la isla de Calipso. Conozco bien la profundidad de la herida amorosa, que la ninfa Eucharis me habia hecho en el corazon. No puedo aun pronunciar su nombre, sin sentir turbación; y el tiempo, y la distancia no han podido borrarle de la memoria. Una tan funesta experiencia me enseña á desconfiar de mí propio: pero no siento cosa semejante en el afecto que tengo á Antiope. No es este un amor desmedido: es conocimiento, es estima, y es una firme opinion de que seré feliz, si pudiera vivir con ella. Si algun tiempo los dioses me restituyen á mi padre, y si me permiten escoger á mi gusto muger, Antiope ha de ser mi esposa. Lo que en ella sumamente me agrada es el silencio y modestia: aquel estar retirada, y aquel trabajar sin interrupcion: la habilidad de texer y bordar: la aplicacion á regir despues de muerta su madre, toda la casa de Idomeneo: el desprecio en los vanos adornos, y aquel ver que se olvida, y aun que no conoce ser bella. Quando Idomeneo la manda que guie al son de los pifanos las danzas de las doncellas Cretenses, podria tenerse por Venus: tanto garbo y gracia tiene en executarlas. Si la lleva consigo á la caza, en las selvas se deja ver tan magestuosa, y tan diestra en tirar las flechas, que parece puntualmente á Diana en medio de sus ninfas: sola ella no lo sabe, y todo el mundo lo admira. Al verla entrar en el templo, y llevar en algun cestillo

les, with the graces in her train. When he takes her with him to the chase, she discovers such skill in the bow, and such dignity of deportment, as distinguish Diana, when she is surrounded by her nymphs. Of this superiority she alone is ignorant, while every eye remarks it with admiration. When she enters a temple with sacred offerings to the god, she might herself be taken for the divinity of the place; with what devotion and awe she presents her gifts, and propitiates the gods, when some crime is to be expiated, or some fatal omen averted! And when she appears with a golden needle in her hand, surrounded by the virgins of her train, we are tempted to believe that Minerva has descended, in a human form, to the earth, and is teaching the polite arts to mankind. She encourages others to diligence by her example: she sweetens labour, and suspends weariness by the melody of her voice, when she sings the mysterious history of the gods; and she excels the most exquisite painters in the elegance of her embroidery. How happy the man whom Hymen shall unite with her by a gentle band! What can he suffer but her loss? what can he fear, but to survive her?

« But I take the gods to witness, my dear Mentor, that I am ready to depart. I shall love Antiope for ever; but she shall not delay my return to Ithaca a moment. If another shall possess her, I shall be wretched; yet I will leave her. Although I know that I may lose her by absence, I will not mention my love either to her or to her father; for I ought to conceal it in my bosom from all but you, till Ulysses, again seated upon his throne, shall permit me to reveal it. Judge then, my dear Mentor, how much my attachment to Antiope differs from that passion for Eucharis, by which you remember both my virtue and reason to have been overborne. »

« I am sensible of this difference, » said Mentor: « Antiope is all gentleness, prudence, and simplicity: her hands do not despise labour; she looks forward with a provident forecast: she provides for contingencies; she dispatches pressing business with silent ex-

sobre la cabeza las cosas sagradas, fuera fácil tenerla por aquella misma deidad; que allá dentro mora; Con qué religioso temor, y con qué piedad la hemos visto ofrecer á los dioses sacrificios, é impedir los efectos de su enojo, quando ha sido preciso purgar alguna culpa, ó desviar algun fatal presagio! finalmente, quien la ve en compañía de muchas doncellas con la aguja en la mano, piensa que es Minerva, que con distraz humano ha venido á inspirar á los hombres el amor de las buenas artes. Dando este estímulo, y brío á las otras para que trabajen, les templa la fatiga y enfado con la suavidad de su voz, cantando las historias de los dioses; y trabajando ella misma, excelsa la pintura mas delicada con lo primoroso de sus bordados. Venturoso de aquel, que se uniere con ella en amable coyunda, no tendra que temer su esposo otra cosa sino perderla y alcanzarla en dias.

Pongo aquí por testigos á los dioses, amado Mentor mio, que estoy pronto á partirme: amaré á Antiope mientras que viviere; pero no me detendrá ni un momento mi vuelta acia la patria. Si hubiera otro de poseerla, pasaria afligido toda mi vida, y en perpetuo tormento; pero la dexaré finalmente, aunque sepa que puedo perderla con la ausencia. No quiero hablar á ella, ni á su padre en mi amor, porque no debo hablar á otro que á vos, mientras que restituido Ulises sobre su trono, no me diga estar de ello contento. Bien podéis comprehender por esto quan diferente sea este amor de aquella passion con que me visteis en la isla de Calipso tan ciegamente amante de una de las ninfas. ®

Convengo tambien yo en vuestra opinion, Telémaco, respondió Mentor, y estoy persuadido de esta diversidad. Antiope es de apacibles costumbres, sencilla y cuerda. No desdeña el trabajo de sus manos: prevee mucho antes las cosas, y tambien provee á

pedition; she is always busy, but never confused; for every thing is referred to its proper time and place. The elegant regularity of her father's household is her glory; a nobler distinction than youth and beauty! Though the whole is submitted to her management, and it is her province to reprove, to deny, to spare, which make almost every other woman hated, yet she is beloved by the whole house; for she discovers neither passion, nor obstinacy, nor levity, nor caprice, which are so often blemishes in the sex; a glance of her eye is a sufficient command, and every one obeys from an unwillingness to displease her. She gives particular directions, with exactness and precision; and commands nothing that cannot be executed: there is kindness even in her reproof; and she encourages to amendment, while she blames for misconduct. She is the solace of her father's fatigue and care; and to her his mind retreats for rest; as a traveller, fainting with heat in the summer's sun, retreats to the shade of a grove, and reposes in luxurious ease, upon the downy turf. Antiope, is indeed, a treasure that would repay the most distant and laborious search. Her mind, no more than her body, is dishonoured by trifling ornaments: her imagination is lively, but not uncontrolled; she speaks only when it is improper to refrain: and in her speech there is an artless grace, a soft but irresistible persuasion; all listen in silence, and she blushes with confusion: the deference and attention with which she is heard, make it difficult for her modesty not to suppress what she intended to say. We have, indeed, heard her speak but seldom, yet you once heard her upon an occasion which I am sure you cannot forget.

She was one day sent for by her father, when he was about to punish one of his slaves with exemplary severity; she appeared with her head modestly reclined, and her face covered with a long veil: she spoke, but said no more than was just necessary to appease his anger. At first she seemed to take part in his resentment: she then softened it by insensible degrees: at last she insinuated an apology for the offender; and without wounding the king, by the mortifying sense

todo: sabe callar quando conviene: trabaja sin cesar, pero sin demasiada priesa; y haciendo cada cosa á su tiempo, aunque ocupada siempre, nunca se embaraza. Pone toda su gloria en administrar bien la casa de su padre, y de esta gloria tiene mayor adorno, que de su beldad. Aunque de todo cuida, y tiene encargo, que la obliga á negar, á corregir y ahorrar cosas, que hacen odiosas á todas las mugeres, se ha hecho amable á todos los de la familia; porque no se halla en ella passion, ó pertinacia, ó ligereza, ó extravagancia de genio, como en las otras. Hácese comprehender con un solo mirar, y temen todos no satisfacer á su voluntad: da los precisos órdenes quando encomienda la execucion de algun negocio; pero no ordena cosas, que no puedan cumplirse: reprehende con dulzura, y anima reprehendiendo; en ella reposa el corazon de Idomenéo como un pasajero rendido del calor excesivo del sol, descansa á la sombra sobre la yerva fresca. Teneis razon, Telémaco: Antiope es tesoro digno de ser buscado, hasta en los mas apartados paises. Como ella no adorna el cuerpo con vanos aliños, así ni adorna el ingenio con noticias inútiles, y su fantasía, aunque viva, se enfrena con prudencia discreta. Jamas habla si no lo pide la necesidad, y si tal vez para hablar abre sus labios, tienen sus dichos cierta natural gracia, y persuaden con suavidad. Quando discurre, todos los demas callan, y ella se colorea con modesta vergüenza. Fuera menester poco para dexar de decir lo que quiere, quando repara, que con tanta atencion la escuchan. En suma, es tan silenciosa, y tan cauta, que apenas la hemos oido hablar.

¿Os acordais, Telémaco, de aquel día que la hizo su padre venir á su presencia? Compareció con los ojos baxos; y cubierta de un grande velo, ni habló, sino para mitigar el enojo de Idomenéo, que queria hacer castigar rigurosamente á un esclavo. Mostró ella al principio hacerse parte en su cólera; despues le sosegó, y lo hizo finalmente entender todas las razones, que podian excusar á aquel infeliz; y sin dar á conocer al Rey que se habia dexado arrebatár sobrado de la

of excessive anger, she kindled in his bosom sentiments of justice and compassion; the tumult of his mind subsided under an easy, but irresistible influence, as the yielding waves insensibly lose their undulation, when hoary Nereus is soothed into peace by the gentle blandishments of his daughter Thetis. Thus will the heart of a husband one day correspond with the influence of Antiope, though she assumes no authority, nor takes advantage of her charms; as the lute now answers to her touch, when she wakes it to the tenderest strains. Antiope is indeed worthy of your affection, and she is intended for you by the gods; but though your love for her is justified by reason, you must wait till she is given you by Ulysses. I commend you for having concealed your sentiments; and I may now tell you, that if you had made any propositions to Antiope, they would have been rejected, and you would have forfeited her esteem: she will enter into no engagement, but leaves herself wholly to the disposal of her father. He that hopes to be her husband, must reverence the gods, and fulfil every duty to man. I have observed, and has it not been observed by you! that she is less seen, and that her eyes are more frequently fixed upon the ground, than before your expedition. She is not a stranger to any of your achievements in the war; she is acquainted with your birth and your adventures, and she knows the endowments which you have received from the gods: this knowledge has increased her reserve. Let us then depart for Ithaca: my task will be accomplished, when I have assisted you to find your father, and put you in a condition to obtain such a wife as might have increased the felicity of the golden age. If Antiope, a royal virgin, the daughter of Idomeneus, king of Salentum, was a keeper of sheep upon the bleak summit of mount Algidus, the possession of Antiope would still be happiness and honour. »

END OF THE TWENTY-SECOND BOOK.

ira, le inspiró en el ánimo dictámenes de justicia, y de compasión. Quando acariciá Tetis el viejo Nereo, no sosiega con mas dulzura las irritadas ondas. Asi Antiope, sin arrogarse autoridad alguna, y aun sin valerse de su hermosura, templará algun dia el corazón de su esposo, con aquella destreza misma con que ahora tañe la lira, quando con esta suele hacer la mas suave harmonía, ved, dixo otra vez, Telémaco, vuestro amor acia Antiope es justo: los dioses os la destinan, y la amais con afecto racional: es menester no obstante que Ulises os la dé. Os alabo, porque á ella no habeis querido descubrir vuestro afecto: pero sabed, que si hubierais tomado algun pretexto para explicarle vuestros intentos, os los hubiera ella reprobado, y ya hubiera dexado de teneros estimacion. Antiope por sí sola no se prometerá nunca á alguno, sino que se dexara dar de su padre: sin embargo, no se resolverá á tomar por esposo sino á un hombre, que tema á los dioses, y satisfaga á todas las obligaciones. ¿Habeis reparado, como yo mismo lo he notado, que se dexa aun ver menos, y baxa mas los ojos despues de vuestra vuelta? Sabe bien Antiope todo lo prospero, que os ha sucedido en la guerra: tiene entendido vuestro nacimiento, vuestros sucesos, y las raras prerogativas, que os han dado los dioses; y esto es lo que la hace tan modesta, y tan circunspecta. Vamos, Telémaco, vamos, á Itaca: no me queda mas sino hacer que encontréis á vuestro padre, y poner os en estado de alcanzar una esposa digna del siglo de oro. Aunque no fuera mas que una pastorcilla pobre en el pais frio de Algido, y no hija del Rey de Salento, como lo es, seriais felicísimo poseyéndola.

FIN DEL LIBRO VIGESIMO SEGUNDO.

# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XXIII.

### ARGUMENT.

**IDOMENEUS**, fearing the departure of his guests, proposes several embarrassing affairs to Mentor, and assures him that without his assistance they cannot be adjusted. Mentor lays down general principles for his conduct, but continues steady to his purpose of departing with Telemachus for Ithaca. Idomeneus tries another expedient to detain them: he encourages the passion of Telemachus for Antiope, and engages him and Mentor in a hunting party with his daughter; she is in the utmost danger from a wild boar, but is delivered by Telemachus; he feels great reluctance to leave her, and has not fortitude to bid Idomeneus farewell: being encouraged by Mentor, he surmounts his difficulties, and embarks for his country.

**IDOMENEUS**, who dreaded the departure of Telemachus and Mentor, formed many pretences to delay them. He told Mentor, that he could not, without his assistance, determine a dispute which had arisen between Diophanes, a priest of Jupiter Conservator, and Heliodorus, a priest of Apollo, concerning the omens that were to be drawn from the flight of birds, and the entrails of victims. »

« And why, » said Mentor, « should you concern yourself about sacred things? Leave questions of religion to be decided by the Etrurians, who have preserved the most ancient oracles by tradition, and who are by inspiration interpreters of the gods to men. Employ your authority only to suppress these disputes in the beginning: act with perfect neutrality while they continue; and content yourself with supporting the decision, when it shall be made. Remember that kings ought to submit to religion, and not make it: religion is from the gods, and above regal authority. If kings

# TELEMACHO.

## LIBRO XXIII.

### SUMARIO.

**IDOMENEO**, temiendo la Salida de sus huéspedes, propone á Mentor muchos negocios dificultosos, asegurandole que no podra arreglarlos sino con su socorro. Mentor le declara como debe portarse, y se mantiene firme en llevarse á Telémaco. Procura Idomeneo todavia detenerlos animando la pasion de este hacia Antiope: los lleva á una partida de Caza, á la qual quiere que asista su hija. Un jabali despedazaria á esta, si Telémaco no le salvará la vida. Le cuesta despues mucho trabajo el dexar á la princesa, y despedirse de su padre: pero animado por Mentor, vence su sentimiento, y se embarca para su patria.

**IDOMENEO**, que temia la salida de Telémaco y Mentor, no pensaba si no en retardarla. Representó á Mentor que no podia arreglar sin el una disputa que se habia levantado entre Diophanes, sacerdote de Júpiter conservador, y Heliodoro, sacerdote de Apolo, sobre los agüeros que se sacan del vuelo de las aves y de las entrañas de las victimas.

¿ Porque, le respondió Mentor, os habeis de meter en cosas sagradas? Dexad que lo decidan los Etruscos, que tienen la tradicion de los oráculos mas antiguos, y son inspirados para ser intérpretes de los dioses; emplead solamente vuestra autoridad para ahogar esas disputas en su mismo nacimiento. No se os conozca parcialidad ni preocupacion; contentaos con confirmar la decision quando se haya hecho: acordaos que debe un Rey sujetarse á la religion, sin pretender jamas arreglarla: de los dioses sale la religion, y es superior á los Reyes. Si quieren estos arreglarla, en lu-



concern themselves with religion, they do not protect it as a divine institution, but degrade it to a mere instrument of state policy. The power of kings is so great, and that of others so little, that religion would be in danger of becoming just what the sovereign would wish to make it, if he should undertake to determine any question about its doctrines or duties. Leave, then, the decision of these questions, implicitly, to the friends of the gods: and exert your authority only against those who will not conform to their determination when it is made.»

Idomeneus then complained of the perplexity he suffered, from the great number of causes between private persons, which he was pressed, with great importunity, to decide.

«Decide,» said Mentor, «all new questions of right, by which some general maxim of jurisprudence will be established, or some precedent given for the explanation of laws already in force: but do not take upon you to determine all questions of private property: they would overwhelm and embarrass you, by their variety and number; justice would necessarily be delayed for your single decision; and all subordinate magistrates would become useless. You would be overwhelmed and confounded; the regulation of petty affairs, would leave you neither time, nor thought, for business of importance; and, after all, petty affairs would not be regulated. Avoid, therefore, a state of such disadvantage and perplexity; refer private disputes to subordinate judges: and do nothing yourself, but what others cannot do for you: then, and then only, fulfil the duties of a king.»

«But,» said Idomeneus, «there are many persons of high birth about me, who have followed my fortunes, and lost great possessions in my service; these persons seek some kind of recompence for their losses, by obtaining certain young women of great wealth in marriage: they urge me, with incessant importunity, to interpose in their behalf, and a single word from me would ensure them success.»

«It is true,» said Mentor, «a single word from you would be sufficient; but that single word would

gar de protegerla la esclavizaran. Son tan poderosos los Reyes, y los demas hombres tan flojos, que estara todo a pique de que lo trastornen aquellos a su arbitrio, si se les dexa meterse en las quæstiones que tocan á las cosas sagradas. Dexad pues que los amigos de los dioses decidan con entera libertad; y bastóos contener á los que no obedecieren á su sentencia, despues de declarada.

Despues Idomenéo se quexó del apuro en que se hablaba tocante á un gran numero de pleytos entre varios particulares, que querian que sentenciara á toda priesa.

Decidid, le respondió Mentor, todas las quæstiones nuevas que tiran á establecer maximas generales de jurisprudencia, y interpretar las leyes: pero no os encargueis jamás de juzgar las causas particulares: ellas vendrian desde luego á sitiarnos. Seriais el unico juez de vuestro pueblo, todos los demas jueces subalternos se harian inutiles; os hallariais oprimido por negocios de corta importancia, abandonando á los mayores, sin poder acabar con las menudencias de los pequeños. Guardaos pues de entrar en semejante laberinto; dirigid los negocios particulares á los jueces ordinarios: no hagais sino lo que otro no puede hacer para aliviaros: entónces cumplireis con las verdaderas obligaciones de un Rey.

Tambien me atormentan, decia Idomenéo, para ciertos casamientos. Los sujetos de distinguido nacimiento que me han seguido en todas las guerras, y que han perdido muy grandes haciendas sirviendome, quisieran hallar cierta recompensa casandose con doncellas ricas: con decir una palabra, les proporcionara estos establecimientos.

Es verdad, respondió Mentor, que no os costaria sino una palabra; pero esta misma os saldria dema-

cost you too dear. Would you deprive fathers and mothers of the liberty and consolation of chusing their sons-in-law, and consequently, their heirs? This, surely, would reduce them to the severest and most abject slavery, and make you answerable for all the domestic evils of your people. Marriage, at the best, is not the couch of unmingled delight; and why should you scatter new thorns among the down? If you have faithful servants to reward, distribute among them some unappropriated lands; and give them, besides, rank and honours suited to their merits and condition: if more still is necessary, add to these pecuniary gratifications from your treasury; and make good the deficiency by retrenching your expence; but never think of paying your own debts with the property of others; much less, with property transferred in violation of the most sacred rights, by giving a daughter in marriage, without the consent of her parents. »

This difficulty being removed, Idomeneus immediately proposed another. « The Sibarites, » said he, « complain that certain districts, which we have given, as uncultivated lands, amongst the strangers whom we have drawn to Salentum, belong to them. Must I admit this claim? and shall I not encourage other nations, to make demands upon our territory if I do? »

« The Sibarites, » said Mentor, « should not be implicitly believed in their own cause: nor is it just to believe you implicitly in yours. » — « Upon whose testimony will you then depend, » said Idomeneus? « Upon that of neither of the parties, » replied Mentor: « some neighbouring nation, that cannot be suspected of partiality to either, must determine between you. The Sipontines are such a nation; they have no interest that is incompatible with yours. »

« But am I obliged, » said Idomeneus, « to submit to an umpire? Am I not a sovereign prince; and is a sovereign prince to leave the extent of his dominions, to the decision of foreigners? »

« If you resolve to keep the lands in question, » answered Mentor, « you must suppose that your claim to them is good: if the Sibarites insist upon a restoration, they must, on their part, suppose their right to

siado cara. ¿ Quisierais quitar á los padres la libertad y el consuelo de escoger á sus yernos, y por consiguiente á sus herederos? Seria esto poner á todas las familias en la mas rigurosa esclavitud; os hariais responsable de todos los infortunios domesticos de vuestros ciudadanos. Bastantes espinas tienen los casamientos sin que se les añada todavía esta amargura. Si tenéis que premiar á servidores leales, dadles tierras incultas, con honores y grados proporcionados á su nacimiento y servicios, añadiendo, si es menester, algun dinero sacado de la propia economía: pero nunca debéis satisfacer vuestras deudas, sacrificando á las doncellas ricas, á pesar de sus padres.

Dexando esta pregunta Idoméneo pasó luego á otra. Los Sibaritas, decia él, se quexan de que hemos usurpado tierras suyas, para darlas, como incultas, á los extrangeros que, poco ha, hemos atraído aqui. ¿ He de ceder á estos pueblos? Si lo hago, creera qualquiera que puede formar desde luego pretensiones contra nosotros.

No es justo, respondió Mentor que á los Sibaritas se les dé credito en la propia causa; pero tampoco á vos. ¿ A quien se ha de dar pues, replicó Idoméneo? A ninguno, prosiguió Mentor. Pero se ha de tomar por arbitro á un pueblo vecino de que no desconfie uno ni otro; tales son los Sipontinos, que no tienen ningun interés contrario al vuestro.

¿ Pero estoy yo obligado, respondia Idoméneo, á remitirme á algun arbitro? ¿ No soy Rey? ¿ Esta obligado un soberano á someterse á unos extrangeros, quando se trata de la extension de sus dominios? »

Siguió así Mentor: una vez que os manteneis firme, os parecerá que vuestro derecho es inconcuso: por otra parte, no quieren ceder nada los Sibaritas; pretenden ellos que es cierto su derecho. En medio de aquellos

be incontestible. Your opinions being thus opposite, the difference must either be accommodated by an umpire mutually chosen, or decided by force of arms: there is no medium. If you should enter a country, inhabited by people who had neither judge nor magistrate, and among whom, every family assumed a right of determining differences with a neighbouring family by violence, would you not deplore their misfortune, and think with horror of the dreadful confusion which must arise from every man's being armed against his fellow? Can you then believe, that the gods would look with less horror upon the earth, of which all the inhabitants may be considered as one people, if every nation, which is but a more numerous family, should assume the right of determining, by violence, all differences with a neighbouring nation? An individual, who possesses his field as an inheritance from his ancestors, depends wholly upon the authority of the laws, and the judgment of the magistrate, for the security of his property; and would be severely punished, as guilty of sedition, if he should endeavour to secure, by force, what was given him by right: do you then believe that kings are at liberty to support their pretensions by violence, without having first tried what could be done by expedients, more consonant to reason and humanity? Is not justice yet more sacred and inviolable, as an attribute of kings, when it has whole nations for its objects, than as a private virtue in an individual, when it relates only to a ploughed field? Is he a villain and a robber who seizes only a few acres, and his he just, is he a hero, who wrests whole provinces from their possessor? If men are subject to prejudice, partiality, and error, with respect to the trifling concerns of private property, is it probable that they should be less influenced by such motives, in affairs of state? Should we rely upon our own judgment, where it is most likely to be biased by passion? and should not error be most dreaded, where its consequences will be most fatal? The mistake of a prince with respect to his own pretensions, is the cause of ravage, famine, and massacres, of irreparable loss to the present generation; and of such deprecation of

pareceres tan opuestos, es menester que un arbitro escogido por ambas partes ajuste la disputa, ó que se decida por la suerte de las armas; no hay medio. Si entrara en una republica en donde no hubiese magistrados ni jueces, y a cada familia le pareciese tener derecho de sostener con violencia sus pretensiones contra sus vecinos, llorariais la desgracia de semejante nacion, y os causaria horror aquel terrible desorden, en que se armarian unas contra otras todas las familias. ¿Pensais acaso que los dioses miran con menos horror el mundo entero que es la republica universal, si cada pueblo, que no es sino una familia grande, creyera tener derecho suficiente para hacerse violentamente á sí mismo justicia en todas sus pretensiones contra los demas pueblos vecinos? Un particular que posee un campo, como herencia de sus mayores, no puede mantenerse en él sino por la autoridad de las leyes y por sentencia de un magistrado: el seria castigado muy severamente como sedicioso, si quisiera conservar por la fuerza lo que la justicia le ha dado. ¿Pensais que los Reyes puedan valerse desde luego de la violencia para sostener sus pretensiones, sin haber probado primero todos los medios suaves y humanos? No es todavia mas sagrada é inviolable la justicia para los Reyes quando se trata de paises enteros, que para los particulares relativamente a algunos campos cultivados? ¿Será injusto y robador el que no tome sino algunas yugadas de tierra? ¿Será justo, será heroico el que tome provincias? ¿Si se apasionan, si se lisonjean, si se ciegan en los pequeños intereses de los particulares, no deben temer todavia mas semejantes engaños en los grandes intereses del estado? ¿Se dará uno crédito á sí mismo, en una materia en que hay tantos motivos para desconfiar de sí propio? ¿No temerán engañarse en casos en que el error de un hombre solo tiene resultas horribles? El error de un Rey que se lisonjea en sus pretensiones ocasiona muchas veces estragos, hambres, matanzas, depravaciones de costumbres, cuyas funestas consecuencias se extienden hasta los siglos mas remotos. ¿Un Rey que junta siempre al rededor de su persona tantos aduladores, no temerá que le adulen en tales ocasiones? Si se refiere a algun

manners, as may extend calamity to the end of time. A king knows that he is always surrounded by flatterers; should he not therefore suppose, that, upon such occasions, he will be flattered? If he leaves his differences to arbitration, he shows himself candid, equitable, and dispassionate; he states the reasons upon which his claim is founded; the umpire is an amicable mediator, not a rigorous judge; and though his determinations do no compel implicit obedience, yet the greatest deference should be paid to them: he does not pronounce sentence like a judge, from whose authority there is no appeal: but he proposes expedients; and, by his advice, the parties make mutual concessions, for the preservation of peace. If war is, at last, inevitable, notwithstanding the king's utmost endeavours to avoid it, he will, at least, have secured the testimony of a good conscience, the esteem of his neighbours, and the protection of the gods. » Idomeneus felt the force of this reasoning; and consented, that the Sipontines should mediate between him and the Sibarites

The king, finding these expedients to prevent the departure of the two strangers ineffectual, endeavoured to detain them by a stronger tie. He had observed the attachment of Telemachus to Antiope: and he hoped, that, by strengthening this, he might accomplish his purpose. When he gave an entertainment, therefore, he frequently commanded his daughter to sing; she obeyed, from a sense of duty; but it was with such regret and confusion, as made it easy to perceive how much she suffered by her obedience. Idomeneus went so far, as to intimate his desire, that the subject of her song might be the victory which had been obtained over the Daunians and Adrastus; but she could not be prevailed upon to sing the praises of Telemachus: she declined it with modest respect, and her father thought fit to acquiesce. There was something in her voice inexpressibly tender and sweet; Telemachus felt all its power, and his emotion was too great to be concealed. Idomeneus remarked it with pleasure; but Telemachus appeared not to perceive his design: he could not quench the sensibility of passion,

arbitro para terminar la controversia, hace ver su equidad, buena fé y moderacion; el publica los solidos motivos sobre que se funda su causa. El arbitro escogido es mediador amigable, y no juez riguroso. No obedecen ciegamente a sus decisiones; pero merece su caracter la mayor atencion: el no sentencia como juez soberano; pero hace proposiciones, y por sus consejos se sacrifica algo para conservar la paz. Si llega la guerra á pesar de todos los cuidados que toma un Rey para conservar la paz, el tiene á lo menos á su favor el testimonio de su conciencia, el aprecio de sus vecinos, y la justa proteccion de los dioses. Movido Idoméneo de este discurso consintió en que los Sipontinos fuesen mediadores entre el y los Sibaritas.

Entonces el Rey, viendo que se inutilizaban todos los medios para hacer que se quedasen ambos extranjeros, probó detenerlos con un lazo mas fuerte. El habia notado lo que Telémaco queria á Antiope; y esperó vencerle por esta pasion. Con esta mira la hizo cantar muchas veces en los convites. Ella lo hizo para no desobedecer á su padre, pero con tanta modestia y tristeza, que bien se conocia lo que sufría obedeciendo. Llegó Idoméneo hasta querer que ella cantase la victoria ganada contra los Daunos y Adrasto: pero nunca pudo ella resolverse á cantar las alabanzas de Telémaco; lo negó con muy respetoso modo, y su padre no se atrevió á violentarla. Su voz dulce y sensible penetraba el corazon del joven hijo de Ulises; el se hallaba del todo conmovido. Idoméneo que tenia los ojos fixados en el, gozaba del gusto de observar su turbacion. Pero Telémaco disimulaba, y hacia como que no conocia las intenciones del Rey. No podia dexar de ser muy agitado en tales ocasiones; pero podia mas con el la razon que el sentimiento; y ya no era aquel Telémaco á quien otra vez tiranizó una pasion loca en

but reason precluded its effects. He was no longer that Telemachus, whom love, the tyrant of the mind, had once held captive in the island of Calypso, while Antiope sung, he was silent; and, as soon as the song was over, he turned the conversation to some other subject.

The king, being again disappointed, resolved to give his daughter the pleasure of a great hunting match. She declined the sport, and entreated with tears to be left behind; but the commands of Idomeneus were peremptory, and she was obliged to obey. She was mounted upon a fiery steed, which, like those that Castor had trained to war, disdained the ground, and was impatient of the rein; yet she governed him with such easy negligence, that he seemed to move by the secret impulse of her will. A train of virgins followed her with that ardour which is the distinction and felicity of youth; and she might have been taken for Diana with her nymphs. The king followed her incessantly with his eye; and while he gazed upon his child forgot the past misfortunes of his life: she fixed also the attention of Telemachus, who was more touched with her modesty, than with the graces of her person, or her dexterity in the field.

The dogs gave chase to a wild boar of an enormous size. He was more furious than that of Calydon; the bristles of his back were as rigid as iron, and as sharp and long as a dart; his eyes seemed to sparkle with fire, and to be suffused with blood; his breath was heard at a remote distance, like the hoarse murmurs of rebellious winds, when Eolus recalls them to his cave, that the tempest may cease: his long tusks were crooked like a sickle, nor could the trees of the forest stand before them. He gored all the dogs that had courage to approach him; and the boldest hunters that pursued him, were afraid he should be overtaken.

Yet Antiope, who, in the course, was swifter than the wind, came up and attacked him; she threw a javelin at him, which wounded him in the shoulder; the blood gushed out in a torrent, and he turned upon his adversary with new fury. The horse of Antiope, however bold and spirited, shuddered and drew back:

la isla de Calipso. Mientras cantaba Antiope, el guardaba un profundo silencio; y al instante que ella habia acabado, el dirigia luego la conversacion hacia otro asunto.

No pudiendo el Rey por este medio acertar con lo que deseaba, resolvió al fin hacer una batida muy grande para dar gusto á su hija. Antiope lloró no queriendo asistir á ella: pero al fin tubo que obedecer á la orden terminante de su padre. Monta ella un caballo ardiente, fogoso, y semejante á los que domaba Castor para los combates; ella le guía sin trabajo: una tropa de doncellas la sigue con ardor; y parece Antiope en medio de ellas como Diana en las selvas. El Rey la vé, y no puede hartarse de verla; en viendola olvida todas sus pasadas desgracias. Tambien la vé Telémaco, y le mueve mas todavia la modestia de Antiope, que su destreza y todas sus prendas.

Los perros perseguian á un jabalí enormemente grande, y tan furioso como el de Calidon: sus largas cerdas eran ásperas y erizadas como dardos; sus ojos centelleantes brotaban sangre y fuego; se oya á lo lejos su resuello, como el ruido sordo de los sediciosos vientos quando Eolo los vuelve á llamar á su antro para apaciguar las tempestades; sus colmillos largos y corvos como la cortadora guadaña de los segadores, cortaban el tronco de los arboles. Todos los perros que se atrevian á embestirle salian despedazados: los mas atrevidos cazadores, al mismo tiempo que le seguian, temian alcanzarle.

Antiope que corria tan ligeramente como los vientos, no temió atacarle de cerca: le dispara un dardo que le atraviesa por encima de la espalda. Sale á borbotones la sangre del feroz animal, y le hace mas furioso: se vuelve hacia la persona que le hirió. Al instante, el caballo de Antiope, no obstante su fiereza,

the monster then rushed against him; and the shock was like that of the ponderous engines, that overturn the bulwarks of the strongest city: the horse could not sustain it, and fell. Antiope was now upon the ground in a situation that left her no power to avoid the tusks of the furious animal, whom she had provoked: but Telemachus, whose attention had been engrossed by her danger, was already dismounted: and with a rapidity scarce less than that of lightning, threw himself between her and the boar that was foaming to revenge his wound: the prince instantly plunged a hunting spear in his body; and the horrid monster fell, agonized with fury, to the ground.

Telemachus cut off the head, which astonished the hunters, and was still terrible when nearly viewed: he presented it immediately to Antiope, who blushed and consulted the eyes of Idomeneus, to know what she should do. Idomeneus, who had been terrified at her danger, and was now transported with joy at her deliverance, made a sign that she should accept the present; she took it, therefore, with an elegant acknowledgment; «I receive from you, with gratitude,» said she, «a more valuable gift; I am indebted to you for my life.» The moment she had spoken, she feared she had said too much, and fixed her eyes upon the ground. Telemachus, who perceived her confusion, could only reply, «How happy is the son of Ulysses, to have preserved a life so precious! How much more happy, if he could unite it with his own?» Antiope made no answer, but mixed hastily with her young companions, and immediately remounted her horse.

Idomeneus would immediately have promised his daughter to Telemachus, but he hoped, that, in a state of uncertainty, his passion would still increase, and that the hope of ensuring his marriage, would prevent his departure from Salentum. Such were the principles upon which Idomeneus reasoned; but the gods deride and disappoint the wisdom of men; the

se estremece y retrocede: el monstruoso jabalí se lanza contra el, semejante á las pesadas máquinas que sacuden las murallas de las plazas mas fuertes. Vacila el caballo y cae. Se vé Antiope en el suelo sin poder evitar el golpe del colmillo del jabalí animado contra ella. Pero Telemaco atento al peligro de la princesa, ya se habia apeado. Mas pronto que el rayo el se arroja entre el caballo abatido y el jabalí que vuelve para vengar su sangre: tiene en sus manos un dardo largo, y le mete casi entero en el vientre del horrible animal, que cae lleno de rabia.

Al instante Telémaco le corta la cabeza, que aun infunde miedo quando se mira de cerca, y asusta á todos los cazadores: el la presenta á Antiope. Ella se pone colorada: consulta los ojos de su padre, que, despues de haber tenido susto tan grande, se halla arrebatado por la alegria viendo á su hija fuera de peligro, y le hace seña que debe aceptar el don que se le ofrece. Tomandole, dixo ella á Telémaco: recibo con agradecimiento otro don vuestro todavia mayor: pues os debo la vida. Apenas acabó de hablar, quando temió haber dicho demasiado; baxó los ojos: y Telémaco, que vió su turbacion, no se atrevió sino á decirle estas palabras: ¡ Dichoso el hijo de Ulises de haber conservado una vida tan preciosa! Pero mas dichoso aun si pudiera pasar la suya junto á vos! Antiope, sin responderle, entró precipitadamente en la tropa de sus joyenes compañeras, y volvió á montar á caballo.

Idomeneo hubieta desde ese instante prometido su hija á Telémaco: pero esperó encender mas su pasion dexandole en la incertidumbre, y creyó aun detenerle todavia en Salento por el deseo de asegurar su casamiento. Asi discurria Idomeneo en su interior: pero los dioses se burlan de la prudencia de los hombres. Lo que habia de detener á Telémaco fue precisamente

very project that was formed to detain Telemachus, hastened his departure. That tumult of love, and hope, and fear, which he now felt in his breast, made him justly distrust his resolution.

Mentor laboured, with double diligence, to revive his desire of returning to Ithaca; and the vessel being now ready, he also pressed Idomeneus to dismiss them. Thus, the life of Telemachus being every moment regulated by the wisdom of Mentor, with a view to the consummation of his glory, he was suffered to remain no longer at any place, than was necessary to exercise his virtues, and add experience to knowledge. Mentor, as soon as Telemachus arrived, had given orders that a vessel should be got ready.

Idomeneus had seen the preparations with inexpressible regret; and when he perceived that the guests, from whom he had derived advantages so numerous and important, could be detained no longer, he gave himself up to melancholy and despair: he shut himself up in the innermost recesses of his palace; and endeavoured to soothe his anguish, by venting it in sighs and tears; he forgot that nature was to be sustained with food, and no interval of tranquillity was bestowed by sleep: his health gradually declined, and a secret anxiety of his heart consumed him: he withered, like a stately tree which covers the earth with its shadow, but is gnawed by a worm at the root, the winds in their fury may have attacked it in vain; the earth may have nourished it with delight; and it may have been spared, in reverence, by the axe: but if the latent mischief is not discovered, it will fade; its leaves, which are its honours, will be scattered in the dust; and the trunk and branches only, rifted and sapless, will remain. Such, in appearance, was Idomeneus, the victim of inconsolable grief.

Telemachus was tenderly affected at his distress, but did not dare to speak to him: he dreaded the day of departure, and was always busied in finding pre-

lo que apresuró su marcha: lo que empezaba á sentir le inspiró una justa desconfianza de si mismo.

Redobló Mentor sus diligencias para inspirar á Telemaco un deseo impaciente de volverse á Itaca. Hizo instancia, pues, á Idomenéo, para que le dexara partir, y ya estaba pronto el baxél; porque había cuidado de hacerlo prevenir, luego que estuvo Telemaco de vuelta en Salento. Así Mentor, que reglaba todos los momentos de la vida de Telemaco al fin de levantarlo al mas alto grado de gloria, no le obligaba á que se detuviérase en cada lugar, sino quanto era preciso para exercitar su virtud, y hacerle adquirir experiencia.

Idomenéo, que lo había visto aprestar con sumo disgusto suyo, cayó en una aflicción mortal, y en un abatimiento de espíritu, digno de mover compasión en qualquiera ánimo, entendiéndolo que sus huéspedes, de los cuales había recibido tantas asistencias, ya se hallaban á punto de dexarlo. Cerrabase en los sitios mas oscuros de la casa, y allí daba algun alivio á su pecho; echando fuera muchos suspiros, y derramando amarguisimas lágrimas. Olvidabase de comer, y no podia mitigar el sueño sus crueles penas; enlaquecía de día en día, consumiéndose con sus continuos desasosiegos. Como un grande árbol, que asombra con sus espesas ramas una parte de la campaña, que jamas han podido arrancar los vientos; que la fecunda tierra gusta de criar en su seno, y que nunca fué herido de la segur: si un gusano comienza interiormente á roerle aquellos pequeños conductos, por donde corre el xugo á alimentarlo, se empieza luego á poner marchito, sin poder descubrirse la causa de su mal, y perdiendo el primer vigor, despojado de sus hojas, que le eran no de ménos gloria que adorno, no muestra mas que un tronco seco, cubierto de una corteza hendida en muchas partes, y algunas ramas del todo sin verdor; así se mostraba en su pena melancólico Idomenéo.

Enternecido Telemaco, no se atrevia á hablarle, ántes temiendo que se llegaba el día de la partida, buscaba algun pretexto para dilatarla; y hubiera

ferences for delay; but he was, at length, delivered from this state of embarrassment and suspense by Mentor: « I am glad, » said he, « to see this alteration in your temper: you were, by nature, obdurate and haughty, sensible only to your convenience and interests; but you are now softened into humanity, and your own misfortunes have taught you to compassionate the sufferings of others. Without this sympathy, there can be neither goodness, nor virtue, nor ability to govern; but it must not be carried to excess, nor suffered to degenerate into feminine softness. I would myself solicit Idomeneus to dismiss you, and spare you the embarrassment of so painful a conversation; but I am unwilling that a false shame, and unmanly timidity, should predominate in your breast. You must learn to blend fortitude and courage with the tenderness and sensibility of friendship; you should preserve an habitual fear of giving unnecessary pain: when you are compelled to grieve any man, you should participate his sorrow; and make the blow fall lightly, which you cannot avert. » — « That an inevitable stroke may be thus lightened, » said Telemachus, « is the reason why I wish that Idomeneus should be acquainted with our departure, rather by you, than by myself. »

« My dear Telemachus, » said Mentor, « you mistake your motive. You are like all other children of royalty, whose passions have been flattered, and whose wishes prevented in their earliest youth: they expect that every thing should be managed, so as to coincide with their desires, and that the laws of nature should be subservient to their will; yet they have not resolution to oppose any man to his face. They avoid an opposition, not in tenderness to others; not from a principle of benevolence, that fears to give pain; but from a regard to their own convenience and gratification; they cannot bear to be surrounded with mournful or discontented countenances; and are touched with the miseries of men, only as objects disagreeable to their eye: they will not hear of misfortune, because it is a disgusting subject; and lest their fancy should be offended, they must be told that all is pros-

largo tiempo estado en esta perplexidad, si Mentor no le hubiera hablado así: Bien tengo sumo contento de veros tan mudado del que fuisteis primero. Habiais nacido intratable y erguido, y no amabais sino á vuestras comodidades, é intereses; pero al fin os habeis hecho verdaderamente hombre, y comenzaís con la experiencia de vuestros males á tener compasion de los agenos. Sin una tal compasion, ni se puede tener bondad, ni virtud, ni talento de gobernar; mas no es menester llevarla hasta el exceso, ni tolerar que decline á flaqueza el amor de la amistad. Yo hablaré gustoso á Idomeneo, para hacer que consienta en vuestra partida, y os ahorraré el embarazo de una conservacion tan molesta; pero como no apruebo, que vuestro corazon se dexé dominar de la soberbia, así tampoco quiero, que se dexé ocupar de una perniciosa vergüenza. Debeis acostumbraros á mezclar el esfuerzo, y la constancia con un tierno y afectuoso amor. Es menester temer afligir á un hombre sin necesidad; ántes, si no puede ser ménos sino darle algun sinsabor, interesarse en su pena, y templar lo posible el golpe, quando no se puede excusarlo enteramente. Para que la noticia de vuestra partida, respondió Telémaco, se le haga ménos penosa, quisiera mas que la recibiera Idomeneo de vuestra boca que de la mia.

Os engañais, mi amado Telémaco, le replicó Mentor: vos habeis nacido como todos los hijos de los Reyes, criados entre las grandezas; que quieren que todo se haga á su modo, y que toda la naturaleza se doble á su voluntad; pero que cara á cara no tienen brio para resistir á qualquiera que sea. No es esto, porque hagan ellos caso de los hombres, ó teman afligirlos por bondad propia; pero lo hacen por conveniencia propia, porque no quieren ver junto á sí ciertos rostros melancólicos, y descontentos. Las tribulaciones y miserias agenas no les mueven á compasion, con tal que no las tengan á los ojos; y si en alguna ocasion las oyen referir, estos discursos les dan enfado, y llenan de tristeza. Para agradar á los príncipes, es menester siempre decirles, que todas las cosas van bien; porque miéntras estan entre las delicias no quieren ver, ni oír cosa que pueda interrumpirles el gozo. Hase de



perity and happiness; they are surrounded with delights, and will neither see nor hear any thing that may interrupt their joy. If misconduct is to be reprov'd, or error detected, importunity repress'd, false claims oppos'd, or factious turbulence controlled; they will always depute another for the purpose, rather than declare their own will with that gentle firmness, which enforces obedience, without kindling resentment. They will tamely suffer the most unreasonable favours to be extorted, and the most important affairs to miscarry, rather than determine for themselves, against the opinion of those who are continually about them. This weakness is easily discover'd, and every one improves it to his advantage: every request becomes, in effect, a demand; it is urg'd with the most pernicious and troublesome importunity; and is granted, that importunity may be troublesome no more. The first attempt upon the prince is by flattery: by this designing parasites recommend themselves to favour; but they are no sooner trusted to serve, than they aspire to govern: they rule their lord by the very power they have derived from him; their bridle is in his mouth, and their yoke upon his shoulders: he groans under it, and sometimes he makes an effort to throw it off; this effort is soon remitted, and he bears the yoke to his grave; he dreads the appearance of being governed, yet tamely suffers the reality; to be governed, is, indeed, necessary to such princes: for they resemble the feeble branches of a vine, which, not being able to support themselves, always creep round the trunk of some neighbouring tree.

I must not suffer you, O Telemachus! to fall into this state of imbecility, which cannot fail to render you wholly unfit for command. Though you dare not speak to Idomeneus, lest you should wound your sensibility, you will yet have no sense of his affliction, when the gates of Salentum are behind you; you are even now less melted by his grief, than embarrassed by his presence. Go, then, and speak to him for yourself; learn, upon this occasion, to unite the tender and the firm; let him see that you leave him with regret, but that you are determin'd to leave him.

reprehender, de corregir algun atrevido, de resistir á las pretensiones, é injustos deseos de un importuno, primero que hablen ellos con un apacible brio, darán siempre á otro la comision. En tales ocasiones se dexarán mas presto arrebatat de las gracias mas injustas, y perderán los negocios mas importantes por no saber decidir contra la opinion de aquellos, con quienes cada dia han de tratar. Esta debilidad, que en ellos se repara, hace que todos piensen en sacar de ella conveniencia: todos los solicitan, los importunan, y aun los oprimen; y oprimiéndolos, llegan finalmente á alcanzar lo que buscan. Al principio los adula, y alaba quien quiere insinuarse en su gracia; pero quando ha ganado la confianza, y habiéndose asegurado en algun grado de autoridad, al punto los maneja á su discrecion. Ellos gimen, y quieren muchas veces sacudirse este yugo; mas lo arrastran mientras que viven. Son zelosos de no mostrar al mundo, que son mandados de qualquiera que sea, y no obstante continuamente se dexan dominar; antes no pueden hacer menos de haberlos menester; porque son semejantes á aquellos delgados vástagos de la vid, que se enredan siempre al rededor del tronco de algun grande árbol, no teniendo en sí propios otro apoyo.

Nunca permitiré, Telémaco, que caigais vos en ese error, que hace inútil á un hombre, para el gobierno. Vos, que no teniendo brio para hablar á Idomeneo, tenéis corazón tan tierno, no tendréis mas piedad de sus males, luego que hayais salido de Salento: ya su dolor no os moverá á compasión, y su presencia, que ahora os confunde. Id, pues, á hablarle, y aprended en esta ocasion á ser juntamente compasivo, y fuerte. Dadle á entender vuestro dolor en dexarle; pero mostradle tambien con palabras resueltas la necesidad de partiros.

Telemachus did not dare to oppose Mentor, nor yet to seek Idomeneus; he was ashamed of his timidity, and yet unable to surmount it; he hesitated, he went forward a few steps, and then returned to Mentor; with some new pretence for delay. He was about to speak: but the very look of Mentor deprived him of the power, and silently confuted all that he would have said. «Is this, then,» said Mentor, with a smile of disdain, «the conqueror of the Daunians, the deliverer of Hesperia? Is this the son of the wise Ulysses, who is to succeed him as the oracle of Greece? and does he not dare to tell Idomeneus, that he can no longer delay his return to his country, where he hopes once more to embrace his father? O wretched Ithaca! how great will be thy misfortune, if thou art one day to be governed by a prince, who is himself a slave to an unworthy shame; and who, to gratify his weakness in the lightest trifle, will sacrifice the most important interest. Remark now the difference between the sedate fortitude of the closet, and the tumultuous courage of the field: you feared not the arms of Adrastus, yet are intimidated by the grief of Idomeneus: this inequality often brings dishonour upon those princes who have been distinguished by the noblest achievements; after they have appeared heroes in battle, they have been found less than men in common occurrences, in which others have been consistent and steady.»

Telemachus, feeling the force of these truths, and stung with the reproach they contained, turned abruptly away and debated no longer even with himself. But when he approached the place, where Idomeneus was sitting pale and languishing, his eyes fixed upon the ground, and his heart overwhelmed with sorrow, they became in a moment afraid of each other; they did not dare to interchange a look: and their thoughts were mutually known, without language; each dreaded that the other should break silence; and, in this painful suspense, both burst into tears. At length, Idomeneus, pressed by excess of anguish, cried out, «Why should we seek virtue, since those who find her are thus wretched! I am made sensible of my

No se atrevia Telémaco á resistir mas á Mentor, ni á ir á encontrar al alligidísimo Idomeneo: avergonzabase de su temor, y no tenia brio para vencerlo: estabase indeciso, daba dos pasos, y luego volvía á Mentor, para alegarle alguna nueva razon de dilatarlos: pero una sola mirada de Mentor le quitaba las voces, y hacia desvanecer todos sus especiosos pretextos: ¿Luego es este, decia Mentor, aquel vencedor de los Daunios, aquel libertador de la grande Hesperia, aquel hijo del sabio Ulises, que ha de ser despues de él oráculo de la Grecia? El no osa decir á Idomeneo, que no puede dilatar mas la vuelta á la patria, para ver á su padre. ¡O qué infelices fuerais algun dia pueblos de Itaca, si tuvierais un Rey que se dexara llevar de una perniciosa vergüenza, y que en las cosas minimas sacrificara á su propia flaqueza sus intereses mayores! Reparad, Telémaco, qué diferencia se halla entre el valor necesario en las batallas, y el brio que se requiere en los negocios. Vos no habeis temido á las armas de Adrasto, y temeis ahora la afliccion de Idomeneo. Esto es lo que hace perder la reputacion á los Príncipes, que han hecho las mayores, y mas nobles acciones: despues de parecer en la guerra heroes, se muestran los mas viles entre todos los hombres en las acciones comunes, en las quales los otros se portan con vigor.

Conociendo Telémaco la verdad de estas voces, y de tal reprehension, se partió con presteza, sin escucharse mas á si mismo; pero apenas empezó á verse en donde Idomeneo estaba en una silla con los ojos baxos, desmayados, y maltratados de la tristeza, como si se temieran uno á otro, no se atrevia á mirar al Rey: y entendiéndose entresi, sin decir nada, temia cada uno que el otro iba á quebrantar el silencio, y al mismo tiempo se pusieron ambos á llorar. Al fin Idomeneo, violentado del dolor excesivo, gritó: ¿De qué sirve procurar la virtud, si ella recompensa tan mal á los que la estiman? Despues de haberme hecho conocer mi flaqueza, mis huéspedes me dexan. Ahora bien, volveré á caer dentro de poco en todas mis desgracias

weakness, and then abandoned to its effects. Be it so; and let the past calamities of my life return. I will hear no more of good government; I know not the art, and am weary of the labour. But as for you, Telemachus, whither would you go? To seek your father is in vain, for among the living he is not to be found: Ithaca is in possession of your enemies, who will destroy you if you return; and one of whom is now certainly the husband of your mother. Be content, therefore, to continue at Salentum; my daughter shall be your wife, and my kingdom your inheritance. Your power here, even while I live, shall be absolute; and my confidence in you without limits. If these advantages are unworthy of your acceptance, at least leave me Mentor: Mentor is my last resource. Speak; answer me; let not your heart be steeled against me; nor deny your pity to the most unfortunate of men! Alas, you are still silent; the gods are still inexorable; I feel more sensibly their resentment at Salentum, than at Crete; and the loss of Telemachus wounds me deeper than the death of my son!»

Telemachus replied, in a timid and a faltering tone, «My departure from Salentum is not choice, but fate. I am commanded to Ithaca by the gods; their wisdom is communicated to Mentor, and Mentor has urged my departure in their name. What then can I do? should I renounce my father, my mother, and my country, that should be yet dearer than both? As I am born to royalty, a life of ease and pleasure must not be my portion, nor must inclination be my guide. With your kingdom, I should possess more wealth and power than my father's can bestow: but I ought to prefer what the gods have decreed me, to what your bounty has offered in its stead. If Antiope was my wife, I should think myself too happy to desire your kingdom; but that I may deserve Antiope, I must go whither I am called by duty, and she must be demanded for me by my father. Did you not promise to send me back to Ithaca? and was it not, under this promise that I marched against your enemy Adrastus, with the army of the allies? And is it not now time that I should attend to my own interest, and endeavour to

primeras. No se me hable mas de gobernar bien: no, que no puedo recabarlo mas, porque estoy enfadado de los hombres. ¿Adónde queréis ir, Telemaco? Ya ha muerto vuestro padre, y viciosamente lo buscáis: Ithaca está en poder de vuestros enemigos: alguno de ellos habrá casado con Penélope, vuestra madre, y ellos os harán morir, quando os vieren de vuelta. Quedaos aqui: sereis mi hierno y heredero; reynareis despues de mi muerte: aun durante mi vida, tendreis aqui un poder absoluto; mi confianza en vos no tendra limites. Si sois insensible á tantas ventajas, á lo menos dexadme aqui á Mentor, que es mi unico recurso. Hablad, respondedme; no se endurezca vuestro corazon, tened piedad del mas desdichado de los hombres. ¿Y que? No me decís nada! Ah! ya conozco quan crueles son para mí los dioses, y lo siento con mas rigor aun que quando, en Creta, atravesé el pecho de mi mismo hijo.

Finalmente Telemaco con voz confusa, y tímida, le respondió así: Yo no soy dueño de mí mismo: los hados me llaman para mi patria. Mentor, que tiene todo el saber de los dioses, me ordena en su nombre la partida de este lugar: ¿Qué queréis pues, que yo haga? ¿Renunciare acaso á mis padres, y patria, que me deben ser mas amables que mi vida? Habiendo yo nacido para ser Rey, no estoy destinado para una vida dulce, y tranquila, ni para seguir mi genio. Vuestro Reyno es mas rico y poderoso que el de mi padre: pero yo debo preferir lo que me destinan los dioses á lo que me ofrecéis con tanta bondad. Me creeria feliz teniendo á Antiope por esposa, aun sin la esperanza de vuestro Reyno: pero para hacerme digno de ella, es menester que yo vaya á donde me llama mi obligación, y que sea mi padre quien os pida vuestra hija para mí. ¿No me habeis ofrecido remitirme á la patria? ¿No he peleado en la fe de esta promesa en compañía de los aliados contra Adrasto? Ahora es tiempo que piense yo en reparar mis desgracias domésticas. Los dioses, que me han dado á Mentor, han dado

redress the misfortunes of my family? The gods, who have given me to Mentor, have also given Mentor to the son of Ulysses; that, guided by his wisdom, he might fulfil their purpose: would you, therefore, have me lose Mentor, when all but Mentor is lost already? I have now no certain portion, retreat, or parent, or country. One man, distinguished for virtue and for wisdom, is all that remains; and this, indeed, is the most valuable donation of Jove: judge, then, if I can renounce this bounty, and consent to be totally destitute and forlorn. I would cease to be, rather than be thus: life itself is of less value than a friend; take my life, therefore, but leave me Mentor!

While Telemachus was speaking, his voice became stronger, and his timidity vanished. Idomeneus could not acquiesce, though he knew not what to reply: and being unable to speak, he endeavoured to excite pity by looks and gestures of distress. At this moment he perceived Mentor, who addressed him in a solemn tone, but without severity.

« Do not give way, » said he, « to unreasonable sorrow. We leave you; but we leave you to that wisdom which presides in the councils of the gods. Remember, with gratitude, that we were sent by the direction of that wisdom, to correct your errors and preserve your state. We have restored Philocles, and he will serve you with fidelity; reverence for the gods, delight in virtue, love for the people, and compassion for the wretched, will be always predominant in his bosom. Listen to his advice, and employ him without jealousy or distrust. The most important service he can render you, is to tell you your faults without disguise or palliation; require this service of him, therefore, in the first place. A good king is distinguished by the noblest fortitude; he fears not the monitor in the friend, nor shrinks from the sight of his own failings: if you are endowed with this fortitude, you have nothing to fear from our absence; the felicity of your life is secure; but if flattery, which steals its winding way like a serpent, should once more get access to your heart, and render you suspicious of disin-

también á Mentor: al hijo de Ulises, para cumplir los designios, que ha resuelto el hado. ¿Quereis pues, que yo pierda á Mentor, despues de haber perdido todo lo demas? No tengo mas riqueza, ni abrigo, ni padres, ni cierta patria: no me queda mas, que un hombre sabio y virtuoso, que es don de inestimable valor, que ha querido hacerme el gran Júpiter. Juzgad vos mismo, si puedo renunciarlo, y abandonarme á mi propio. No, no, antes querré morir: quitadme, pues, la vida, que es nada; mas no queráis quitarme á Mentor.

Al paso que iba hablando Telémaco, su voz se hacia mas fuerte, y se desvanecia en él aquel primer temor. No sabia Idomenéo qué responder: mas no consentia por eso con las razones del otro; y quando no tenia que decir, procuraba á lo ménos con el mirar, y con las acciones moverle á compasion. En aquel punto mismo vió llegar á Mentor, que lo consoló con estas graves palabras.

No os aflijais, Idomenéo: nosotros os dexamos, es cierto; mas la sabiduría, que regla todos los consejos de los altísimos dioses del cielo, tendrá siempre cuidado de vos. Debeis solamente tener por suma fortuna vuestra, que nos haya enviado Júpiter á este lugar, para salvar vuestro Reyno, y para restituiros al camino derecho, deque os habiais desviado. Filocles que os habemos restituido, os servirá fielmente: él será siempre temeroso de los dioses: tendrá una discrecion acertada de la virtud: amará á los pueblos, y tendrá compasion á los infieles. Escuchad sus consejos, y servios de él con confianza, y sin algun rezelo. El obligaros á deciros francamente vuestros defectos, es el mayor servicio, que podeis conseguir que os haga. El mayor brio de un buen Rey consiste en buscar amigos verdaderos, que le hagan advertir todas sus faltas. Con tal que tengais ese brio, nuestra ausencia no os hará daño, y vos seréis feliz; mas si los zelos, que como una serpiente se introducen furivamente en los animos, hallan camino para penetrar en vuestro corazon, y ponerlos en desconfianza de los sinceros consejos, que se os darán, no con algun

terested counsel, you are undone. Pine no longer in voluntary subjection to sorrow; but follow virtue with the utmost effort of your mind. I have instructed Philocles to lighten your cares, and deserve your confidence; and I will be answerable for his integrity. The gods have given him to you, as they have given me to Telemachus: the destiny which they have allotted us, we should fulfil boldly; for to regret it is in vain. If my assistance should be necessary, after I have restored Telemachus to his father and his country, I will return; and what could give me more sensible delight? I seek, for myself, neither wealth nor power; and I wish only to assist others, in the search of justice and virtue. To you, I have a particular attachment; for the generous confidence of your friendship can never be forgotten. »

While Mentor was speaking, Idomeneus became conscious to a sudden and pleasing change. He felt his passions subside into peace, as the waves sink to rest, and the tempest is hushed to silence, when the father of the deep lifts his trident against them. Nothing now remained but a kind of tender regret; something that was rather a soft and soothing melancholy, than grief and courage, hope, virtue, and confidence in the gods, began once more to kindle in his bosom.

« Well then, my dear Mentor, » said he, « I must lose all, and be content: let me, however, be still present to your mind. When you shall have arrived in Ithaca, where the reward of wisdom shall fill all your wishes, remember that Salentum is your own work; and that Idomeneus, inconsolable for your loss, has no hope but in your return. Farewell, O son of Ulysses! my ports shall detain you no more: the gods reclaim the treasure which they lent, and it is my duty to comply. Farewell, Mentor, the greatest and wisest of men! if such excellence as thine is within the limits of our nature, and thou art not a divinity, that has assumed the form, to call strength from weakness, and from simplicity wisdom, be still the guide and the guardian of Telemachus, who is more fortunate to be thy charge, than to be the conqueror of Adrastus. I dismiss you both. I will restrain my

otro fin que el de vuestra ventaja, sois perdido. No os dexéis rendir del dolor, sino esforzaos á seguir la virtud. He dicho ya á Filocles todo lo que ha de hacer para vuestro alivio, y para no abusar nunca de la confianza que tendréis en él, y puedo aseguráros de su buen ánimo. Os lo han dado los dioses, como á mí á Telémaco. Cada uno ha de seguir valerosamente su destino, y nada aprovecha el afligirse. Si algun tiempo teneis necesidad de mi asistencia, en habiendo restituido á su padre, y á su patria á Telémaco, os volveré á ver. ¿ Que cosa podria yo hacer que me ocasionara mas gusto? No deseo riquezas, ni autoridad en la tierra: no quiero otro sino ayudar á aquellos que buscan la justicia y rectitud. ¿ Podré acaso olvidar jamas el amor, y aprecio que me habeis mostrado? »

Estas palabras trocáron de improviso á Idomeneo, y le sosegaron su terrible dolor en el corazon, como Neptuno abonaúa en el mar las ondas sediciosas, y las mas obscuras borrascas. Tan solo le quedaba una suave, y tranquila pasion que mas era un sentimiento de tristeza, y cariño, que un vivo, y paciente dolor; y comenzaron á renacerle en el pecho el brio, la confianza, la virtud, y una esperanza firme, de que los dioses le asistirian en sus necesidades.

Ahora bien, dixo, mi querido Mentor, conviene consolarnos de perderlo todo, y sin embargo no abatirse. Acordaos por lo ménos de Idomeneo quando llegáreis á Itaca, donde vuestra cordura os hará que alcanceis la mas alta fortuna: no os olvideis jamas, que toda vuestra felicidad es obra de Salento, y que aquí habeis dexado un desdichado Rey, que en ninguna otra cosa coloca su esperanza sino es en vos. Andad, hijo digno de Ulises: no me opongo mas á vuestra partida, ni ya estoy para resistir á la voluntad de los dioses, que me habian prestado un tan gran temor. Id tambien vos, Mentor, el mas sabio, el mas grande de todos los hombres; si es que lo humano puede obrar todo lo que yo he visto que obráis vos, y sino sois alguna deidad, venida al mundo con figura no suya, para amaestrar á los hombres flacos, é ignorantes: andad, conducid al hijo de Ulises, que es

words; my sighs are involuntary, and may, therefore, be forgiven. Go, live together, and together be happy! I have nothing left, but the remembrance that I once shared your felicity: the golden moments are past, and I knew not their value; they fled in haste, alas! and they will never return! I have possessed you; but the joy is vanished! I now see you, but I shall see you no more.»

Mentor took this opportunity to withdraw; he embraced Philocles, who burst into tears, and was unable to speak. Telemachus would have taken hold of Mentor's hand, that he might have quitted that of Idomeneus; but Idomeneus, placing himself between them, went towards the port: he gazed upon them by turns; he sighed; and he frequently began to speak; but his voice faltered, and he left the sentence unfinished.

And now they heard, in a confused murmur, the voices of the mariners that crowded the shore; the cordage was stretched, the sails were made ready, and a favourable gale sprung up. Telemachus and Mentor, with tears in their eyes, took leave of the king, who held them long in his arms, and followed them with his eyes as far as they could be seen.

END OF THE TWENTY-THIRD BOOK.

mas feliz en teneros por guía, que en ser vencedor de Adrasto. Partid ambos, que no puedo hablaros mas, y perdonad mis suspiros. Si, si, partid, vivid, sed felices; pero sabed que á mi nada mas me queda en el mundo, que el recuerdo de haberos aqui logrado. ¡O hermosos dias! ¡dias felices, cuyo precio total no supe conocer! ¡Dias que habeis pasado demasiado presto, para no volver mas! ¡Jamás mis ojos volverán á ver al mismo que ahora miran!

Tomó Mentor ocasion de partirse á este punto. Abrazó á Filocles, que le bañó con lágrimas, sin poder hablar. Quiso tomar Telémaco á Mentor por la mano, para librarse de las de Idomeneo; pero éste encaminandose con ellos al Puerto, se puso entre los dos. Miraba á entrambos el infelice Rey, y suspirando, empezaba algunas palabras; pero truncabalas, sin poder pronunciar alguna entera.

Ya se perciben muchos confusos gritos sobre la playa cubierta de marineros: tirause los cables, levántanse las velas, y el viento favorable empieza ya á soplar. Telémaco y Mentor derramando lagrimas, se despidieron del Rey, que les tiene apretados largo tiempo entre sus brazos, y que les seguia aun con los ojos.

FIN DEL LIBRO VICESIMO TERCIO.

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE BIBLIOTECAS

# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XXIV.

### ARGUMENT.

TELEMACHUS, during the voyage, prevails with Mentor to explain many difficulties in the art of government, particularly that of distinguishing the characters of men, so as to employ the good, and avoid being deceived by the bad; during this conversation a calm obliges them to put into a little island where Ulysses had just gone ashore: Telemachus sees and speaks to him without knowing who he is; but after having seen him embark, feels a secret uneasiness, of which he cannot imagine the cause; Mentor explains it, and comforts him, assuring him that he shall soon meet with his father again: he puts his patience and piety to another trial, by detaining him to sacrifice to Minerva; the goddess, who had been concealed under the figure of Mentor, resumes her own form, and is known and acknowledged by Telemachus; she gives him her last instructions, and disappears. Telemachus arrives in Ithaca, and finds his father at the house of his faithful servant Eumenes.

THE sails now swell with the breeze, and the shore seems to retreat: the pilot perceived, at a distance, the promontory of Leucate, which conceals its summit in the hoary mists, that are blown round it by the freezing whirlwind; and the Acroceraunian mountains, which still lift their presumptuous brow to heaven, though blasted so often by the bolts of Jove.

« I believe, » said Telemachus to Mentor, during the voyage, « that I now perfectly understand the maxims of government that you have given me. They appeared, at first, like the confused images of a dream; but, by degrees, they became clear and distinct: so all objects appear obscure and cloudy, at the first dawn of the morning; but, at length, they rise gradually, like a new creation out of chaos, as the light, increasing by insensible degrees, dissipates the mist

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XXIV.

### SUMARIO.

DURANTE su navegacion, Telémaco hace que Mentor le explique muchas dificultades tocantes al modo de gobernar con acierto á los pueblos, entre otros el de conocer á los hombres, para no emplear sino los buenos, y no ser engañado por los malos. Hacia el fin de sus conversacion, una calma les obliga á pararse en una isla á donde Ulises acababa de llegar. Allí le vé Telémaco, y le habla sin conocerle: pero, despues de haberle visto embarcar, siente una turbacion secreta, cuya causa no puede concebir. Mentor se la explica, le consuela, le asegura que se juntará luego con su padre, y prueba su piedad y paciencia deteniendo su salida para hacer un sacrificio á Minerva. En fin la diosa Minerva disfrazada baxo la figura de Mentor, vuelve á tomar su forma y se da á conocer. Da á Telémaco sus ultimas instrucciones, y desaparece. Despues Telémaco llega á Haca, donde halla á Ulises su padre en casa del fiel Eumeco.

YA se llenan las velas, levántanse con esto las áncoras para que el baxel huya de la tierra, y el experimentado piloto mira ya desde léjos los montes de Leucata, que tienen las cumbres cubiertas con una espesa niebla; y los montes Acroceraunos, que se levantan aun contra el cielo con su soberbia frente, despues que tantas veces les han castigado, como á escandalosos, los rayos.

En el discurso de esta navegacion Telémaco decia á Mentor: Ahora me parece que entiendo las maneras de gobernar, que me habeis explicado. Al principio me parecian como si fueran un sueño; pero poco á poco se me allanan para la inteligencia, y claramente se me representan, como por la mañana á los rayos primeros de la aurora parecen oscuros todos los objetos, y despues parece que salen como de un caos, quando la luz, que crece insensiblemente, volviendo

that surrounds them, defines their true figure, and tinges them with their proper hue. I am persuaded that the great secret of government is to distinguish the different characters of men, to select them for different purposes, and allot each to the employment which is most suited to his talents: but I am still to learn how characters are thus to be distinguished. »

« Mankind, » replied Mentor, « to be known, must be studied, and to be studied, they must frequently be seen and talked to. Kings ought to converse with their subjects, hear their sentiments, and consult them; they should also trust them with some small employment, and take an account how they discharge it, in order to judge whether they are capable of more important service. By what means, my dear Telemachus, did you acquire your knowledge in horses? was it not, by seeing them frequently, and conversing with persons of experience concerning their excellencies and defects? In the same manner, converse with the wise and good, who are grown old in the study of human nature, concerning the defects and excellencies of men: you will thus, insensibly, acquire a nice discernment of character, and know what may be expected from every man that falls under your observation. How have you been taught to distinguish the poet from the mere writer of verses, but by frequent reading, and conversation with persons who have a good taste for poetry? And how have you acquired judgment in music, but by the same application to the subject? How is it possible that men should be well governed, if they are not known; and how can the knowledge of men be acquired, but by living among them? But seeing them in public, where they talk of indifferent subjects, and say nothing even of them that has not been premeditated, is by no means living among them: they must be seen in private; their latent sentiments must be traced to the secret recesses of the heart; they must be viewed in every light; all their depths and shallows must be tried, and their principles of action ascertained. But to form a

á cada uno su natural color, los distingue entre sí. Persuádome del todo, que el punto esencial del gobierno consiste en discernir bien las diferentes habilidades, y las varias inclinaciones de las personas, para elegir las, y emplearlas conforme á sus talentos; mas faltame saber, de qué suerte se pueden conocer.

Importa, respondió Mentor, exáminar los hombres atentamente, para adquirir conocimiento de ellos: es menester verlos, y tener comercio con ellos. Los que gobiernan deben hablar con los súbditos, hacerles que hablen, y pedirles su parecer: experimentarlos en la administración de algunos empleos pequeños, de los quales les tomen cuenta, para ver si son á propósito para ser empleados en los mayores. ¿Cómo habeis aprendido en Itaca, querido Telémaco mio, á entender de caballos? A fuerza de verlos, y observar sus defectos, y perfecciones, con la asistencia de hombres experimentados. De la misma manera debeis puntualmente hablar muchas veces de las buenas, y malas calidades de las personas, con otros hombres sabios, y virtuosos, que han hecho largo estudio de sus costumbres, y aprenderéis insensiblemente de qué modo se hicieron, y lo que de ellos se puede esperar. ¿Quién os ha enseñado á discernir los buenos y malos poetas? La frecuente lección, y las reflexiones hechas con personas que entendian de poesía. ¿Qué cosa os ha hecho adquirir una discrecion cuerda para juzgar de la música? Ha sido una aplicacion semejante á observar los cantores. ¿Ahora pues, cómo puede esperar un Príncipe gobernar bien á sus vasallos, quando antes no los conoce? ¿Y de qué manera los podrá conocer, si nunca vive con ellos? No es vivir en su compañía el verlos á todos en público, donde habla cada uno solamente de cosas indiferentes, y discurre con arte. Se han de ver en particular sacar de lo íntimo del corazón todos los designios secretos, que en él oculta, examinarlos parte por parte, y sondear sus maximas. Mas para juzgar bien de los hombres, es menester comenzar por saber de qué hechura deberian ser, y tener perfecto conoci-



right judgment of mankind, it is principally necessary to know what they ought to be : a clear and definite idea of real merit is absolutely necessary to distinguish those who have it, from those who have it not.

Men are continually talking of virtue and merit : but there are few, who know, precisely, what is meant by either : they are splendid terms, indeed ; but with respect to the greatest part of those who take a pride in perpetually repeating them, of uncertain signification. Justice, reason, and virtue, must be resolved into some certain principles, before it can be determined who are just, reasonable, and virtuous : the maxims of a wise and good administration must be known, before those who adopt them can be distinguished from those who substitute false refinement and political cunning in their stead. To take the dimensions of different bodies, we must have a standard measure ; to judge of qualities and characters, we must have some fixed and invariable principles, to which they may be referred. We must know, precisely, what is the great purpose of human life ; and to what end the government of mankind should be directed : the sole end of all government is to render mankind virtuous and happy ; and with this great end, the notion that a prince is invested with the regal power and authority for his own sake, is wholly incompatible. This notion can only gratify the pride of a tyrant : a good king lives but for his people ; and sacrifices his own ease and pleasure to their advantage. He whose eye is not invariably fixed upon this great end, the public good, if in any instance he attains it, will attain it by chance ; he will float in the stream of time, like a ship in the ocean, without a pilot, the stars unmarked, and the shores unknown : in such a situation, is it possible to avoid shipwreck ?

« It frequently happens, that princes, not knowing in what virtue consists, know not what they ought to seek in mankind : they mistake virtue for austerity ; it offends them, by appearing to want complacency, and to affect independence : and touched at once with fear and disgust, they turn from it to flattery. From this moment, sincerity and virtue are to be found no

siento del mérito, para distinguir los que le tienen de los que se hallan sin él.

Hablan sin cesar de virtud y mérito, y sin saber lo que es precisamente mérito y virtud. No son sino unos hermosos nombres, unos terminos vagos para la mayor parte de los hombres, que se vanaglorian de hablar de ellos á todas horas. Es menester tener algunos principios ciertos de justicia, de prudencia y virtud, para conocer quien es razonable, y virtuoso, y estar informado de las maximas de un recto y sabio gobierno, para discernir los hombres que las tienen, de los que con falsas sutilezas se apartan de ellas. En una palabra, así como para medir muchos cuerpos se requiere una fina medida, y determinada ; así igualmente para hacer juicio de las personas, se han de tener algunas reglas estables, á las quales se pueda reducir todo. Conviene saber precisamente á qué fin se ha enderezado la vida humana, y cuál es el que un Príncipe se debe proponer en el gobierno de sus vasallos. Este fin único y esencial, es no querer la autoridad, y grandeza para sí mismo ; lo qual no sirve sino de contentar una soberbia tiránica, y sacrificarse á los infinitos trabajos, que consigo lleva el gobernar los pueblos ; para hacerlos buenos, y felices. Quien procede de otra manera, camina á tientas, y acaso errará en toda su vida : semejante á una nave en alta mar, que no teniendo piloto, ni quien observe atentamente los astros, ó quien conozca las vecinas playas, no puede dexar de padecer naufragio.

Frecuentemente los Principes, no sabiendo en qué consiste la virtud verdadera, no saben qué es lo que han de buscar en los hombres. La verdadera virtud tiene para ellos no se qué aspereza, austeridad, é independencia, que los espanta, y por eso vuelven á la adulacion. En adelante ya no pueden hallar pureza, ni rectitud, desde luego corren tras de una vana fantasma de falsa

more; the prince is seduced by a phantom of false glory, which renders him unworthy of the true: he persuades himself, that there is no such thing as virtue upon the earth: for though the good can distinguish the wicked, the wicked cannot distinguish the good; and, what they cannot distinguish, they suppose not to exist: they know enough to render them suspicious; but not knowing more, they suspect all alike; they retire from the public eye, and immerse themselves in the palace; they impute the most casual trifles to craft and design; they are a terror to mankind, and mankind is a terror to them, they love darkness, and disguise their characters, which, however, are perfectly known; the malignant curiosity of their subjects penetrates every veil, and investigates every secret: but he that is thus known by all, knows nobody: the selfinterested wretches that surround him, rejoice to perceive that he is inaccessible; and a prince that is inaccessible to men, is inaccessible to truth: those who avail themselves of his blindness, are busy to calumniate or to banish all who would open his eyes; he lives in a kind of savage and unsocial magnificence, always the dupe of that imposition which he at once dreads and deserves. He that converses only with a small number, almost necessarily adopts their passions and their prejudices, and from passions and prejudices the best are not free: he must also receive his knowledge by report; and, therefore, lie at the mercy of tale-bearers, a despicable and detestable race, who are nourished by the poison that destroys others; who make what is little great, and what is blameless criminal; who, rather than not impute evil, invent it; and who, to answer their own purposes, play upon the causeless suspicion and unworthy curiosity of a weak and jealous prince.

« Let the great object of your knowledge, therefore. O my dear Telemachus! be man. Examine him: hear one man's opinion of another; try them by degrees; trust implicitly to none; and profit of your experience when you shall have been deceived in your judgment, which sometimes will certainly happen; wicked men disguise themselves with too much art to be always  
gloria,

gloria, que los hace indignos de la verdadera, ántes bien presto se acostumbran á creer, que en el mundo no la hay sino en apariencia; porque los buenos conocen á los malos; pero los malos no conocen á los buenos, y no pueden entender que los haya. Los Príncipes de esta hechura no saben sino desconfiar igualmente de todos: se ocultan, se cierran; son sospechosos, aun en las cosas mínimas; temen los hombres y se hacen temer de ellos, huyen de la luz, y no se atreven á parecer quales naturalmente son. Aunque no lo quieran, son conocidos á su despecho; porque la curiosidad maliciosa de los súbditos descubre, y adivina todas las cosas: pero al contrario ellos no saben conocer á ninguno. Las personas interesadas, que les estan siempre al rededor, gustan sumamente de verlos inaccesibles á todos los otros porque un Rey inaccessible á los hombres tambien lo es á la verdad: de infamar con injuriosas relaciones, y de alejar á todos aquellos, que les podrian abrir los ojos. Entre tanto los miserables pasan su vida en una grandeza rústica y feroz; y temiendo continuamente que quieran engañarles, son inevitablemente engañados, y son dignos de serlo. Quien no habla sino con pocos, se pone en necesidad de embiberarse de todas sus pasiones, y todas sus impresiones, y dexa dominarse de malos relatores, gente baxa y maligna, que se alimenta con el veneno, que vicia aun las cosas inocentes, que agranda las pequeñas, que inventa males, ántes que dexar de hacer daño, y que se burla por interés propio de la desconfianza, é indigna curiosidad de un Principe débil, y sospechoso.

Conoced pues, ó querido Telémaco, conoced á los hombres: examinadlos, haced que hablen unos de otros, probadlos poco á poco, sin entregaros á ninguno. Aprovechaos de vuestra propia experiencia, quando habreis salido engañado en los conceptos que formareis; pues sereis engañado algunas veces: los malos son demasiado profundos para no sorprehender

detected; form your opinion of others, therefore, with caution; and do not hastily determine, either that they are bad or good: for, in either case, a mistake may be dangerous: and thus, even from error, you will derive wisdom. When you find a man of virtue and abilities, do not use him only, but trust him: for such men love that others should appear sensible of their merit, and set a much higher value upon confidence and esteem, than pecuniary rewards. But do not endanger their virtue, by trusting them with absolute power; for many men, who have stood against common temptations, have fallen, when unlimited authority, and boundless wealth, have brought their virtue to a severe test. The prince who shall be so far favoured of the gods as to find two or three, whose wisdom and virtue render them worthy of his friendship, will, by their means, find others of the same character, to fill the inferior departments of state: and thus, by the few that he can trust, he will acquire the knowledge of others, whom his own eye could never reach.»

« But I have often heard, » said Telemachus, « that men of ability should be employed, even though virtue be wanting. » — « The service of such men, » replied Mentor, « is sometimes necessary. When a nation is in a state of tumult and disorder, authority is often found in the hands of wicked and designing men, who are possessed of important employments, from which they cannot immediately be removed; and have acquired the confidence of persons in power, who must not abruptly be opposed; nor must they be abruptly opposed themselves, lest they should throw all things into irremediable confusion: they must be employed for a time; but care must constantly be taken to lessen their importance by degrees; and, even while they are employed, they must not be trusted. He that trusts them with a secret, invests them with power which they will certainly abuse, and of which, from that moment, he will be the slave: by his secret, as with a chain, he will be led about at pleasure; and, however he may regret his bondage, he will find it impossible to be free. Let them nego-

á los buenos por su habilidad en disfrazarse. Aprended de este modo á no formar con precipitacion concepto bueno ó malo de nadie; es muy peligroso uno y otro: así os instruirán utilmente vuestros errores pasados. Quando hubieréis encontrado en un hombre algun talento, y virtud, servios de él sin rezelo; porque las personas de honra quieren que se conozca su entereza, y tienen mayor satisfaccion con ser estimadas, y tenidas en aprecio del Príncipe, que de adquirirse muchos tesoros. Pero mirad bien no viciéis los hombres de semejante hechura, dándoles demasiada, y excesiva mano. Tal hubiera sido siempre virtuoso, que ya no lo es, porque le hizo su dueño sobrado autorizado, y demasiado rico. Qualquiera que tiene la buena fortuna de hallar en todo un Reyno dos, ó tres amigos de prudencia sólida, y firme bondad, halla bien presto, por medio de ellos, muchas otras personas que les semejan, para emplearlas en los oficios ménos elevados. De los buenos de quien se fia, aprende el Príncipe aquellas cosas, que no puede comprehender por sí á solas.

Pero es menester, decia Telémaco, valerse de los malos, quando son dotados de algun talento, como tantas veces lo he oido decir. Muchas veces hay necesidad, respondió Mentor, de servirse de ellos. En una nacion, que esté desordenada, y descompuesta, se hallan freqüentemente hombres injustos, y fraudulentos en algun grado de autoridad. Administran estos ciertos cargos muy importantes, de que no pueden ser depuestos, y se han ganado la confianza de algunos poderosos, á quienes importa tener algun respeto: por eso es menester tambien atender á estos malvados; porque se han de temer, y pueden revolver el estado de arriba á baxo. Conviene servirse por algun tiempo de ellos; mas conviene poco á poco inutilizarlos. Guardaos bien de no admitirlos á la verdadera, é intrinseca intimidad; porque pueden abusar de ella, y teneros obligado despues á condescender, á vuestro pesar, con todos sus antojos, por medio de vuestro secreto: lazo ántes mas difícil de romper, que qualquier cadena de acero. Valeos de ellos en algunos negocios de poca importancia, y que duran poco; tra-

tiate superficial affairs, and be treated with attention and kindness; let them be attached to their duty, even by their passions, for by their passions only they can be held; but let them never be admitted to secret and important deliberations. Some spring should be always ready to put them in motion, when it is fit they should act: but a king should never trust them with the key, either of his bosom, or his state. When the public commotion subsides, and government is regularly administered by men of approved integrity and wisdom, the wicked, whose services were forced upon their prince for a time, will insensibly become unnecessary and insignificant: but even then, they should be well treated: for to be ungrateful, even to the wicked, is to be like them: but in all kindness shewed to such characters, there should be a view to their amendment; some of their faults should be overlooked, as incident to human infirmity; but the king's authority should be gradually resumed, and those mischiefs prevented, which they would openly perpetrate if not restrained. It must, however, be confessed, that, after all, the necessity of using wicked men as instruments of doing good, is a misfortune; and though it is sometimes inevitable, it should be remedied as soon as possible. A wise prince, who has no wish but to establish order, and distribute justice, will soon find honest men of sufficient ability to effect his purposes; and be able to shake off the fraudulent and crafty, whose characters disgrace the best service they can perform.

« But it is not enough for a king to find good subjects: he must make them. » — « That, » said Telemachus, « must surely be an arduous task. » « Not at all, » replied Mentor: « the very search after virtue and abilities, will produce them; for rewards, well bestowed, will excite universal emulation. How many languish in idleness and obscurity, who would become distinguished, if the hope of fortune was to excite them to labour? and how many, despairing to rise by virtue, endeavour to surmount the distress of poverty by vice? If you distinguish genius and virtue by rewards and honours, your subjects will exceed in

tadlos bien, y obligadlos con sus mismas pasiones á seros siempre fieles, porque de otra manera no los podréis tener unidos con vos; pero no los comunicéis vuestras mas ocultas resoluciones: tened siempre algun modo secreto de hacerlos obrar á vuestro modo, y no les dexéis jamas en sus manos las llaves de vuestro pecho, ó de vuestros negocios. Quando se establece la quietud y el buen orden en un estado, y le reglan hombres dotados de prudencia, y entereza, de cuya virtud estais seguro; poco á poco los malos, de quienes estabais obligado á servirlos, se hacen del todo inútiles. No es menester entónces dexar de tratarlos bien, porque jamas es lícito ser ingrato aun con los malos; mas tratándolos bien, conviene procurar que se hagan buenos, y tolerar en ellos algunas flaquezas, que se perdonan á nuestra frágil naturaleza. Débense todavia embarazar los males que ellos hacen, si se les dexara obrar á su modo. Finalmente es gran mal, que hagan el bien los malos; y aunque frecuentemente es inevitable este mal, es menester con todo estar siempre atento para hacerlo una vez cesar. Un Príncipe prudente, que no querrá sino el buen orden, y justicia, llegará con el tiempo á no haber menester á los hombres malos, y engañosos, y hallará un número suficiente de personas buenas, que serán á propósito para manejar los cargos del gobierno.

Pero no basta hallar en una nación buenos súbditos; es necesario hacer los nuevos. Imaginome, dixo Telemaco, que esto es un gran que hacer. No, no, no es verdad, replicó Mentor: la atencion que teneis en buscar hombres cuerdos y virtuosos para elevarlos á las dignidades, mueve y anima á todos los que tienen talento y brio; antes cada uno se esfuerza todo lo posible. ¿ Quántos desfallecen de ociosos, sin crédito, y sin nombre que vendrian á ser hombres grandes, si fueran alentados para el trabajo con la emulation, y esperanza de un éxito feliz? ¿ Quántos hay, á quienes la pobreza é impotencia de adquirir grados eminen-

both characters, by a voluntary and vigorous effort of their own : and how much farther may you carry that excellence, by gradually bringing forward the merit that is thus produced, and advancing those that appear capable of public and important service, from the lowest to the highest employments? You will exercise their various talents; and bring the extent of their understanding, and the sincerity of their virtue, to the test. Those who fill the great offices of state, will then have been brought up, under your own eye, in lower stations: you will have followed them, through life, step by step; and you will judge of them, not from their professions, nor from a single act, but the whole tenor of their conduct.»

While Mentor and Telemachus were engaged in this conversation, they perceived a Phæacian vessel, which had put into a little island wholly desolate, and surrounded by craggy precipices of an enormous height. It was, at this time, a dead calm, so that the zephyrs themselves seemed to hold their breath: the whole surface of the sea was bright and smooth as a mirror; the sails which clung to the mast, could no longer impel the vessel in its course; and the rowers, exhausted with labour, endeavoured to supply the deficiency of the gale in vain. It became, therefore; absolutely necessary to go on shore at this place, which was rather a rock of the sea, than an habitation for men; and, at another time, it could not have been approached without the utmost danger.

The Phæacians, who were waiting for a wind, were not less impatient of delay than the mariners of Salentum, who had the conduct of Telemachus and Mentor. As soon as Telemachus was on shore, he advanced over the crags, towards some of these people, who had landed before him; and inquired of the first man he met, whether he had seen Ulysses, the king of Ithaca, at the palace of Alcinoüs.

It happened, that the person to whom he addressed himself, was not a Phæacian; but was a stranger, whose country was unknown: he was of a majestic deportment, but appeared sorrowful and dejected.

tes, por medio de la virtud, estimulan á levantarse con las maldades á mejor fortuna? Pues si no diérais premios, ni honras, sino á las personas que tengan talento, y virtud, ¿ cuántos súbditos harán en esto estudio, y se enseñarán por sí mismos? ¿ Y cuántos amaestraréis vos mismo, haciéndoles subir de grado en grado, de los últimos cargos á los primeros? Exercitaréis sus talentos, conoceréis por la prueba de qué capacidad de entendimiento son dotados, y si tienen virtud verdadera ó fingida. Los que llegaren á las mas considerables dignidades, se habrán á vuestra vista educado: habréislos observado atentamente por todo el tiempo de vuestra vida, y formaréis juicio de ellos, no por sus palabras, sino por toda la serie de las acciones que hayan ellos obrado.

Hablando Mentor de esta suerte, viéron una nave Feacia, que habia aferrado á una isla desierta, é inculta, ceñida toda de espantosas rocas. Al mismo tiempo no se sintió ya mas soplar el viento, y pareció que aun dexaban de respirar los apacibles zéfiros: todo el mar se allanó, como un espejo: floxas las velas, no podian ya mover el baxel; y ya era inútil todo el esfuerzo de los fatigados remeros. Fué, pues, preciso enderezar á aquella isla, que mas era escollo, que isla á propósito para ser habitada de hombres. En otro tiempo de ménos calma no se hubieran podido arriamar allí sin correr gran peligro.

Los Feacios que esperaban el viento, no parecían ménos impacientes de continuar su navegacion, que los Salentinos. Adelantose ácia ellos Telémaco en aquella escabrosa playa, y preguntó al primero que encontró, si en casa del Rey Alcinoüs habia visto á Ulises, Rey de Itaca. ®

Aquel, á quien acaso se habia vuelto Telémaco, no era de Feacia: era un desconocido extranero, de aspecto magestuoso, pero afligido, y lleno de dolor: parecia estar anegado en algun profundo pensamiento,

When he was accosted, he was lost in thought, and seemed not to hear the question that was asked him; but soon recollecting himself, he replied, « You suppose that Ulysses has been seen in the island of the Phæaciens, and you are not mistaken: he was received at the palace of Alcinoüs, as at the place where the gods are revered, and the duties of hospitality fulfilled: but he soon after left that country, where you will now seek him in vain. He set out, that he might once more salute his household gods in Ithaca, if the superior powers shall forget their anger, and vouchsafe the blessing. »

The stranger pronounced these words in a mournful voice, and immediately rushed into a wild ticket upon the top of a rock; where, fixing his eyes upon the sea, he seemed desirous of solitude, and impatient to depart.

Telemachus remarked him with great attention; and the more he gazed, the greater were his emotion and astonishment. « The answer of this stranger, » said he to Mentor, « is that of a man so absorbed in affliction, as scarce to take cognizance of external objects. The unfortunate have my pity, for I am myself unfortunate: and, for this man, I am particularly interested, without knowing why: he has not treated me with courtesy, he seemed to pay no attention to what I said, and he scarce vouchsafed me an answer; yet I cannot but wish that his misfortunes were at an end. »

« See then, » said Mentor with a smile, « what advantage is derived from the calamities of life; they humble the pride of greatness, and soften insensibility to compassion. Princes, who have been fatally flattered with perpetual prosperity, imagine themselves to be gods; if they have an idle wish to be gratified, they expect mountains to sink, and seas to vanish: they hold mankind as nothing, and would have all nature the mere instrument of their will; when they hear of misfortune, they scarce understand the term; with respect to them misfortune is a dream; and they know not the difference between good and

y apenas prestó oídos á la pregunta del jóven; pero al cabo le respondió: Atended para no engañaros oyendo mis palabras. Ulises ha sido acogido en casa del Rey de Feacia, como en un lugar donde hay temor de los dioses, y donde se exercita la hospitalidad con los hombres; pero ya no está allí, inútilmente le buscaréis en aquel lugar. El se partió de vuelta para su patria, si aplacados los dioses, le permitieren finalmente volver á ella.

Apenas el extranjero pronunció estas palabras, se ocultó presurosamente en un espeso bosque; que estaba sobre la cima de uno de aquellos despeñaderos, en donde melancólico se puso á mirar al mar, huyendo de los hombres que se le ponian delante, y mostrándose apresurado de no poderse partir.

Telemaco tenia los ojos fixos en él, y quanto mas lo miraba, tanto mas se sentia movido interiormente, y atónito. Este incógnito, le decia á Mentor, me ha respondido á fuer de hombre, que apenas atiende á las palabras de otro, y que todo está lleno de excesivo dolor. Desde que soy yo mismo desventurado, tengo compasion de los infelices, y mirando á este, siento ya que mi corazon entra á la parte de mi affliction, sin saber el motivo: él me ha recibido de un modo muy descortés, y todavía no puedo hacer ménos que desear que tengan sus males buen fin.

Hé aquí, respondió sonriéndose Mentor, para qué sirven las desgracias; ellas hacen los Principes moderados, y piadosos en las penas de otros. Quando nunca han probado sino el veneno dulce de las prosperidades, se figuran ser dioses: quieren que se hagan las cosas aun imposibles para satisfacerles: no tienen de los hombres algun aprecio, y se burlan de toda la naturaleza. Quando sienten hablar de las desventuras que se padecen, no saben qué cosa son; ántes las tienen por meros sueños, porque jamas han visto la diferencia que hay en el bien y el mal. Las calamidades solas pueden introducir en ellos la compasion, y mu-

evil. Affliction only can teach them pity; and give them, for the adamant in their bosom, the heart of a man: when they are afflicted, they become sensible that they participate a common nature with others, to whom they should administer the comfort of which they feel the want. If a stranger has thus forcibly excited your pity, because, like you, he is a wanderer upon the coast, how much more compassion should you feel for the people of Ithaca, if, hereafter, you should see them suffer! yet the people of Ithaca, whom the gods will confide to your care, as a flock is confided to a shepherd; may, perhaps, become wretched by your ambition, your prodigality, or imprudence; for nations are never wretched but by the fault of kings, who, like their guardian gods, should watch over them for good.»

To this discourse of Mentor, Telemachus listened with grief and trouble; and at length, with some emotion, replied, «If these things are true, royalty is, of all conditions, the most wretched. A king is the slave of those whom he appears to command; his people are not subordinate to him, but he is subordinate to his people: all his powers and faculties are referred to them, as their object: he is the servant, not of the community only, but of every individual; he must supply all their wants, accommodate himself to all their weakness, correct their vices, teach them wisdom, and endow them with happiness. The authority with which he appears to be invested, is not his own; he is not at liberty to exert it, either for his glory, or his pleasure; it is indeed, the authority of the laws, to which he must himself be obedient, as an example to others: the laws must reign, and of their sovereignty he must be the defence; for them he must pass the night in vigils, and the day in labour: he is less at liberty and at rest, than any other in his dominions; for his own freedom and repose are sacrificed to the freedom and happiness of the public.»

«It is true,» replied Mentor, «that a king is invested with the character, only that he may be, to his people, what a shepherd is to his flock, or a father to his family: but can you imagine, my dear Tele-

darles el corazon de peña en corazon humano. Quando advierten ser hombres, conocen que conviene tambien tener cuenta con los demas, que se semejan con ellos mismos. Si un incognito tanto os mueve piedad, ¿Quánto mas os deberá enternecer vuestro pueblo de Itaca, quando algun dia lo vieréis padecer? Ese pueblo que los dioses hábrán encomendado á vuestra fé, como se encomienda al pastor un rebaño, será por ventura infeliz, por ocasion de vuestra soberbia, de vuestro fausto, y de vuestra imprudencia; porque no padecen mal alguno los subditos, sino por la culpa del Rey, que debería poner en estorbarlo toda su atencion.

En tanto que así hablaba Mentor Telémaco se estaba hundido en su tristeza; mas respondiéndole al cabo: Si todas estas cosas son verdaderas, infelicísima es la condicion de un Rey: él es esclavo de todos aquellos, de los quales parece que se hace obedecer, y no es hecho tanto para mandarlos, como para servirlos. Debe el Príncipe sacrificarse todo á sus vasallos; tiene la carga de proveer á todas sus urgencias: él es el hombre de todo el pueblo junto, y de cada uno en particular. Impórtale acomodarse á sus flaquezas, corregirlos qual padre, hacerlos felices y cuerdos. La autoridad, que muestra tener, no es suya, porque no puede haber cosa, ni por su gloria, ni por su propio gusto: la del Rey no es otra, que la autoridad de las leyes: y á esas está él obligado á obedecer, para dar á los subditos este exemplo. Por hablar propiamente, el Soberano no es sino el defensor de las leyes, para hacer que ellas reynen: es menester que sea vigilante, y se afane por mantenerlas, y él es el hombre ménos libre, y ménos descansado de todo el Reyno. Es un esclavo que sacrifica su tranquilidad y libertad á la felicidad y libertad del publico.

Es verdad, volvió á decir Mentor, que el Rey no es Rey, sino para tener cuidado de su propio pueblo, como debe un pastor guardar la grey, ó como un padre su familia; Pero os parece, mi querido Telémaco,

machus, that a king, who is continually employed to make multitudes happy, can himself be wretched? He corrects the wicked by punishment, he encourages the good by rewards, he forms the world to virtue, a visible divinity, the vicegerent of heaven! Is it not sufficient glory, to secure the laws from violation? To affect being above their authority, is not to acquire glory, but to become the object of detestation and contempt. A king, if he is wicked, must indeed be miserable; for his passions, and his vanity, will keep him in perpetual tumult and solitude; but, if he is good, he will enjoy the purest and most sublime of all pleasures, in promoting the cause of virtue, and expecting and eternal recompence from the gods.»

Telemachus, whose mind was in great uneasiness and agitation, seemed, at this time, never to have comprehended these principles, though they had long been familiar to his mind, and he had often taught them to others: a splenetic humour, the frequent concomitant of secret infelicity, disposed him, contrary to his own sentiments, to reject the truths which Mentor had explained, with subtle cavils and pertinacious contradiction. Among other objections, he urged the ingratitude of mankind: «What,» says he, «shall life be devoted to obtain the love of those, who will, perhaps, hate you for the attempt; and to confer benefits upon wretches, who may probably use them to your destruction?»

«Ingratitude,» replied Mentor, «with great calmness, must be expected from mankind: but, though mankind are ungrateful, we should not be weary of doing good; we should serve them less for their own sakes than in obedience to the gods, who command it. The good that we do, is never lost! if men forget it, it is remembered and rewarded by the gods. Besides, if the multitude are ungrateful, there will always be virtuous men, by whom virtue will be regarded with reverence and love: and even the multitude, however inconstant and capricious, will, sooner or later, be just to merit.

But, if you would prevent the ingratitude of mankind, do not load them with such benefits as, in the

que es esta gran desgracia para él, poder ayudar á un tan crecido número de personas? El corrige con el castigo á los malos, con la reprehension anima á los buenos; y guiando de esta manera á todo el linage humano á la virtud, representa á los dioses en la tierra. ¿No gana por ventura harta gloria con hacer observar las leyes? La de hacerse superior á las leyes es una gloria falsa, la qual hace al Príncipe odioso y despreciable de todos. No puede ese dexar de ser infeliz quando es malo, porque no puede hallar sosiego alguno en sus pasiones, y en su propia soberbia; pero si él es bueno, ha de gustar el placer mas puro, y mas sólido en afanarse por la virtud, y en aguardar de los dioses un galardón, que dura toda la eternidad.

Telemaco, agitado interiormente por una secreta pena, parecia como que no había entendido jamas estas máximas, aunque las conocia perfectamente, y el mismo las había enseñado á los demas. Un humor melancólico y contrario á su verdadero modo de sentir le inspiraba cierto espíritu de contradicción y sutileza para rechazar las verdades que Mentor le explicaba. Oponia Telemaco á estas razones la ingratitud humana. ¿Para qué, decia, tanto discurrir en hacerse amar de los hombres, que por ventura nunca os amarán? ¿Y para qué ayudar á tantos malos, que se valdrán de vuestros beneficios para hacerlos daño?

Importa, respondió Mentor, no hacer caso de las ingratitudes, que usan los hombres, y beneficiarlos continuamente: conviene ayudarlos, mas por amor de los dioses, que así lo mandan, que por amor de ellos mismos. Jamas se pierde aquel bien que á otro se hace; y si de él se olvidan los hombres, se acordarán los dioses, y le darán su premio. A mas de esto, si es ingrato el pueblo, hay siempre sin embargo en él hombres rectos y sabios, que se sienten mover á amar vuestra virtud: antes el mismo pueblo, por mas instable que sea, no dexa de hacer una cierta especie de justicia á la virtud verdadera.

¿Pero quereis impedir el desagradecimiento de vuestros súbditos? No os empleis solamente en hacerlos



common estimation, are of most value; do not endeavour to make them powerful and rich; do not make them the dread, or the envy of others, either by their prowess, or their pleasures. This glory, this abundance, these delights will corrupt them; they will become more wicked, and consequently more ungrateful. Instead, therefore, of offering them a fatal gift, a delicious poison, endeavour to improve their morals, to inspire them with justice, sincerity, the fear of the gods, humanity, fidelity, moderation, and disinterestedness: by implanting goodness, you will eradicate ingratitude; when you give virtue, you give a permanent and substantial good; and virtue will always attach those, who receive it, to the giver. Thus, by communicating real benefits, you will receive real benefit in return; and the very nature of your gift will make ingratitude impossible. Is it strange that men should be ungrateful to princes, who have trained them to nothing but injustice and ambition; and taught them only to be jealous, arrogant, perfidious, and cruel? A prince must expect, that his people will act towards him, as he has taught them to act towards others. If he labours to render them good both by his example and authority, he will reap the fruit of his labour from their virtue: or at least, in his own, and in the favour of the gods, he will find abundant for consolation his disappointment.»

As soon as Mentor had done speaking, Telemachus advanced hastily towards the Phæacians, whose vessel lay at anchor near the shore. He found among them an old man, of whom he enquired whence they came, whither they were going, and if he had not seen Ulysses.

«We are come,» said the old man, «from our own island, Corcyra, and we are going for merchandize to Epirus: Ulysses, as you have been told already, has been in our country, and has now left it.» «But who,» said Telemachus, «is he, that, while he waits for the departure of your vessel, seems to be absorbed in the contemplation of his own misfortunes, and retires from society to the most solitary parts of the island?» — «He,» said the old man, «is a

poderosos, ricos, formidables en la guerra, y felices con las delicias. Esta gloria y abundancia los vicia, y se harán todavía peores, y consiguientemente mas ingratos. Es hacerles un don funesto; es ofrecerles un veneno delicioso. Aplicaos, pues, á corregir sus costumbres, y persuadirles la justicia, sinceridad y temor de los dioses, que sean humanos, fieles, moderados, y sin el amor al interes. Haciéndolos buenos, los obligaréis á no seros ingratos, y los pondréis en la posesion del verdadero bien, que es la virtud; y quando esta virtud sea firme y maciza, los hará siempre afectos á quien se la haya enseñado. Asi, dandoles los verdaderos bienes, lograreis el propio, y no tendreis que temer su ingratitud. ¿Es acaso cosa de admirarse, que los vasallos tratan con ingratitud á aquellos Soberanos, que no los han movido jamas, sino á la injusticia, á la ambicion, á los zelos contra los pueblos confinantes, á la inhumanidad, á la altivez, y á la mala fé? No puede el Príncipe esperar que ellos hagan, sino lo que han aprendido de él mismo á obrar; donde al contrario, si con sus exemplos, y con su autoridad los procura hacer buenos, hallará en su virtud el fruto de su trabajo, ó hallará por lo ménos en su misma virtud y en el amor de los dioses, gran motivo para el consuelo.

Apenas acabó este discurso, quando Telémaco se adelantó apresuradamente hacia los Feacos del navio que estaba parado en la orilla. Se dirigió á un anciano de entre ellos, para preguntarle de donde venian, á donde iban, y si no habian visto á Ulises. El anciano respondió:

Nosotros venimos de nuestra isla, que es la de los Feacos, y vamos á comerciar hacia el Epiro, Ulises, como ya os han dicho, ha pasado por nuestra patria, pero salió de ella. ¿Quien es, añadió luego Telémaco, aquel hombre tan triste que busca los lugares mas desiertos esperando que salga vuestro navio? Es, respondió un anciano, un extranjero á quien no conocemos: pero dicen que se llama Cleomenes; que nació en Frigia; que un oraculo habia declarado á su madre,

stranger, of whom we have no knowledge. It is said, that his name is Cleomenes; that he is a native of Phrygia; and that, before his birth, it was declared, by an oracle, to his mother, that, if he quitted his country, he should be a king; but that, if he continued in it, the gods would denounce their anger against the Phrygians by a pestilence. « He was, therefore, delivered to some sailors, by his parents, as soon as he was born, who conveyed him to the island of Lesbos, where he was privately educated at the expence of his country, which had so great an interest in keeping him at a distance. As he increased in stature, his person became, at once, comely and robust; and he excelled in hall exercises, that render the body agile and strong: he also applied, with great genius and taste, to science, and the polite arts; but no people would suffer him to continue among them. The prediction of the oracle concerning him, became generally known, and he was soon discovered wherever he went: kings were every where jealous, lest he should supplant them in the throne; and thus, he became a fugitive from his youth, wandering about from country to country, without finding any place in which he might be allowed to remain. He has visited nations very remote from his own, but the secret of his birth, and the oracle concerning him, is discovered as soon as he arrives. He endeavours to conceal himself, wherever he comes, by entering into some obscure class of life; but he is soon discovered, by his superior talents for war, literature, and government, which break out with irresistible splendor, notwithstanding his efforts to repress them. In every country, he is surprised into the exertion of his abilities, by some unforeseen occasion; and these, at once, make him known to the public. His merit is his misfortune; for this, he is feared wherever he is known, and excluded from every country where he would reside: it is his destiny, to be every where esteemed, beloved, and admired; and to be excluded from all civil societies upon earth. « He is now advanced in years; and yet he has not hitherto been able to find any district, either of Asia or Greece,

antes de su nacimiento, que el llegaría á ser Rey, con tal que no quedase en su patria; y que, de lo contrario resultaría una cruel peste enviada por los dioses enojados contra los Frigios. Quando nació, sus padres le dieron á unos marineros que le llevaron á la isla de Lesbos. Allí le criaron secretamente á expensas de su patria, que tenia tanto interes en mantenerle apartado. El en poco tiempo adquirió estatura grande, robustez, agrado, y destreza en todos los exercicios del cuerpo: se dedicó aun con mucho gusto y talento á las ciencias y bellas artes: pero en ningun pais le pudieron sufrir. Se hizo celebre el oraculo que habia profetizado de el: le conocieron en todos los payeses á que llegó: en qualquier parte temian los Reyes que les quitase sus diademas. Asi anda el errando desde su juventud, y no puede hallar lugar alguno en el mundo donde pueda parar en libertad. El pasó muchas veces á pueblos muy distantes del suyo; pero apenas ha llegado á una ciudad, quando descubren allí su nacimiento y el oraculo que le toca. Por mas que el se esconda escogiendo en cada lugar algun género de vida obscura: siempre brillan sus talentos, á lo que dicen, á pesar suyo, sea para la guerra, sea para las letras, sea, para los negocios mas importantes; se presenta siempre en qualquier país alguna ocasion no prevista que le arrastra y le hace conocer del publico. Su merito es lo que hace su desgracia, haciendole temer, y echar de todos los países en donde quiere habitar. Es su destino el ser estimado, querido, admirado en todas partes, pero rechazado de todas las tierras conocidas. Ya no es joven, y sin embargo no ha podido hallar todavia ninguna costa, ni en Asia ni en Grecia, en la qual se le haya querido dexar vivir con alguna quietud. Parece que el no tiene ambicion, ni busca fortuna alguna: demasiado feliz sería si jamas el oraculo le hubiese prometido el ser Rey. No le queda ninguna esperanza de volver á ver nunca su patria: pues sabe que no haría otra cosa que llenar de tristeza y lágrimas todas las familias. La misma corona, motivo de sus desgracias, no le parece deseable; tras ella corre, á pesar suyo, de un Reyno á otro, y ella parece que huye delante de el para burlarse del infeliz hasta su

where he may be permitted to live in unmolested obscurity. He appears to be wholly without ambition, and to desire neither honour nor riches, and if the oracle had not promised him royalty, he would think himself the happiest of mankind. He indulges no hope of returning to his native country; for he knows, that to return thither, would be to give up every family to mourning and tears. Even royalty itself, for which he suffers, is not desirable in his opinion: he is fulfilling the condition upon which it is to be acquired, in spite of himself; and impelled by an unhappy fatality, he pursues it from kingdom to kingdom, while it flies like a splendid illusion before him, as it were, to sport with his distress, and continue an idle chase, till life itself shall have lost its value with its use. How fatal a gift is reserved for him by the gods! How has it embittered those hours, which youth would have devoted to joy! and how has it aggravated the infirmities of age, when the only felicity of wearied nature is rest! » « He is now going, » continued the old mariner, « to Thrace, in search of some rude and lawless savages, whom he may collect into a society, civilize, and govern for a certain time; that thus, having accomplished the oracle, the most flourishing state may admit him without fear. If he succeeds in this design, he will immediately retire to a village in Caria; and apply himself wholly to his favourite employment, agriculture. He is a wise man, his desires are moderate, he fears the gods, and he knows mankind; and though he does not think them worthy of esteem, can live peaceably among them. Such is the account that I have heard of the stranger, after whom you enquire.»

Telemachus, while he was attending to this narrative, often turned his eyes towards the sea, which began to be troubled: the wind now swelled the surface into waves, which, breaking against the rocks, whitened them with foam. The man observed it; and turning hastily to Telemachus, « I must be gone, » said he, « or my companions will sail without me. » He then ran towards the vessel, the mariners hurried on board, and a confused clamour echoed along the shores.

vejez: ; Funesto don de los dioses que atormenta sus dias mas hermosos, y no le causa sino trabajos, en la edad en que desvalido el hombre no necesita sino descansar! El se va, segun dice, á buscar hacia la Tracia algun pueblo salvaje y sin leyes á quien pueda juntar, civilizar y gobernar durante algunos años; los cuales acabandose, y cumplido lo que profetizó el oraculo, ya no tendran que temerle en los reynos mas florecientes; piensa entonces retirarse á una aldea de Caria, donde se dedicará á la agricultura, á que es apasionado en extremo. Es hombre sabio y moderado, que teme á los dioses, conoce bien á los hombres, y sabe vivir en paz con ellos, aunque no los aprecie. Hé aqui lo que cuentan de este extranjero de quien quereis que os dé noticias.

Durante esta conversacion, Telemaco volvia á menudo los ojos hacia la mar, que empezaba á agitarse. El viento levantaba las olas que venian á herir los peñascos, blanqueandolos con su espuma. En este momento, dixo el anciano á Telémaco: es menester que yo me marche: mis compañeros no me pueden esperar mas. Diciendo estas palabras, corrió á la orilla de la mar: se embarcan; ya no se oyen en la rivera sino confusos gritos de los marineros impacientes de salir.

The stranger, whom they called Cleomenes, had wandered about in the middle of the island; and, climbing to the summit of many of the rocks, had eyed the boundless diffusion of waters around him, with a fixed and mournful attention. Telemachus had still kept sight of him, and remarked him in every situation; nor with an idle curiosity, for his heart melted with compassion, for a man, who, though virtuous, was wretched and a fugitive; formed for great achievements, yet condemned to be the sport of fortune, and a stranger to his country. « I, » said he to himself, « may, perhaps, once more see Ithaca, but the return of this Cleomenes to Phrygia is impossible. » Thus Telemachus received comfort, from contemplating the misery of a man more wretched than himself. The stranger no sooner perceived his vessel ready to sail, than he rushed down the craggy sides of the rock, with as much agility and speed as Apollo bounds from precipice to precipice, in the forests of Lycia, when, with his silver hair gathered in a knot behind him, he pursues the stags and the boars, that fly from the terrors of his bow in vain.

When the stranger was on board, and his vessel, dividing the waves, became gradually more distant from the shore, the heart of Telemachus died within him: he felt the keenest affliction without knowing the cause; the tears flowed unbidden from his eyes, and he found nothing so pleasing as to weep. In the meantime, the mariners of Salentum, overcome with fatigue, were stretched upon the grass near the beach in a profound sleep. A sweet insensibility was diffused through every nerve; and the secret but powerful influence of Minerva had, in full day, scattered over them the dewy poppies of the night. Telemachus was astonished to see the Salentines thus resign themselves to sleep, while the Phæacians, ever active and vigilant, had improved the gale: yet he was more intent upon watching their vessel, which was now fading from his sight in the horizon, than upon recalling his mariners to their duty. A secret and irresistible sense of astonishment and concern kept his eyes fixed upon the bark that had left the island, and of which the

Aquel incógnito, que llamaban Cleomenes, habia ido vagueando acá, y allá por la isla, subiéndose á la cumbre de cada uno de aquellos grandes peñascos, y considerando de allí el espacio inmenso del mar con profundidad melancólica. No lo habia Telémaco perdido de vista, y no dexaba de observarle todos sus pasos. Se enternecía su corazón al ver un hombre virtuoso, errante, desdichado, destinado á las cosas mas grandes, y sirviendo de juguete á una rigurosa fortuna, lejos de su patria. A lo menos, se decia el á sí mismo, quizá volveré á ver á Itaca: pero aquel Cleomenes no verá jamas la Frigia. Se disminuía la pena de Telémaco con el exemplo de un hombre todavía mas desdichado que el. Finalmente el incógnito, viendo á punto su nave, baxo con tanta presteza y agilidad de aquellos escabrosos precipicios, con quanta Apolo en las selvas de Licia, llevando sus rubios cabellos con galantería anudados, corre al través de los despeñaderos, para ir á atravesar con sus flechas los jabalíes y los ciervos. Ya esta el incógnito en la nave, que va hendiendo el cristal espumoso, y alejándose de la tierra.

Entonces un cierto interno dolor ocupó el corazón de Telémaco, que se afligia, sin saber por qué: cayóronle las lágrimas de los ojos, y no encontraba cosa de tanto gusto como llorar. Vió al mismo tiempo sobre la playa todos los marineros de Salento tendidos en la yerba, y profundamente dormidos. Estaban causados, y oprimidos de la fatiga: habiase introducido en sus miembros el apacible sueño, y tenia el poder de Minerva atados los sentidos en lo lleno del día. Quedó maravillado Telémaco al ver aquella tan universal soñolencia en los Salentinos, mientras que los Feacios habian sido tan diligentes en valerse del viento favorable, que respiraba: estaba sin embargo mucho mas ocupado en mirar al baxel Feacio, que en medio de la mar iba ya á desaparecer de sus ojos, que no en procurar que los Salentinos despertaran. Una no sé qué secreta violencia lo constreñia á tener vuelta la vista ácia aquel baxel ya partido, de quien ya no veia sino las velas, que blanqueaban algo sobre el azul del mar. El no atendia á mas, ni aun á Mentor, que le

sails only could be seen, which, by their whiteness, were just distinguished from the azure of the sea. Mentor called to him; but he was deaf to the voice; his faculties seemed to be suspended, as in a trance; and he had no more the possession of himself, than the frantic votaries of Bacchus, when, grasping the thyrsis in their hands, the ravings of their frenzy are re-echoed from the banks of the Hebrus, and the rude acclivities of Ismarus and Rhodope.

At length, however, the fascination was suspended; and, recovering his recollection, he again melted into tears. « I do not wonder, » said Mentor, « my dear Telemachus, to see you weep; for the cause of your trouble, though to you a secret, is known to me. Nature is the divinity that speaks within you; it is her influence that you feel; and, at her touch, your heart has melted. A stranger has filled your breast with emotion: that stranger is the great Ulysses. What the Phæacian has told you concerning him, under the name of Cleomenes, is nothing more than a fiction, invented more effectually to conceal his return to Ithaca, whither he is now going; he is already near the port; and the scenes, so long desired, are at length given to his view. You have seen him, as it was once foretold you, but have not known him: the time is at hand, when you shall see him again; when you shall know him, and be known by him; but the gods would permit this only in Ithaca. His heart did not suffer less emotion than yours: but he is too wise to trust any man with his secret, while it might expose him to the treachery and insults of the pretenders to Penelope. Your father Ulysses is the wisest of mankind; his heart is an unfathomable depth; his secret lies beyond the line of subtilty and fraud: he is the friend of truth, he says nothing that is false; but, when it is necessary, he conceals what is true: his wisdom is, as it were, a seal upon his lips, which is never broken, but for an important purpose: he saw you, he spoke to you, yet he concealed himself from you: what a conflict must he have sustained, what anguish must he have felt! Who can wonder at his dejection and sorrow! » During this discourse, Telemachus stood fixed in

hablaba; y estaba transportado fuera de sí mismo, á manera de las Bacantes, quando corriendo con el Tirso en la mano, llenan de alaridos todas las orillas del Ebro, y hacen retumbar al Ismaro, y al Ródope con sus desatinados gritos.

Vuelto en sí finalmente un poco de esta especie de encanto, comenzó de nuevo á llorar, y entonces Mentor le dixo: No me asombro al veros llorar, mi querido Telémaco: la ocasion de vuestro dolor, que se os oculta, no se esconde á Mentor; y la naturaleza, que habla, y que se hace entender de semejante modo, es la que aviva en vuestro corazon tales sentimientos de ternura. El incógnito por quien os sentís conmovido tan vivamente, es el grande Ulises: lo que os contó de el un anciano Feaco no es sino una ficcion inventada para ocultar con mas seguridad la vuelta de vuestro padre á su Reyno, Ulises va de vuelta á la patria, y no está ya muy léjos del puerto, y vuelve al cabo á ver aquellos sitios tan largamente deseados. Vos lo visteis sin conocerlo, como se os predixo en otro tiempo; pero dentro de poco tiempo lo podréis ver y conocer, y ser de él igualmente conocido. Ahora no podian los dioses permitir fuera de Itaca vuestro mutuo reconocimiento. No se ha enternecido su corazon ménos que el vuestro; pero es Ulises demasiado sabio, para manifestarse á ninguno, en un sitio en donde los amantes de Penélope hubieran podido tal vez ponerle asechanzas, ó prevenirlo con algun insulto. Vuestro padre es el hombre mas sabio de quantos hay: su corazon es como un pozo profundo, y no puede sacársele secreto alguno. Ama la verdad, y no miente jamas: pero tampoco dice la verdad, sino quando la necesidad lo requiere; y la prudencia, como fiel candado, le tiene siempre cerrada la boca á todas las palabras inútiles; Quantas veces hablandoos, se ha interiormente conmovido! Qué no ha sufrido en veros! Esto es lo que hacia tan melancólico, y afligido. Con este razonamiento, enternecido Telémaco, y turbado, no podia

astonishment, and at length burst into tears: his wonder was mingled with the tenderest and deepest distress; and it was long before the sighs, that struggled in his bosom, would permit a reply. At length he cried out, « O my dear Mentor! there was, indeed, in this stranger something that controlled all my heart; something that attracted and melted me: a powerful influence without a name! But, if you knew him, why did you not tell me, before he departed, that he was Ulysses? and why did you not speak to him yourself, and acquaint him that he was not concealed from you? What do these mysteries conceal? It is, that I shall be wretched for ever! Will the gods, in the iranger, doom me to the torments of Tantalus, whose burning lips a delusive stream approaches for ever, and for ever flies! O my father, hast thou escaped me for ever! perhaps I shall see thee no more! perhaps the suitors of Penelope may take thee in the snares which they spread for me! O had I followed thee; then, if life had been denied us, we might at least have died together! O Ulysses, Ulysses, if thou shalt escape another shipwreck, which, from the persevering malice of fortune, there is reason to doubt; I fear, lest thou shouldst meet at Ithaca, as disastrous a fate as Agamemnon at Mycene. But wherefore, O my dear Mentor, did you envy my good fortune? Why have I not already embraced my father? Why am I not now with him, in the port of Ithaca? Why not fighting at his side, and exulting in the destruction of his enemies? »

« Let me now, my dear Telemachus, » said Mentor, with a smile, « shew thee to thyself; and thus acquaint thee with the weakness of mankind. To-day you are inconsolable, because you have seen your father without knowing him; but what would you have given, yesterday, to know that he was not dead! To-day your own eyes assure you that he lives, and this assurance, which should transport you with joy, overwhelms you with distress. Thus do man-  
tener

tener á rienda las lágrimas, que se le desprendian de los ojos como un torrente, y sus repetidos sollozos le impidieron hasta el responder; pero al cabo gritó: Bien percibia yo, querido Mentor mio, en ese incógnito no sé qué cosa, que me forzaba á amarlo, y que conmovia todas mis entrañas. Pero ya que lo conozeis, porqué no me habeis dicho, que era Ulises, ántes que se partiera? Por qué le habeis dexado partir, sin hablarle, ni mostrar conocerlo? Qué misterio es este? Luego quieren los dioses indignados, que yo sea siempre infeliz, y tenerme, á manera de Tántalo, sediento, y engañado de la laguna, que tiene cerca, y huye de sus labios! Ulises, Ulises, temo haberos perdido para siempre. por ventura no tendré el consuelo de veros mas; tal vez los amantes de Penélope os harán caer en las asechanzas dispuestas contra mí. Si os hubiera por lo ménos seguido, me moria con vos. Ulises, Ulises, quando las tempestades no os arrojen á romper otra vez en algun peñasco, pues debo temer todo mal de la fortuna enemiga, tengo gran miedo de que llegueis á Itaca con tan funesta suerte, como Agamemnon á Micenas. Mas por qué me habeis envidiado, mi querido Mentor, esta mi buena fortuna? Ahora le estrecharia entre mis brazos; ya estaria en el puerto de Itaca, juntamente con él; y uno, y otro pelearíamos para alcanzar la victoria de nuestros enemigos.

Mentor le respondió sonriendose: veis, querido Telémaco, lo que son los hombres: os hallais desconsolado del todo, porque habeis visto á vuestro padre sin conocerle. Que no hubierais dado ayer para saber de cierto que el no habia muerto? Hoy lo habeis verificado con vuestros ojos mismos; y esta certidumbre que debia colmaros de gozo, os dexa en la amargura. Asi el corazon enfermo de los mortales no hace cuenta de lo que mas ha deseado, una vez que lo posee; y

kind, by the perverse depravity of their nature, esteem that which they have most desired as of no value the moment it is possessed; and torment themselves, with fruitless wishes, for that which is beyond their reach.

It is to exercise your patience that the gods thus hold you in suspense. You consider this time as lost, but be assured that it is, more than any other, improved. The distress which you now suffer, will exercise you in the practice of that virtue which is of more importance than all others, to those who are born to command. Without patience, you can be master neither of others nor yourself. Impatience, which appears to be the force and vigour of the soul, is, indeed, a weakness; the want of fortitude to suffer pain. He that knows not how to wait for good, and to endure evil, is subject to the same imbecility, as he that cannot keep a secret; they both want power to restrain the first impulse of the mind; and resembles a charioteer, whose hand has not strength to restrain his impatient coursers, in their headlong speed; they disdain the bridle, they rush forward with uncontrolled fury, the chariot is overturned, and the feeble driver is crushed under the wheels.

An impatient man is thus precipitated to ruin, by the violence of impetuous and uncontrolled desire. The more elevated his station, the more fatal his impatience: he waits for nothing, he despises deliberation, and takes all things, as it were, by storm; every enjoyment is a violence and an injury; he breaks down the branches, to gather the fruit before it is ripe; he forces the door, rather than wait till it is opened; and resolves to reap, when the prudent husbandman would sow: all his actions are precipitate, and out of season; all that he does, therefore, is done amiss, and must be futile and transient as his own desires. Such are the extravagant projects of a man, who vainly imagines that he can do all things; and abandon himself to every impatient wish, that prompts him to abuse his power. Your patience is thus tried, my dear Telemachus, that you may learn to be patient; and,

tiene habilidad para atormentarse relativamente á lo que todavia no ha alcanzado.

Los dioses os mantienen en esa perplexidad, para ejercicio de vuestro sufrimiento. Considerais este tiempo como perdido; pero sabed, que es el mejor empleado de toda vuestra vida, porque os exercita en la mas necesaria virtud de todas á los que deben mandar. Importa ser sufrido para llegar á ser dueño, así de sí mismo, como de los otros: la impaciencia, que parece esfuerzo y vigor, es flaqueza de ánimo. Quien no sabe esperar y sufrir, parece al que no sabe callar un secreto; y uno, y otro estan faltos de brio para contenerse. Como un hombre que corre velozmente en un carro, y no tiene la mano harto firme para detener, quando importa, los impetuosos brutos, conoce al fin, que no obedecen al freno, y van á precipitarse, y el carretero débil, de cuya mano escapan, queda quebrantado, cayendo; así un impaciente es arrastrado á un abismo de miserias de sus indomitos, y feroces deseos, quanto su poder es mayor, tanto le es mas funesta su impaciencia. No puede tolerar que se interponga alguna tardanza á la consecucion de lo que desea; no se permite tiempo de ponderar las cosas; usa de la violencia para satisfacerse; rompe las ramas para coger el fruto antes que se madure; despeza las puertas mas presto que se le abran de voluntad; quiere segar quando el labrador cuerdo no atiende á otro, que á hacer su sementera: en suma, es mal executado quanto él obra de priesa, ni puede tener larga duracion, como no la pueden tener sus deseos volubles, é inconstantes. Tales son los designios destinados de un hombre, que se imagina poderlo todo, y se abandona á las propias pasiones, por abusar de su poder. Los dioses, amado Telémaco mío, exercitan vuestra paciencia de esa manera y se burlan de vos, al parecer, con la vida errante que pasais en medio de la incertidumbre, porque aprendais á ser sufrido. Los bienes, que esperais, se os ponen delante de los ojos; pero luego se desvanecen, como ligero sueño, que desá

for this cause, the gods have given you up to the caprice of fortune, and suffered you to be still a wanderer, to whom all things are uncertain. Every object of your hope hast just appeared and vanished, like the fleeting images of a dream when the slumbers of the night are past, to apprize you, that the blessings which we imagine to be within our grasp, elude us, and disappear in a moment. The best precepts of the wise Ulysses would instruct you less than his absence, and the sufferings which, while you sought him, you have endured.»

Mentor then determined to bring the patience of Telemachus to another trial, yet more severe than any that were past, at the moment, therefore, when the young hero was urging the mariners to set sail without delay, Mentor suddenly stopped him, and proposed that they should offer a solemn sacrifice to Minerva upon the beach. Telemachus consented, without remonstrance or complaint; two altars of turf were immediately prepared, the incense smoked, and the blood of the victims was shed: the youth looked up to heaven, with a sigh of tenderness and devotion; and acknowledged the powerful protection of the goddess.

As soon as the sacrifice was ended, he followed Mentor into the darkest recess of a neighbouring wood; and here he suddenly perceived the countenance of his friend assume a new form; the wrinkles disappeared, as the shadows of the night vanish when the rosy fingers of Aurora throw back the portals of the east, and kindle the horizon with the beams of day; his eyes, which were keen and hollow, changed to a celestial blue, and sparkled with divine radiance; his beard, grised and neglected, totally vanished; and the sight of Telemachus was dazzled by new features, which were, at once, mild and awful, lovely and majestic. He beheld the countenance of a woman, soft and delicate as the leaves of a flower just opening to the sun, and blooming with the tints both of the lily and the rose; it was distinguished by the ineffable beauty of eternal youth, and the easy dignity of familiar greatness: her flowing hair impregnated the gale

parece al despertar, para mostraros, que las mismas cosas que creen los hombres tener en las manos, se les escapan de ellas en un momento. Los documentos mas cuerdos, que os dará Ulises, no os ocasionaran tanto provecho, quanto su larga ausencia, y los trabajos que padeceis en buscarlo.

Despues quiso Mentor por ultimo acrisolar la paciencia de Telémaco por un medio todavia mas fuerte. En el mismo instante en que iba el joven con el mas vivo ardor á excitar á los marineros á que apresurasen la marcha, Mentor le detubo subitamente, y le convidó á hacer sobre la rivera un sacrificio solemne á Minerva. Hace con docilidad Telemaco lo que Mentor quiere. Se levantan dos altares de cespedes: humea el incienso, y corre la sangre de las victimas. Suspira tiernamente Telemaco mirando al cielo, y conoce la poderosa proteccion de la diosa.

Apenas se acabó el sacrificio, quando sigue á Mentor por las sombrías sendas de un bosquecito inmediato. Allí repara de improviso, que el rostro de Mentor tomaba una nueva figura. Huian de su frente las arrugas, como se desvanecen las sombras, quando apareciendo en Oriente la aurora, hace bermejejar todo el Orizonte en contorno; los ojos, hundidos antes, y severos, se trocaron en azules, de un hermoso color celeste, y centelleantes, con divina luz; desapareció la barba entrecana, y desaliñada; y apareció un semblante noble y soberano, mezclado de dulzura y gentileza, á la vista del desalumbrado Telémaco. Vió entónces el hijo de Ulises un rostro de muger, harto mas brillante, y mas terso que una flor, que poco antes se desabrochó al sol. Reparábasele en la cara la blancura de la azucena esmaltada con el carmin de la rosa recién nacida; y florecia en ella, junta con una magestad llana, y sin afectacion, una juventud dura;



with ambrosial odours; and her robes shone with a various and vivid splendor, like the clouds of heaven, which the sun diversifies and irradiates with his earliest light. The divinity was no longer supported by the earth, but reclined upon the air, in which she floated like a bird in its flight: in her hand was the shining lance, at which nations tremble, and Mars himself becomes sensible to fear: her voice was sweet and placid, but penetrating and strong; her words pierced the heart of Telemachus, like shafts of fire, and thrilled him with a kind of delicious pain: upon her helmet appeared the solitary bird of Athens; and her dreadful ægis glittered upon her breast. By these characteristics, Telemachus knew that he beheld Minerva.

« And is it thou thyself, » said he, « O goddess! who, for the love that thou bearest to Ulysses, has vouchsafed guidance and protection to his son! » He would have said more, but his voice failed him; and the thoughts that rushed, with impetuous tumult, from his heart, his tongue laboured to express in vain: he was overwhelmed by the presence of the divinity, like a man who is oppressed, to the loss of breath, in a dream, and who, although agonized with an effort to speak, can articulate nothing.

At length the goddess addressed him in these words: « Hear me, O son of Ulysses, for the last time! I have hitherto favoured no mortal with such instructions as I have vouchsafed to thee. In countries unknown, in shipwreck, in battle, in every situation of danger and distress, by which the heart of man can be tried, I have been thy protection. For thee I have illustrated, by experiment, all maxims of government, both false and true, and I have improved, not thy misfortunes only, but even thy faults, into wisdom. Who can govern, that has never

dera, é inmortal. De su melena undosa se difundia el olor fragante de la ambrosia; resplandecian en su ropage aquellos hermosos colores de que matiza el cielo el sol, quando amanece, y le halla aun ocupado de las obscuras sombras de la noche, y de las nubes, que llega él á dorar con sus rayos. No tocaba la diosa con sus pies la tierra, siuo que discurría por el ayre ligeramente, como una ave: empuñaba con su poderosa diestra una lanza resplandeciente, que era bastante para hacer estremecer las ciudades, y naciones mas belicosas, y hubiera puesto espanto al mismo Marte. Su voz era dulce y templada; mas fuerte, y penetrante: todas sus palabras eran saetas de fuego, que atravesaban el corazon de Telémaco, y le hacian experimentar no se qué apacible dolor, y delicioso. Vefase encima del yelmo la triste ave de Atenas, y le centelleaba en el pecho la horrible Egide. Con estas señas Telémaco la reconoció por Minerva.

Luego vos sois, dixo, ó gran diosa, la que por amor de Ulises se ha dignado de servir de guía á su hijo. Quería proseguir, pero le faltaron palabras, y en vano se esforzaban sus labios á expresar aquellos conceptos, que impetuosamente iban á salir de la boca, y de lo profundo del corazon. Oprimiale la presencia de la diosa, y parecia á un hombre, que queda en un sueño angustiado de tal manera, que pierde hasta la respiracion; y moviendo los labios con gran trabajo, no puede sin embargo articular acento.

Finalmente Minerva le dixo de esta suerte: Escúchadme por último, Telémaco: nunca yo he doctrinado á algun hombre con tanto cuidado, quanto he aplicado acia vos: os he por la mano llevado al traves de espantosos naufragios, de desconocidos países, de sangrientas batallas, y de todos los males, que pueden hacer prueba del valor de un hombre; y os he mostrado con experiencias sensibles las verdaderas, y falsas máximas, con que se puede reynar. Los yerros, que habeis cometido, no os han sido de utilidad menor, que vuestras mismas desgracias: ¿porque quién es

suffered? who can avoid error, but by experience of its evil?

Thou hast filled earth and ocean with disastrous adventures, like thy father; and art now worthy to follow him to Ithaca, where he is this moment arrived, and whither thy passage is short and easy. In battle, let thy station be at his side; obey him with implicit reverence; and let the meanest subject learn his duty from thy example. He will give Antiope to thy wishes; in this alliance thy object was rather merit than beauty, and it shall be happy.

When thou shalt be invested with sovereign power, let it be thy only ambition to restore the golden age: let thy ear be open to all, but thy confidence restrained to few: trust not implicitly to thy own virtue, or thy own wisdom: fear to deceive thyself, but fear not that others should know thou hast been deceived.

Love thy people; and neglect nothing that may inspire them with love of thee: those whom love cannot influence, must be ruled by fear; but this expedient, like a violent and dangerous remedy, should always be used with reluctance.

Undertake nothing of which thou hast not considered the most remote consequences: look steadily at the future, whatever evils it may present; for true courage consists in the anticipation and contempt of necessary danger: he who will not voluntarily look danger in the face, will shrink from the sight, when it is obtruded upon him; the only wise and brave who willingly looks on all that can be seen, who shuns all that can be shunned, and meets that which is inevitable with equanimity.

Avoid luxury, profusion, and pomp, and place thy glory in simplicity: let thy virtues be the ornaments of thy person and thy palace; let these be the

aquel que puede gobernar sabiamente, si no ha sido jamas infelice, y si nunca ha sacado ningun provecho de los infortunios, que ha padecido, y en que le han sus errores arrojado?

Hábeis, como vuestro padre, llenado las tierras, y mares de vuestras desventuras: andad pues, que ahora bien sois digno de caminar sobre las pisadas, que él os ha dexado estampadas. No os falta mas, que un breve, y fácil trecho para llegar á Itaca, adonde él ahora mismo llega: Andad, pelead en compañía de Ulises: obedecedle como el infimo de sus súbditos, y dad vos mismo exemplo de obediencia á todos los demas. Permitiráos vuestro padre poder tomar por esposa vuestra á la discreta Antiope, y viviréis con ella feliz, por haber en ella buscado mas la virtud, y prudencia, que la hermosura.

Quando reynareis, colocad vuestra gloria en renovar la edad de oro: escuchad á todos, y creed á pocos: ántes mirad bien no os creais demasiado á vos mismo: tened temor de engañaros, pero no le tengais jamas de dexar ver á los otros, que alguna vez habeis quedado engañado:

Amad á los vasallos, y no dexeis de usar todos los medios, para que os amen ellos. El terror es preciso, quando falta el amor; mas conviene siempre emplearlo con disgusto, como los remedio violentos, y peligrosos.

Considerad en todo tiempo de léjos todas las consecuencias de lo que querais emprender: prevenid los mayores inconvenientes; y sabed que consiste el verdadero esfuerzo en atender á todos los peligros, y despreciarlos quando se hacen forzosos. El que no quiere verlos, no tiene brio constante para sufrir su vista con constancia; pero quien los ve todos, y evita aquellos que pueden excusarse, y provoca á los otros sin turbacion, es solamente sabio, y magnánimo.

Huid de la afeminacion, del fausto, y de la prodigalidad, y poned vuestra gloria en el candor de vuestras costumbres. Vuestras virtudes, y vuestras buenas

guard that surrounds thee; and let thy example teach the world, in what honour consists.

Let it be constantly present to thy mind, that kings reign not for their own glory, but for the good of their people: the virtues and the vices of kings entail happiness or misery upon mankind, to the remotest generations: and a bad reign sometimes produces calamity for an age.

Above all, guard against thy humour; that peculiarity of disposition which, independent both of the passions and reason, distinguished mankind from each other; that capricious principle, which chuses and rejects, loves and hates, approves and condemns, not in consequence of qualities in the object, but propensities in the mind. This humour is a bosom enemy, which every man is condemned to carry with him to the grave: it will enter into all thy councils; and, if indulged, will certainly pervert them: it will prevent thee from improving opportunities of advantage; it will prefer shadows to the substance, and determine important affairs by petty considerations: it obscures talents, depresses courage, and renders a man feeble, inconstant, odious, and contemptible: against this enemy, be continually upon the guard.

Let the fear of the gods, O Telemachus, be the ruling passion of thy heart: keep it sacred in thy bosom, as thy dearest treasure; for with this thou shalt possess wisdom and justice, tranquillity and joy, unpoluted pleasure, genuine freedom, peaceful affluence, and spotless glory.

« I now leave thee, O son of Ulysses! But, so long as thou shalt feel the want of my wisdom, my wisdom shall remain with thee. It is now time that thou shouldst walk by the light of thy own mind: I withdrew from thee in Egypt and at Salentum, that I might reconcile thee to the want of that assistance and comfort which I afforded, by degrees, as a mother weans an infant from the breast, when it is no longer necessary to indulge him with milk, and he is able to subsist upon coarser food! »

acciones sean los adornos, no ménos de vuestra casa, que de vuestra persona; sean estas las guardias que os rodean, y aprenda de vos todo el mundo en qué consiste la felicidad verdadera.

No os olvidéis jamas de que los Reyes no reynan para adquirirse gloria, sino para asistir á sus pueblos: todo lo bueno que hacen, se extiende hasta los siglos mas distantes; y los males que obran, se multiplican de generacion en generacion, hasta la posteridad mas remota. De un reynado malo nace algunas veces la calamidad de muchos siglos.

Sobre todo tened cuidado con vuestro humor: es un enemigo que á todas partes llevareis con vos hasta la muerte; el entrará en vuestros consejos, y os venderá si le escuchais. El humor hace perder las ocasiones mas importantes: él da inclinaciones y aversiones de niño, con perjuicio de los mayores intereses; él hace que se decidan los negocios mas importantes por los motivos mas pequeños; él obscurece todos los talentos, abate el ánimo, y hace que un hombre se vuelva caprichoso, débil, vil é insoportable. Desconfiad de este enemigo.

Sed temeroso de los dioses, Telémaco; ese temor es el mayor tesoro del corazon del hombre, y juntamente con él adquirireis la prudencia, la justicia, la paz, la alegría, los placeres puros, la libertad verdadera, la abundancia agradable, y una gloria sincera.

Yo os dexo, hijo de Ulises; pero nunca os desamparará mi sabiduria, con tal, que conozcais siempre, que no podeis nada sin ella. Tiempo es de que aprendais á andar solo. Yo no me he apartado de vos en Fenicia y Salento, sino para acostumaros á quedar sin esta dulzura, como se destetan los niños, quando se les quiere quitar la leche, y alimentarlos con manjares mas sólidos.

Such was the last counsel of Minerva to Telemachus; and, while her voice yet vibrated on his ear, he perceived her rise slowly from the earth: and a cloud of intermingled azure and gold surrounding her, she disappeared. Telemachus stood a moment astonished and entranced; then sighing, prostrated himself upon the ground, and stretched out his hands towards heaven. After this homage was paid, he arose, awakened his companions, hastened their departure, arrived in Ithaca, and found his father under the friendly roof of his faithful Eumenes.

THE END.

Apenas puso fin la diosa á este razonamiento, se remontó en el ayre, y entró en una nube de oro, y azul, con la qual desapareció. Telémaco suspirando, atónito, y fuera de sí, se postró en tierra, levantando al cielo las manos; despues fué a despertar á los compañeros, dió priesa á la partida, llegó á Itaca, y reconoció á su padre en casa del fiel Eumeo.

FIN.

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