

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.

TELÉMACO.

LIBRO XIII.

SUMARIO.

Idomeneo refiere á Mentor la confianza que tuvo en Protesiláo, 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 Samo 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 Protesiláo, 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. Veíanse 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 habían estado perdidos en la miseria; ni habían osado casarse, por temor de aumentar sus propios males. Quando vieron que Idomeneo empezaba á tener sentimiento de hombre, y les quería ser padre no temieron mas á la hambre, ni los demas azotes de que se sirve el cielo quando quiere afligir á 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 á dios Pan con una turba de sátiros, y de faunos mezclados con las ninfas, danzando con el son de las zampoñas á 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 á 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 á esperar, lloraban con excesivo júbilo á vueltas de la ternura, y levantaban al cielo sus tembloras manos. Bendecid, decian, ó grande Júpiter, á este Rey, que se semeja á 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 doncellas y los mancebos que se desposaban, no daban á 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 á Mentor, que no habia tenido jamas un tan vivo placer, como el de ser amado, y hacer feliz á todo su Reyno. Yo nunca lo hubiera creído, se explicaba, diciendo: Pareceme 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 advierto. 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 pedia 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 queria 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 el 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 enfado la constancia animosa de Filocles contra mi floxedad. A mas de esto, la conveniencia de Protesilao á todos mis designios 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!; quanto 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 difidentes y desaplicados: difidentes por la experiencia continua de los engaños de los hombres malvados, de que estan ceñidos: desaplicados, porque se dexan arrebatat 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 oiréis á otro que á mi enemigo; y que sirviendoos 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 quán 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 causancio 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 enterprise 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 podria 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

quiera 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 envarais 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. ¿Creeis, 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 indignación, 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 Timocrates 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 no 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, miéntras 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 accion de profunda política, y arruinar los designios de Protesilao, enviando con secreto á Timócrates á la armada en que estaba Filocles para matarlo. Fué 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 capitán tan sabio y tan atento á hacerse amar de todos.

Timócrates tenía mucho que temer, queriendo hacer morir al capitán en medio de un ejército que le amaba con todas veras. Pero es ciega la furiosa ambición. A Timócrates parecía que no había cosa difícil para contentar á Protesilao, con quien se figuraba que había de gobernar absolutamente, despues de muerto Filocles. No podía sufrir Protesilao á un hombre de bien, cuya vista sola era una secreta reprehension de sus delitos; y podía, 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 debía 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 habían 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 había obligado para cometer tan malvada accion. Timócrates, temiendo la muerte, mostró el orden que yo le había dado por escrito para matarlo, y como los traidores