

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 infeccion 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 ímpetu de los vientos, que lo contrastan; y quedándose inmoble, dexa que se consuman y cansen los esfuerzos de su furor. Asi vuestro padre, estándole 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 sí mismas á enflaquecerse. Dixime 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 Júpiter 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.»

END OF THE FIFTEENTH BOOK.

Yo sin embargo tenia aun contra el sabio Ulises no sé qué odio: 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.

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 immoveable: 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 Daunios, informado que los reyes aliados no piensan sino en apaciguar la disputa de Telemaco é 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, habia 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 equivocára 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 indole, y sincera; pero poco dispuesta á acariciar á qualquiera que fuese: no tenia cuidado á 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. Dexábase 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 parecia 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, juzgaria 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 ademas 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 snele la palina 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 Lacedemonians, 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 Lacedemonians; 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 Daunos, 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 valoroso 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 redoblóse el furor al mirarlo. No era ya aquel prudente Telémaco, enseñado 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. Hábilala estrenado Laertes con mucha gloria en su juventud, y ensangrándola en las venas de muchos capitanes famosos entre los Epirotas, de cuya guerra habia quedado él vencedor. Apénas 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 á 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 dé 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 Idomeño; 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 dexándose 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 Hippias, 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 Hippias 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 Hippias; the earth groaned beneath him, and all that was around him shook.

But the Ægis of Minerva infused into Telemachus wisdom, as well as strength: and at the moment that Hippias 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 Hippias 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 Hippias! 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 encima, 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 acordóse 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 asataba, 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: Bástame, 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 ,

veitud : 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 atrevía Falanto á quitar la vida al que tan generosamente la acababa de dexar á su hermano , y estabáse 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 atrevía á levantarlos. No podía 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 podían saciarse de admirarla. Retiróse á su pavellon avergonzado todo de su falta , y opuesto en tal estado , que no se podía tolerar á si propio. Allí se conolia 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 ! decía : ¿ 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 Hippias 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! ¿Qual 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 quán dichoso fuera! ¿ Pero por ventura despues al acabar el dia querré hacer lo mismo, de que abhórre 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 Filotetes le fuéron á buscar. Queriale Nestor representar quanto contra razon habia obrado: mas mirando el 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 todavía, 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 Filotetes iban sin parar, y volvian del pavellon de Telémaco al del implacable