

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, *Adrastus*

*Falanto*, que no pensaba en otro, que en la venganza. La apacible eloquencia de *Nestor*, y la autoridad del gran *Filotetes*, no podían 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.

Miéntas 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 *Ciclopes*, 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 tenían ocupados los aliados. Teniendo ellos aquellos estrechos, se daban por del todo seguros; y aun se presumían que podrían 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 suc-

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 Philoctetes, 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, loose 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.

Ien 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 algún 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 á 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 lamentanse de ello en vano, y demasiado tarde. La tierna juventud es la sola edad, en la qual el hombre puede domarse, y sujetar á 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 railery, 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, irascibility 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 hacérseles acepto y amable. En oírlo 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, jocosó 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 príncipes, 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 corazón, 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 cogidos. 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.

Habíase resuelto en el consejo de los aliados , que se aguardaran las muchas tropas , que se les debian juntar ; y habíanse despachado secretamente cien naves á conducir las con mayor presteza de una playa harto dificultosa , adonde habian de llegar , hasta el lugar donde estaba el ejército acampado. Teníanse 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 á las orillas del rio Galeso , poco separados del mar. Es esta deliciosa campaña abundante de pastos , y de todos aquellos frutos , que pueden mantener á 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 priesa , 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 á 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 sirviéron para transportar sus soldados á la boca del río 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, ácia la parte del río, creyendo, que aquellos baxeles los conducian las tropas que esperaban, levantáron luego una grande algazara con la alegría. Adrasto, y sus soldados se arrojáron á tierra, ántes que los pudieran conocer. Cargáron luego á los confederados, que no tenían miedo de alguna cosa, y halláron en un campo descubierto, sin armas, sin órden, y sin cabeza.

La parte del campo, que los Daunos primero acometiéron, fué de los Tarentinos, que militaban debaxo la conducta de Falanto; y allí entráron con tanta fuerza, que viéndose atacados de improviso los mancebos Lacedemonios, no pudiéron 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 pavelones, 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.

Falanto, que veía de mas cerca que ningun otro, no podia atajar el inminente riesgo. Conocía, que todos los soldados estaban para morir entre las llamas, sino se abandonaban prontamente los alojamientos; pero conocía tambien, cuánto era de temerse el desórden 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 Hippas 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 desesperación 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 abatirlo. 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.