

# TELEMACHUS.

## BOOK XVII.

### ARGUMENT.

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

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

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

# TELÉMACO.

## LIBRO XVII.

### SUMARIO.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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