

liberty of Hesperia, against the usurpations of Adrastus, will become odious; and you will yourselves be justly accused of aspiring at an universal tyranny.

But suppose that you should be victorious against the Daunians, and every other people, your success will inevitably be your ruin. This measure will disunite you: it cannot be taken, without a violation of those very rules, by which alone you can regulate your own pretensions; it will substitute power for justice, and, therefore, each of you will make his power the measure of his claim. Not one of you will have sufficient authority over the rest, to make a peaceable division of the common property; and thus a new war will commence, of which your descendants, that are not yet born, will probably never see the end. Is it not better to sit down in peace, with justice and moderation, than to follow ambition, where all is tumult, danger, and calamity? Is not perfect tranquillity and blameless pleasure, a plentiful country and friendly neighbours, the glory that is inseparable from justice, and the authority that must result from an integrity, to which foreign nations refer their contests for decision, more desirable than the idle vanity of lawless conquest? I speak, O princes! without interest; I oppose your opinions, because I love you; I tell you the truth, though I risk your displeasure: should the counsel of integrity be lightly rejected?»

While Telemachus was thus speaking, with a new and irresistible authority; and the princes were admiring the wisdom of his counsels, in astonishment and suspense, a confused noise spread through the camp, and came at last to the place where they were assembled. It was said, that a stranger had just landed, with a company of men in arms: that he was of a lofty port, and had a military greatness in his aspect and demeanour: that he appeared to have endured great adversity, and to be superior to all sufferance. The soldiers, who were stationed to guard the coast, at first prepared to repulse him as an enemy that was invading their country: upon which he drew his sword with an air of

ble, habiéndose formado para defender las libertades de toda Hesperia contra las usurpaciones de Adrasto: y os acusaran todos de que os quereis usurpar la universal tiranía.

Pero supongo que debéis vencer á los Daunios, y tambien á los demas pueblos; os destruirá sin embargo esa victoria misma; y hé aquí de qué manera. Haced reflexa en que la execucion de una tal idea os desunirá á unos de otros; porque no fundándose en la justicia, no tendréis regla alguna, que pueda limitar las pretensiones de cada uno. Querrán todos que su porcion de pais sea proporcionada á su potencia; ni habrá de vosotros alguno que tenga suficiente autoridad sobre los pueblos, para hacer de ellos la pacífica division. Y hé aquí una nueva guerra, de la qual no verán el fin vuestros nietos. ¿Mas no es mucho mejor ser justo, y moderado que fomentar la discordia contemplando á la soberbia propia, con tanto riesgo, y por medio de tantas inevitables desgracias? ¿No son acaso bienes harto mas deseables, que la necia ambicion de conquistar agenos paises, una amabilísima paz, los suaves, é inocentes placeres que la acompañan, la feliz abundancia, el cariño de los vecinos, la gloria inseparable de la justicia, la autoridad que se adquiere, quando se llega con la buena fe á ser arbitro de todas las naciones extrañas? ¡O Príncipes! ¡ó Reyes! bien veis que os hablo sin interés: oid, pues, a quien tanto os ama, hasta contradeciros, y daros sinsabor, diciendos la verdad.

Mientras discurría Telémaco de esta manera, con una autoridad que nunca se vió en algun otro; y mientras que admirados y atónitos todos los Príncipes celebraban sus sabios consejos, se oyó un rumor confuso, que se derramó por el campo, y llegó hasta aquel sitio, en que se tenía el congreso. Un extrangero, dixo uno, ha llegado á esa playa con una tropa de gente armada. Ese no conocido tiene un aspecto noble; todo en él se parece á heroico, y puede facilmente conocerse que ha padecido muchos, y dilatados contratiempos; pero que su gran corazon le ha hecho vencer todos los males que ha padecido. Al principio la gente del pais, que guarda las riberas, querian re-

intrepidity, and declared that, if he was attacked, he could make good his defence; but that he required only peace and hospitality. He then held out an olive branch as a supplicant; and desiring to be conducted to those who commanded that part of the coast, he was accordingly brought to the royal assembly.

The moment after this intelligence was received, the stranger entered. His majestic appearance struck the whole assembly with surprise; he looked like the god of war, when he calls together his sanguinary bands upon the mountains of Thrace; and he addressed the princes in these terms

« Surely I see the guardians of mankind, assembled to defend their country, or distribute justice! Here, then, a man, persecuted by fortune, may hope to be heard! may the gods preserve you from the like calamity! I am Diomedes, the king of Ætolia, who wounded Venus at the siege of Troy; and her vengeance pursues me, whithersoever I fly. Neptune, who can refuse nothing to the divine daughter of the sea, has given me up to the fury of the winds and waves; and I have suffered shipwreck almost upon every rock. Inexorable Venus has left me no hope of again returning to my kingdom, or clasping my family to my breast! In the country where I first beheld the light, I shall behold it no more: from all that is dear to me, I am severed for ever! Upon this unknown coast: after all my shipwrecks, I seek only security and rest. Jupiter himself is the stranger's titular god: if, therefore, ye have any reverence of heaven; if ye have any feelings of compassion; vouchsafe me some neglected corner of this vast country, some barren spot, some untrodden waste, some sandy plain, some craggy rock, where I may take refuge with my associates in misfortune, and build a little town, a sad memorial of the country we have lost! we ask but a small track of such ground as is useless to you; we

chazarlo, teniéndole por contrario que venia á invadir; pero habiendo con brio intrépido puesto mano á la espada, ha protestado que quando fuere insultado, sabria bien defenderse; y ha añadido despues que no pedia otra cosa sino la paz y hospedage de amigo. Presentó luego un ramo de olivo con ademan de quien ruega. A esto se dió oido á sus voces. Ha pedido ser conducido á la presencia de aquellos que tienen el dominio de esta parte de Hesperia, y viene á vuestra vista, para hablar con los Príncipes que aqui os habeis juntado.

Al fin de estas razones se vió entrar el incognito con una magestad, que causó maravilla á todos los que estaban en la asamblea. Facilmente se hubiera podido tener por Marte, quando en las montañas de Tracia junta sus crueles sequaces. Y entre las admiraciones, empezó á hablar así:

Oid, ¡ ó pastores de los pueblos, que ciertamente estais juntos aqui, ó á defender la patria de enemigos, ó para hacer que florezcan las mas justas leyes! oíd á un hombre perseguido de la fortuna. Quieran los dioses, que nunca vosotros probeis desgracias semejantes. Yo soy Diómedes, Rey de la Etolia, que en el asedio de Troya di á Venus una herida en una batalla. La venganza de esa deidad me persigue por todo el mundo. Neptuno, que no puede negar cosa ninguna á la hija divina del mar, me ha entregado en poder de los vientos, y de las ondas, que me han muchas veces llevado á luchar contra los escollos. La inexorable Venus me ha quitado toda esperanza de restituirme á mi Reyno, mi familia, y aquel pais amado, en que empecé naciendo á ver la luz del dia. No, no tendré jamás el consuelo de volver á ver lo que tuve en el mundo de mas cariño mio. Despues de tantos naufragios, vengo al fin á buscar un poco de sosiego, y un asilo seguro en estas desconocidas riberas. Si teneis amor á los dioses, y en especial á Júpiter, que tiene la tutela de los extrangeros; y si teneis sentimientos de compasion, no me negueis en este dilatado pais algun ángulo de tierra estéril, algun desierto lóbrego, ó algun inaccessible peñasco, donde pueda fundar una ciudad con los que me acompañan, la qual sea á lo menos una imagen

will be peaceful neighbours, and firm allies; we will have no enemy, and no interest, but yours; and we desire no other distinction or peculiarity, than the liberty of living according to our own laws.»

While Diomede was speaking, Telemachus kept his eyes fixed upon him; and all the changes of passion were, by turns, expressed in his aspect. When the hero, at first, mentioned his long misfortunes, he thought this majestic stranger might be his father, and his countenance brightened with hope; the moment he declared himself to be Diomede, it faded, like a flower at the chill blast of the north; and when he complained of inexorable anger, and an offended goddess, the heart of Telemachus was melted, by the remembrance of what his father and himself had suffered from the same cause; the conflict was, at last, more than he could sustain: and, bursting into tears of grief and joy, he threw himself upon the neck of Diomede, and embraced him.

«I am,» said he, «the son of Ulysses, your associate in the war; who, when you carried off the horses of Rhesus, was not idle. The gods have treated him with unrelenting severity, as they have treated you. If the oracles of Erebus may be believed, he is still alive; but, alas! he is not alive to me. I have left Ithaca to seek him; and I have now lost him, and my country, for ever! Judge, from my misfortunes, of my compassion for yours; for misfortune is the parent of pity, and so far it is an advantage. In this country, I am but a stranger myself; and I have, from my infancy, suffered various distress in my own. Yet, O mighty Diomede! I was not there ignorant of the glory you have acquired; nor am I, here, unable, O next to Achilles in courage and prowess! to procure you some succour. The princes which you see in this assembly, are not strangers to humanity; they are sensible that, without it, there is neither virtue, nor courage, nor honour. The truly great become more illustrious by adversity; without adversi-

de la siempre cruel memoria de nuestra patria perdida. No pedimos sino un corto distrito de tierra inútil, donde se nos permita la libertad de vivir segun nuestras leyes. Por lo demas viviremos en paz y en estrecha amistad con vosotros; vuestros contrarios seran los nuestros, y nos interesaremos con todas nuestras ventajas.

Mientras que Diomedes hablaba de esta manera, le miraba Telémaco sin apartar los ojos, y se le descubrieron en el semblante diferentes afectos. Quando Diomedes empezó a razonar de sus prolixas desgracias, entró en alguna esperanza de que él era su padre. Luego que se descubrió por Diomedes, trocó el color, y se puso palido, como una bella flor a los violentos soplos del borrascoso Aquilon: despues las palabras de Diomedes que se dolia del enojo tenaz de la diosa, le movieron à compasion, trayendole à la memoria los contratiempos mismos sufridos de su padre, y de sí proprio. Corrieronle algunas lagrimas a vueltas del dolor, y la alegria, y arrojóse improvisamente sobre Diomedes para abrazarlo.

Yo, le digo, soy hijo de Ulises que conoceis muy bien; el qual, quando tomasteis los caballos del Reso, no os fue compañero inútil de aquella empresa. Los dioses lo han tratado con la misma crueldad que han usado con vos. Si no me engañan los Oráculos del infierno, Ulises vive aun; mas ¡ay de mí! que ya para mí no vive. Partime de mi patria para buscarle, y ahora no puedo volver à ver, ni à él ni à ella. Juzgad de mis desgracias, qué compasion me causan las de los otros. La ventaja que da el ser miserable, es hacer que se tenga compasion del dolor ageno. Aunque soy extrangero en esta tierra, bien puedo; ó gran Diomedes! (así os llamo, porque à despecho de los trabajos que en mi niñez han oprimido à mi patria, no he sido tan mal criado, que no haya tenido noticia de quan célebre hicisteis vuestro nombre en las guerras) bien puedo; ¡ó el mas invencible Griego despues de Aquiles! solicitaros algun socorro. Estos Príncipes, que mirais, son de genio cortes, y comun, que sin la cortesia no puede haber virtud, ni se halla verdadero

ty, something is wanting in their character; they can-
not be examples either of patience or of fortitude;
when virtue suffers, every heart is melted, that is not
insensible to virtue. Entrust, then, your affairs im-
plicitly with us, to whom the gods have given you;
we receive you as a bounty from their hands; and
shall think ourselves happy in the power of alleviating
your distress. »

Diomede, astonished at what he heard, fixed his
eyes upon Telemachus; and feeling himself moved to
the heart, they embraced, as if they had been long
united by the most intimate friendship. « O son of the
wise Ulysses, » said he, « how worthy art thou of
such a father! Thou hast the same sweetness of coun-
tenance, the same graceful elocution, the same force
of eloquence, the same elevation of sentiment, and
the same rectitude of thought! »

The hero was also embraced by Philoctetes: and
they related their unfortunate adventures to each
other: « You would, certainly, » said Philoctetes,
« be glad once more to see Nestor: he has just lost his
last surviving child, Pisistratus; and, to him, this
world is now only a vale of tears, leading to the grave.
Come with me: and comfort him: an unfortunate
friend is more likely than any other, to soothe his
distress. » They went immediately to his tent: but
grief had so much affected both his senses and his un-
derstanding, that he recollected Diomede with diffi-
culty. Diomede, at first, wept with him; and the old
man felt his grief increased by the interview: the pre-
sence of his friend, however, soothed his anguish by
degrees; and it was easy to perceive, that the sense of
his misfortunes was, in some degree, suspended by
the pleasure of relating them, and of hearing what
had befallen Diomede in return.

In the mean time, the assembled princes consulted
with Telemachus, what was proper to be done. Tele-

valor, ni gloria cierta, ni duradera. A mas que á la
reputacion de hombres grandes, se añade un nuevo
lustre con la mala fortuna. Faltales algo, quando
nunca han sido infelices; porque no tienen en su vir-
tud exemplo alguno de paciencia, y constancia. La
virtud desgraciada mueve á piedad á todos quantos
tienen alguna discrecion para conocerla. Dexadnos,
pues, el cuidado de consolárlos. Supuesto que los dios-
es os ponen en nuestras manos, este es un don, que
nos hacen, y debemos tenernos por dichosos; porque
podemos dar algun consuelo á vuestras desgracias.

Maravillado Diómedes, miraba atentamente á Té-
lémaco que hablaba, y se sentía todo enternecer. Abra-
zábanse ambos, como si antes hubieran estado largo
tiempo unidos con estrecho vínculo de amistad. Digno
hijo del sabio Ulises, decia Diómedes, reconozco en
vos aquella apacibilidad, que se descubria en el rostro
de vuestro padre, aquella gracia en el razonar, la
fuerza de su eloqüencia, y la nobleza, y cordura de
sus pensamientos.

En esto Filotetes tambien se adelantó á abrazar el
grande hijo de Tideo. Despues que se contáron uno á
otro sus desgracias, le dixo Filotetes: Persuadome
por cierto, que no os disgustaréis de ver al sabio Nes-
tor. Poco ha que ha perdido á Pisistrato, que era el
último de sus hijos: no le queda ya en esta vida sino
una senda toda de lágrimas, por donde se conduce al
sepulcro. Venid pues: le consolareis, porque no hay
nadie mas á propósito para aliviar sus penas, que un
amigo infeliz. Fueronse luego pues al pavellon de Nes-
tor, el qual apenas pudo reconocer á Diómedes: tan
abatidos estaban de la tristeza el ánimo, y sentidos
del miserable viejo. Al principio Diómedes lloró jun-
tamente con él, y el verse uno á otro fué redoblarse el
dolor; sin embargo se mitigó poco á poco la pena en
el corazon de Nestor con la presencia de un tal amigo,
y vino á conocerse fácilmente, que el placer de contar
las desgracias, que habia padecido, y oír recíproca-
mente á Diómedes referir sus trabajos, daba á sus ma-
les alguna suspension.

Conversaban ellos así, y los Príncipes congregados
examinaban lo que debian obrar. Telémaco aconse-

machus advised them to bestow the country of Arpi upon Diomede, and to give Polydamas to the Daunians for their king. Polydamas was their countryman; a soldier, of whose eminent abilities Adrastus was jealous; and whom, therefore, he would never employ, lest he should share the glory of success, which he wished to secure to himself. Polydamas had often told him, in private, that in a war against united nations, his life, and the public welfare, were too much exposed: and would have persuaded him to treat the neighbouring states with more justice and equity: but men who hate truth, hate those also who are bold enough to speak it; they are not touched, either with their sincerity, their zeal, or their disinterestedness. A deluded prosperity hardened the heart of Adrastus against the counsels of virtue: and the neglect of them, afforded him, every day, a new triumph; for fraud and violence gave him the advantage over all his enemies. The misfortunes which Polydamas predicted did not happen. Adrastus despised the timid prudence which foresaw nothing but difficulty and danger; Polydamas became, at length, insupportable: he was dismissed from all his employments, and left to languish in poverty and solitude.

Polydamas was, at first, overwhelmed with this reverse of fortune: but at length it supplied what was wanting in his character, a sense of the vanity of external greatness. He became wise at his own expence, and rejoiced that he had felt adversity; he learnt, by degrees, to suffer; to live upon little; to regale with tranquillity upon truth; to cultivate the virtues of private life, which are infinitely more estimable than those that glitter in the public eye; and not to depend, for his enjoyments, upon mankind. He dwelt in a desert at the foot of Mount Garganus, where a rock that formed a kind of rude vault, sheltered him from the weather; a river that fell from the mountain, quenched his thirst; and the fruit of some neighbouring trees allayed his hunger. He had two slaves whom he employed to cultivate a small spot of ground; and

jaba, que dieran a Diomedes el pais de Arpi, y eligiesen Rey de los Daunios a uno de la misma nacion, llamado Polidamante. Era este un célebre capitán, de quien receloso Adrasto, no habia querido servirse jamas, temiendo que se atribuyera a un hombre tan valeroso el éxito feliz de una empresa, de la qual esperaba tener solo toda la gloria. Polidamante le habia muchas veces avisado, que exponia sobrado su vida, y el bien de su estado en aquella guerra contra tantas naciones juntas para su daño, y habia querido obligarlo a usar una manera de proceder mas recta, y mas moderada con los pueblos sus confinantes. Pero los que aborrecen la verdad, aborrecen tambien a aquellos que tienen animo para decirla: ni les mueve nada conocer los sinceros, zelosos, y agenos del interes. La prosperidad engañosa endurecia á Adrasto el corazon contra los mas saludables consejos, y sin executarlos, no dexaba de triunfar cada dia de sus contrarios. Hacianlo victorioso siempre la altivez, la mala fé, y la violencia; y jamas sucedian las calamidades, con que por largo tiempo le habia amenazado Polidamante. Burlaba Adrasto de una temerosa prudencia, que siempre pronosticaba desordenes, y desventuras; y no pudiendo tolerarlo mas, despojado de todas las dignidades, lo dexó á padecer soledad, y pobreza.

Quedó Polidamante al principio oprimido de la desgracia; pero dióle ella lo que le faltaba, porque le abrió los ojos para que viera la vanidad de las grandes fortunas. Hizose cuerdo a expensas propias, y alegróse de haber sido infeliz, aprendiendo poco á poco a exercer la paciencia, á vivir parcamente, á alimentar sosegadamente con la verdad su espíritu, á cultivar en sí mismo las interiores virtudes, que son mas apreciables que las publicas, y ruidosas, y finalmente á no necesitar de los hombres. Resolvióse, pues, á morar en un desierto al pie del monte Gárgano, donde le servia de casa el hueco de un peñasco, que formaba la mitad de un arco: templabale la sed un arroyo, que corria de lo alto del monte; y servianle de alimento las frutas de algunos árboles. Tenia dos esclavos, que cultivaban un pequeño campo, y trabajaba él en su compañía.

he assisted them in their work with his own hands. The soil repaid his labour with usury, and he was in want of nothing. He had not only fruit, herbs, and roots, in abundance: but most fragrant flowers of every kind. In this retirement, he deplored the misfortune of those nations, which the mad ambition of their prince pushes on to their ruin. He expected, every day, that the gods, who, though long-suffering are just, would put an end to the tyranny of Adrastus: he thought he perceived that the more the tyrant rose in prosperity, the nearer he approached to destruction: for successful imprudence, and absolute authority in its utmost stretch, are, to kings and kingdoms, the certain forerunners of a fall. Yet when he heard of the defeat and death of Adrastus, he expressed no joy, either in having foreseen his ruin, or in being delivered from his tyranny: he was anxious only for his country, which he feared the conquerors might reduce to a state of slavery.

Such was the man whom Telemachus proposed to give the Daunians for their king. He had been some time acquainted both with his abilities and his virtue; for Telemachus, as he had been advised by Mentor, applied himself, with incessant diligence, to discover the good and bad qualities of all persons who had any considerable trust, whether under the allied princes with whom he served in the war, or among their enemies: and it was one of his principal employments, in every place, to discover and examine men who where distinguished by some singular talent or qualification, wherever they were to be found.

The confederate princes were, at first, something unwilling to bestow the kingdom upon Polydamas « We have learnt, » said they, « by fatal experience, that a king of the Daunians who has a military disposition, and military skill, must be extremely formidable to his neighbours. Polydamas is a great commander, and he may bring us into great danger. » —

Recompensáble con exceso la tierra todo su trabajo, y no le dexaba necesidad de cosa; porque no solamente tenia frutas, y legumbres en abundancia, sino que tenia á mas de esto muchas hermosas flores para el recreo. Lloraba allí la infelicidad de los pueblos á quienes arrastraba á una irreparable ruina la soberbia de un loco Rey: y esperaba de cada dia, que los dioses, aunque sufridos, pero sin embargo justos, precipitáran á Adrasto del auge de la fortuna á una extremada desgracia. Quanto crecia mas la prosperidad de aquel principe, tanto mas se pensaba que fuera irremediable su caida; porque la temeridad, que es dichosa en sus yerros, y el poder que se llega al mas sublime grado de una autoridad absoluta, son precursores de la ruina de los monarcas y de la destruccion de los reynos. Quando llegó la noticia á Polidamante de la derrota, y muerte de Adrasto, no mostró regocijo alguno, ni de haberlas previsto, ni de verse ya libre de un tan cruel tyrano; y suspiró solamente de miedo, de ver que llegarán los Daunos á ser esclavos de sus enemigos.

Este fué, pues, al que propuso Telémaco en el congreso para elegirle Rey. Hacía ya algun tiempo, que le eran bien conocidos el valor, y esfuerzo de Polidamante; porque segun los consejos de Mentor, no omitia tomar informes de las buenas, y malas calidades de qualquiera persona, que tuviera empleo, que mereciese alguna atencion, no solo entre las naciones confederadas, que militaban en aquella guerra, sino tambien entre los enemigos mismos. Su principal cuidado era descubrir, y buscar diligentemente por todas partes los hombres que tenian algun talento, ó relevante, y singular virtud.

Al principio tuvieron alguna repugnancia los Príncipes coligados en elevar á la dignidad Real á Polidamante. Hemos experimentado, decian, quan formidable sea á sus vecinos un Rey de los Daunos inclinado á la guerra, y que la sepa hacer. Este que proponéis, es un gran capitan, y nos puede meter en muchos graves riesgos. Confieso, respondió Telémaco, que Polidamante sabe hacer la guerra, sin embargo es amante

« It is true, » said Telemachus, « that Polydamas is acquainted with war, but it is also true, that he is a lover of peace; which, together, make the very character that our interest requires. A man who has experienced the difficulties, the dangers, and the calamities of war, is much better qualified to avoid them, than he that knows them only by report; Polydamas has learnt to relish, and to value, the blessings of tranquillity; he always condemned the enterprizes of Adrastus, and foresaw the ruin in which they would terminate. You will have much more to fear from a weak prince, without knowledge, and without experience, than from one who sees all with his own eye, and determines all by his own will. The weak and ignorant prince will see all things with the eyes of another; either of some capricious favourite, or some flattering, turbulent, and ambitious minister; he will therefore be engaged in a war without intending it: and you can certainly have no dependance upon him who acts implicitly by the direction of others; there can be no hope that his promises will be kept: and you will, in a short time, have no alternative but to destroy him, or suffer yourselves to be destroyed by him. Is it not, therefore more advantageous, more safe, and at the same time more just and more generous, faithfully to fulfil the trust which the Daunians have placed in you, and give them a king that is worthy of dominion? »

All scruples being entirely removed by this discourse, Polydamas was immediately proposed to the Daunians, who waited the determination of the assembly with great impatience. As soon as they heard the name of Polydamas, they answered, « The allies have now proved the sincerity of their intentions, and given us a pledge of perpetual peace; by proposing a man of such virtue and abilities for our king: if they had proposed a man without spirit, without virtue, without knowledge, we should have concluded, that they designed only to make us weak and contemptible, by rendering our government corrupt; a cruel subtilty, which we could not have seen practised against us without a secret but strong resentment! The choice of Po-

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de la paz; estas son las dos cosas que se han de desear. Un hombre, que conoce las desgracias y riesgos, y las dificultades de la guerra, estará harto mas dispuesto á evitarla, que no estaría quien no tuviera de ella experiencia alguna. Polidamante ha aprendido á gustar la felicidad de una vida pacífica, ha reprobado las injustas resoluciones de Adrasto, y ha previsto sus consecuencias fatales. Mas habeis de temer á un Príncipe débil, é ignorante, que á un hombre, que sabrá conocer las cosas, y que por sí á todas dará de todas la decision. El Príncipe floxo, é ignorante nada verá, sino con los ojos de un favorecido, tyranizado de las pasiones, ó de un ministro adulator, inquieto y ambicioso; así sin querer hacer guerra, se empeñará ciegamente en ella, y no podréis jamas fiar en él, porque él no podrá jamas fiar de sí. No os guardará las promesas, y os reducirá muy presto á una extremidad terrible, de donde será preciso, ó que le hagais perecer, ó que seáis de el oprimidos. ¿No es por ventura cosa mas provechosa, mas segura, y al mismo tiempo mas justa, y mas noble, condescender facilmente á la buena opinion, que tienen de nosotros los Daunios, y concederles un Rey, que sea digno del mando?

Quedó todo el congreso persuadido de este discurso; y se envió luego á proponer á Polidamante por Rey á aquellos que estaban impacientes esperando respuesta. Quando los Daunios oyeron el nombre de Polidamante: Ahora conocemos bien, exclamaron, que los Príncipes aliados quieren tratar con nosotros con buena fé, y establecer una buena paz; pues quieren darnos por Rey á un hombre tan virtuoso, tan hábil para gobernarlos. Si nos hubieran propuesto un hombre desvalido, afeminado, y mal instruido, creyéramos, que no se buscaba sino oprimirnos, y adularnos las reglas de nuestro gobierno; y hubiéramos guardado secretamente en el ánimo una memoria de un proceder tan cruel y engañoso. Pero la eleccion de Polida-

Iydamas indeed, is a proof of nobler principles; for, as the allies have given us a king, who is incapable of doing any thing inconsistent with the liberty and honour of our state, it is manifest that they expect nothing which can either degrade or oppress us; and on our part, we take the gods to witness, that if the rivers return not back to their sources, we will not cease to love those who have treated us with so noble a beneficence. May our latest posterity remember the benefits which have this day been conferred upon us; and renew, from generation to generation, the peace of the golden age of Hesperia, till time shall be no more!»

Telemachus then proposed to the Daunians, that the plains of Arpi should be given to Diomedes, for the settlement of a colony: «You will lay this new people,» said he, «under an obligation without expence. You do not occupy the country in which they will settle; yet they will be indebted for their settlement there to you. Remember that all men should be united by the bands of love: that the earth is of an extent much larger than they can fill; that it is necessary to have neighbours; and eligible to have such neighbours as are obliged to you for their settlement: nor should you be insensible to the misfortunes of a prince, to whom his native country is interdicted for ever. An union between him and Polydamas will be immediately formed, upon mutual principles of rectitude and benevolence, the only principles upon which any union can be lasting; you will therefore secure all the blessings of peace to yourselves; and become so formidable to all the neighbouring states, that none of them will attempt the acquisition of greatness and power, that would be dangerous to the rest. As we have given to your country and people, a king that will procure to both the highest degree of prosperity and honour; let your liberality, at our request, bestow a country that you do not cultivate, upon a king who has an indubitable claim to your assistance.»

The Daunians answered, that they could refuse nothing to Telemachus, who had given them Polydamas for a king; and they went immediately to seek him in his desert, that they might place him upon the

monte nos muestra una verdadera abertura de corazón, y ciertamente que los aliados no aguardan de nosotros cosas, que no sean mas nobles, y justificadas; pues nos otorgan un Rey, no ménos incapaz de obrar cosa que se oponga á nuestra libertad, que á nuestra gloria. Podemos así protestar delante de los dioses, que cesarán los rios ácia sus fuentes, primero que dexemos de amar á un pueblo tan benéfico. Quiera el cielo que nuestros últimos nietos se acuerden del beneficio que recibimos hoy dia, y que renueven en toda Hesperia el siglo hermoso de oro, con la paz sucesiva de generacion en generacion.

Propuso despues Telémaco á los Daunos, que dieran á Diomedes las campañas de Arpi, para fundar en ellas una colonia. Esta nueva gente, les dixo, os deberá el haberse establecido en un pays, que no habitais vosotros. Acordaos, que todos los hombres se deben amar mutuamente: que les sobra la tierra: que es menester tener algun vecino, y que es mejor tener por confluantes á los que estan obligados por haber hallado un abrigo en donde asegurarse. Moveos á compasion de la desgracia de un Rey, que no puede volver á su país. Unidos Polidamante, y Diomedes con los lazos de la justicia, y virtud, que son los que solo duran, os mantendrán una quietísima paz, y os harán formidables á los pueblos circunvecinos, que intentarán ensancharse. Bien veis, ó Daunos, que hemos dado á vuestra nacion un Rey capaz de levantar vuestra gloria hasta las estrellas: dad, pues, tambien vosotros, pues nosotros os lo pedimos, un territorio, que no os sirve de nada á un Rey, que es digno de qualquier favor.

Respondieron los Daunos, que no podian negar cosa á Telémaco, pues se habia él empleado en recabar que se les diese Rey; luego se encaminaron á buscar á Polidamante en su desierto, para hacerle admi-

throne. First, however, they granted the fertile plains of Arpi to Diomedes, for a new kingdom; and their bounty to him was extremely pleasing to the allies; because this colony of Greeks would powerfully assist them to repress the Daunians, in any future attempt to make encroachments upon the neighbouring states, of which Adrastus had given them so pernicious an example.

All the purposes of the alliance being now accomplished, the princes drew off their forces in separate bodies; and Telemachus departed with his Cretans, having first tenderly embraced his noble friend Diomedes; then Nestor, still inconsolable for the loss of his son, and last Philoctetes, who possessed and deserved the arrows of Hercules.

END OF THE TWENTY-FIRST BOOK.

tir el cargo de gobernarlos. Primero que partieran, diéron á Diomedes las fértiles llanuras de Arpi, para que en ellas pudiera echar los fundamentos de un nuevo Reyno. Tuviéron de esto los coligados sumo contento; porque aquella colonia Griega daba notables fuerzas á su faccion, si quisieran los Daunos renovar sus usurpaciones, cuyo mal exemplo habian recibido de Adrasto.

Todos los Príncipes no pensaron sino en separarse. Despues de haber Telémaco tiernamente abrazado al valeroso Diomedes, al sabio, é inconsolable Nestor, y al célebre Filotetes, digno heredero de las flechas de Hercules, se partió con las lágrimas en los ojos en compañía de las milicias Creteuses.

FIN DEL LIBRO VIGESIMO-PRIMO.