

stranger, of whom we have no knowledge. It is said, that his name is Cleomenes; that he is a native of Phrygia; and that, before his birth, it was declared, by an oracle, to his mother, that, if he quitted his country, he should be a king; but that, if he continued in it, the gods would denounce their anger against the Phrygians by a pestilence. « He was, therefore, delivered to some sailors, by his parents, as soon as he was born, who conveyed him to the island of Lesbos, where he was privately educated at the expence of his country, which had so great an interest in keeping him at a distance. As he increased in stature, his person became, at once, comely and robust; and he excelled in hall exercises, that render the body agile and strong: he also applied, with great genius and taste, to science, and the polite arts; but no people would suffer him to continue among them. The prediction of the oracle concerning him, became generally known, and he was soon discovered wherever he went: kings were every where jealous, lest he should supplant them in the throne; and thus, he became a fugitive from his youth, wandering about from country to country, without finding any place in which he might be allowed to remain. He has visited nations very remote from his own, but the secret of his birth, and the oracle concerning him, is discovered as soon as he arrives. He endeavours to conceal himself, wherever he comes, by entering into some obscure class of life; but he is soon discovered, by his superior talents for war, literature, and government, which break out with irresistible splendor, notwithstanding his efforts to repress them. In every country, he is surprised into the exertion of his abilities, by some unforeseen occasion; and these, at once, make him known to the public. His merit is his misfortune; for this, he is feared wherever he is known, and excluded from every country where he would reside: it is his destiny, to be every where esteemed, beloved, and admired; and to be excluded from all civil societies upon earth. « He is now advanced in years; and yet he has not hitherto been able to find any district, either of Asia or Greece,

antes de su nacimiento, que el llegaría á ser Rey, con tal que no quedase en su patria; y que, de lo contrario resultaría una cruel peste enviada por los dioses enojados contra los Frigios. Quando nació, sus padres le dieron á unos marineros que le llevaron á la isla de Lesbos. Allí le criaron secretamente á expensas de su patria, que tenia tanto interes en mantenerle apartado. El en poco tiempo adquirió estatura grande, robustez, agrado, y destreza en todos los exercicios del cuerpo: se dedicó aun con mucho gusto y talento á las ciencias y bellas artes: pero en ningun país le pudieron sufrir. Se hizo celebre el oraculo que habia profetizado de él: le conocieron en todos los payses á que llegó: en qualquier parte temian los Reyes que les quitase sus diademas. Asi anda el errando desde su juventud, y no puede hallar lugar alguno en el mundo donde pueda parar en libertad. El pasó muchas veces á pueblos muy distantes del suyo; pero apenas ha llegado á una ciudad, quando descubren allí su nacimiento y el oraculo que le toca. Por mas que el se esconda escogiendo en cada lugar algun género de vida obscura: siempre brillan sus talentos, á lo que dicen, á pesar suyo, sea para la guerra, sea para las letras, sea, para los negocios mas importantes; se presenta siempre en qualquier país alguna ocasion no prevista que le arrastra y le hace conocer del publico. Su merito es lo que hace su desgracia, haciendole temer, y echar de todos los países en donde quiere habitar. Es su destino el ser estimado, querido, admirado en todas partes; pero rechazado de todas las tierras conuocidas. Ya no es joven, y sin embargo no ha podido hallar todavia ninguna costa, ni en Asia ni en Grecia, en la qual se le haya querido dexar vivir con alguna quietud. Parece que el no tiene ambicion, ni busca fortuna alguna: demasiado feliz sería si jamas el oraculo le hubiese prometido el ser Rey. No le queda ninguna esperanza de volver á ver nunca su patria: pues sabe que no haria otra cosa que llenar de tristeza y lágrimas todas las familias. La misma corona, motivo de sus desgracias, no le parece deseable; tras ella corre, á pesar suyo, de un Reyno á otro, y ella parece que huye delante de el para burlarse del infeliz hasta su

where he may be permitted to live in unmolested obscurity. He appears to be wholly without ambition, and to desire neither honour nor riches, and if the oracle had not promised him royalty, he would think himself the happiest of mankind. He indulges no hope of returning to his native country; for he knows, that to return thither, would be to give up every family to mourning and tears. Even royalty itself, for which he suffers, is not desirable in his opinion: he is fulfilling the condition upon which it is to be acquired, in spite of himself; and impelled by an unhappy fatality, he pursues it from kingdom to kingdom, while it flies like a splendid illusion before him, as it were, to sport with his distress, and continue an idle chase, till life itself shall have lost its value with its use. How fatal a gift is reserved for him by the gods! How has it embittered those hours, which youth would have devoted to joy! and how has it aggravated the infirmities of age, when the only felicity of wearied nature is rest! « He is now going, » continued the old mariner, « to Thrace, in search of some rude and lawless savages, whom he may collect into a society, civilize, and govern for a certain time; that thus, having accomplished the oracle, the most flourishing state may admit him without fear. If he succeeds in this design, he will immediately retire to a village in Caria; and apply himself wholly to his favourite employment, agriculture. He is a wise man, his desires are moderate, he fears the gods, and he knows mankind; and though he does not think them worthy of esteem, can live peaceably among them. Such is the account that I have heard of the stranger, after whom you enquire.»

Telemachus, while he was attending to this narrative, often turned his eyes towards the sea, which began to be troubled: the wind now swelled the surface into waves, which, breaking against the rocks, whitened them with foam. The man observed it; and turning hastily to Telemachus, « I must be gone, » said he, « or my companions will sail without me. » He then ran towards the vessel, the mariners hurried on board, and a confused clamour echoed along the shores.

vejez: ; Funesto don de los dioses que atormenta sus dias mas hermosos, y no le causa sino trabajos, en la edad en que desvalido el hombre no necesita sino descansar! El se va, segun dice, á buscar hacia la Tracia algun pueblo salvaje y sin leyes á quien pueda juntar, civilizar y gobernar durante algunos años; los cuales acabandose, y cumplido lo que profetizó el oraculo, ya no tendran que temerle en los reynos mas florecientes; piensa entonces retirarse á una aldea de Caria, donde se dedicará á la agricultura, á que es apasionado en extremo. Es hombre sabio y moderado, que teme á los dioses, conoce bien á los hombres, y sabe vivir en paz con ellos, aunque no los aprecie. Hé aqui lo que cuentan de este extrangero de quien quereis que os dé noticias.

Durante esta conversacion, Telemaco volvía á mé- nudo los ojos hacia la mar, que empezaba á agitarse. El viento levantaba las olas que venian á herir los pe- ñascos, blanqueandolos con su espuma. En este mo- mento, dixo el anciano á Telémaco: es menester que yo me marche: mis compañeros no me pueden espe- rar mas. Diciendo estas palabras, corrió á la orilla de la mar: se embarcan; ya no se oyen en la rivera sino confusos gritos de los marineros impacientes de salir.

The stranger, whom they called Cleomenes, had wandered about in the middle of the island; and, climbing to the summit of many of the rocks, had eyed the boundless diffusion of waters around him, with a fixed and mournful attention. Telemachus had still kept sight of him, and remarked him in every situation; nor with an idle curiosity, for his heart melted with compassion, for a man, who, though virtuous, was wretched and a fugitive; formed for great achievements, yet condemned to be the sport of fortune, and a stranger to his country. « I, » said he to himself, « may, perhaps, once more see Ithaca, but the return of this Cleomenes to Phrygia is impossible. » Thus Telemachus received comfort, from contemplating the misery of a man more wretched than himself. The stranger no sooner perceived his vessel ready to sail, than he rushed down the craggy sides of the rock, with as much agility and speed as Apollo bounds from precipice to precipice, in the forests of Lycia, when, with his silver hair gathered in a knot behind him, he pursues the stags and the boars, that fly from the terrors of his bow in vain.

When the stranger was on board, and his vessel, dividing the waves, became gradually more distant from the shore, the heart of Telemachus died within him: he felt the keenest affliction without knowing the cause; the tears flowed unbidden from his eyes, and he found nothing so pleasing as to weep. In the mean time, the mariners of Salentum, overcome with fatigue, were stretched upon the grass near the beach in a profound sleep. A sweet insensibility was diffused through every nerve; and the secret but powerful influence of Minerva had, in full day, scattered over them the dewy poppies of the night. Telemachus was astonished to see the Salentines thus resign themselves to sleep, while the Phæacians, ever active and vigilant, had improved the gale: yet he was more intent upon watching their vessel, which was now fading from his sight in the horizon, that upon recalling his mariners to their duty. A secret and irresistible sense of astonishment and concern kept his eyes fixed upon the bark that had left the island, and of which the

Aquel incógnito, que llamaban Cleomenes, había ido vagueando acá, y allá por la isla, subiéndose á la cumbre de cada uno de aquellos grandes peñascos, y considerando de allí el espacio inmenso del mar con profundidad melancólica. No lo había Telémaco perdido de vista, y no dexaba de observarle todos sus pasos. Se enternecía su corazón al ver un hombre virtuoso, errante, desdichado, destinado á las cosas mas grandes, y sirviendo de juguete á una rigurosa fortuna, lejos de su patria. A lo menos, se decia el á si mismo, quiza volveré á ver á Itaca: pero aquel Cleomenes no verá jamas la Frigia. Se disminuía la pena de Telémaco con el exemplo de un hombre todavía mas desdichado que el. Finalmente el incógnito, viendo á punto su nave, baxo con tanta presteza y agilidad de aquellos escabrosos precipicios, con quanta Apolo en las selvas de Licia, llevando sus rubios cabellos con galantería anudados, corre al través de los despeñaderos, para ir á atravesar con sus flechas los jabalies y los ciervos. Ya esta el incógnito en la nave, que va hendiendo el cristal espumoso, y alejándose de la tierra.

Entonces un cierto interno dolor ocupó el corazón de Telémaco, que se afligia, sin saber por qué: cayéronle las lágrimas de los ojos, y no encontraba cosa de tanto gusto como llorar. Vió al mismo tiempo sobre la playa todos los marineros de Salento tendidos en la yerba, y profundamente dormidos. Estaban cansados, y oprimidos de la fatiga: habiase introducido en sus miembros el apacible sueño, y tenia el poder de Minerva atados los sentidos en lo lleno del dia. Quedó maravillado Telémaco al ver aquella tan universal soñolencia en los Salentinos, mientras que los Feacios habian sido tan diligentes en valerse del viento favorable, que respiraba: estaba sin embargo mucho mas ocupado en mirar al baxel Feacio, que en medio de la mar iba ya á desaparecer de sus ojos, que no en procurar que los Salentinos despertaran. Una no sé qué secreta violencia lo constreñia á tener vuelta la vista ácia aquel baxel ya partido, de quien ya no veia sino las velas, que blanqueaban algo sobre el azul del mar. El no atendia á mas, ni aun á Mentor, que le

sails only could be seen, which, by their whiteness, were just distinguished from the azure of the sea. Mentor called to him; but he was deaf to the voice; his faculties seemed to be suspended, as in a trance; and he had no more the possession of himself, than the frantic votaries of Bacchus, when, grasping the thyrsis in their hands, the ravings of their frenzy are re-echoed from the banks of the Hebrus, and the rude acclivities of Ismarus and Rhodope.

At length, however, the fascination was suspended; and, recovering his recollection, he again melted into tears. « I do not wonder, » said Mentor, « my dear Telemachus, to see you weep; for the cause of your trouble, though to you a secret, is known to me. Nature is the divinity that speaks within you; it is her influence that you feel; and, at her touch, your heart has melted. A stranger has filled your breast with emotion: that stranger is the great Ulysses. What the Phæacian has told you concerning him, under the name of Cleomenes, is nothing more than a fiction, invented more effectually to conceal his return to Ithaca, whither he is now going; he is already near the port; and the scenes, so long desired, are at length given to his view. You have seen him, as it was once foretold you, but have not known him: the time is at hand, when you shall see him again; when you shall know him, and be known by him; but the gods would permit this only in Ithaca. His heart did not suffer less emotion than yours: but he is too wise to trust any man with his secret, while it might expose him to the treachery and insults of the pretenders to Penelope. Your father Ulysses is the wisest of mankind; his heart is an unfathomable depth; his secret lies beyond the line of subtilty and fraud: he is the friend of truth, he says nothing that is false; but, when it is necessary, he conceals what is true: his wisdom is, as it were, a seal upon his lips, which is never broken, but for an important purpose: he saw you, he spoke to you, yet he concealed himself from you: what a conflict must he have sustained, what anguish must he have felt! Who can wonder at his dejection and sorrow! » During this discourse, Telemachus stood fixed in

hablaba; y estaba transportado fuera de sí mismo, á manera de las Bacantes, quando corriendo con el Tirso en la mano, llenan de alaridos todas las orillas del Ebro, y hacen retumbar al Ismaro, y al Ródope con sus desatinados gritos.

Vuelto en sí finalmente un poco de esta especie de encanto, comenzó de nuevo á llorar, y entonces Mentor le dixo: No me asombro al veros llorar, mi querido Telémaco: la ocasion de vuestro dolor, que se os oculta, no se esconde á Mentor; y la naturaleza, que habla, y que se hace entender de semejante modo, es la que aviva en vuestro corazon tales sentimientos de ternura. El incógnito por quien os sentís conmovido tan vivamente, es el grande Ulises: lo que os contó de el un anciano Feaco no es sino una ficcion inventada para ocultar con mas seguridad la vuelta de vuestro padre á su Reyno, Ulises va de vuelta á la patria, y no está ya muy léjos del puerto, y vuelve al cabo á ver aquellos sitios tan largamente deseados. Vos lo visteis sin conocerlo, como se os predixo en otro tiempo; pero dentro de poco tiempo lo podréis ver y conocer, y ser de él igualmente conocido. Ahora no podian los dioses permitir fuera de Itaca vuestro mutuo reconocimiento. No se ha enternecido su corazon ménos que el vuestro; pero es Ulises demasiado sabio, para manifestarse á ninguno, en un sitio en donde los amantes de Penélope hubieran podido tal vez ponerle asechanzas, ó prevenirlo con algun insulto. Vuestro padre es el hombre mas sabio de quantos hay: su corazon es como un pozo profundo, y no puede sacársele secreto alguno. Ama la verdad, y no miente jamas: pero tampoco dice la verdad, sino quando la necesidad lo requiere; y la prudencia, como fiel candado, le tiene siempre cerrada la boca á todas las palabras inútiles. ¡ Quantas veces hablandoo, se ha interiormente conmovido! ¡ Qué no ha sufrido en veros! Esto es lo que hacia tan melancólico, y afligido. Con este razonamiento, enternecido Telémaco, y turbado, no podia

astonishment, and at length burst into tears: his wonder was mingled with the tenderest and deepest distress; and it was long before the sighs, that struggled in his bosom, would permit a reply. At length he cried out, « O my dear Mentor! there was, indeed, in this stranger something that controlled all my heart; something that attracted and melted me: a powerful influence without a name! But, if you knew him, why did you not tell me, before he departed, that he was Ulysses? and why did you not speak to him yourself, and acquaint him that he was not concealed from you? What do these mysteries conceal? It is, that I shall be wretched for ever! Will the gods, in the iranger, doom me to the torments of Tantalus, whose burning lips a delusive stream approaches for ever, and for ever flies! O my father, hast thou escaped me for ever! perhaps I shall see thee no more! perhaps the suitors of Penelope may take thee in the snares which they spread for me! O had I followed thee; then, if life had been denied us, we might at least have died together! O Ulysses, Ulysses, if thou shalt escape another shipwreck, which, from the persevering malice of fortune, there is reason to doubt; I fear, lest thou shouldst meet at Ithaca, as disastrous a fate as Agamemnon at Mycene. But wherefore, O my dear Mentor, did you envy my good fortune? Why have I not already embraced my father? Why am I not now with him, in the port of Ithaca? Why not fighting at his side, and exulting in the destruction of his enemies? »

« Let me now, my dear Telemachus, » said Mentor, with a smile, « shew thee to thyself; and thus acquaint thee with the weakness of mankind. To-day you are inconsolable, because you have seen your father without knowing him; but what would you have given, yesterday, to know that he was not dead! To-day your own eyes assure you that he lives, and this assurance, which should transport you with joy, overwhelms you with distress. Thus do man-  
tener

tener á rienda las lágrimas, que se le desprendian de los ojos como un torrente, y sus repetidos sollozos le impidieron hasta el responder; pero al cabo gritó: Bien percibía yo, querido Mentor mio, en ese incógnito no sé qué cosa, que me forzaba á amarlo, y que conmovía todas mis entrañas. ¿ Pero ya que lo conozcais, porqué no me habeis dicho, que era Ulises, ántes que se partiera? ¿ Por qué le habeis dexado partir, sin hablarle, ni mostrar conocerlo? ¿ Qué misterio es este? ¿ Luego quieren los dioses indignados, que yo sea siempre infeliz, y tenerme, à manera de Tántalo, sediento, y engañado de la laguna, que tiene cerca, y huye de sus labios! Ulises, Ulises, temo haberos perdido para siempre. por ventura no tendré el consuelo de veros mas; tal vez los amantes de Penélope os harán caer en las asechanzas dispuestas contra mí. Si os hubiera por lo ménos seguido, me moria con vos. Ulises, Ulises, quando las tempestades no os arrojen á romper otra vez en algun peñasco, pues debo temer todo mal de la fortuna enemiga, tengo gran miedo de que llegueis á Itaca con tan funesta suerte, como Agamenon á Micenas. ¿ Mas por qué me habeis envidiado, mi querido Mentor, esta mi buena fortuna? Ahora le estrecharia entre mis brazos; ya estaria en el puerto de Itaca, juntamente con él; y uno, y otro pelearíamos para alcanzar la victoria de nuestros enemigos,

Mentor le respondió sonriendose: veis, querido Telémaco, lo que son los hombres: os hallais desconsolado del todo, porque habeis visto á vuestro padre sin conocerle. ¿ Que no hubierais dado ayer para saber de cierto que el no habia muerto? Hoy lo habeis verificado con vuestros ojos mismos; y esta certidumbre que debia colmaros de gozo, os dexa en la amargura. Asi el corazon enfermo de los mortales no hace cuenta de lo que mas ha deseado, una vez que lo posee; y

kind, by the perverse depravity of their nature, esteem that which they have most desired as of no value the moment it is possessed; and torment themselves, with fruitless wishes, for that which is beyond their reach.

It is to exercise your patience that the gods thus hold you in suspense. You consider this time as lost, but be assured that it is, more than any other, improved. The distress which you now suffer, will exercise you in the practice of that virtue which is of more importance than all others, to those who are born to command. Without patience, you can be master neither of others nor yourself. Impatience, which appears to be the force and vigour of the soul, is, indeed, a weakness; the want of fortitude to suffer pain. He that knows not how to wait for good, and to endure evil, is subject to the same imbecility, as he that cannot keep a secret; they both want power to restrain the first impulse of the mind; and resembles a charioteer, whose hand has not strength to restrain his impatient coursers, in their headlong speed; they disdain the bridle, they rush forward with ungoverned fury, the chariot is overturned, and the feeble driver is crushed under the wheels.

An impatient man is thus precipitated to ruin, by the violence of impetuous and ungoverned desire. The more elevated his station, the more fatal his impatience: he waits for nothing, he despises deliberation, and takes all things, as it were, by storm; every enjoyment is a violence and an injury; he breaks down the branches, to gather the fruit before it is ripe; he forces the door, rather than wait till it is opened; and resolves to reap, when the prudent husbandman would sow: all his actions are precipitate, and out of season; all that he does, therefore, is done amiss, and must be futile and transient as his own desires. Such are the extravagant projects of a man, who vainly imagines that he can do all things; and abandon himself to every impatient wish, that prompts him to abuse his power. Your patience is thus tried, my dear Telemachus, that you may learn to be patient; and,

tiene habilidad para atormentarse relativamente á lo que todavia no ha alcanzado.

Los dioses os mantienen en esa perplexidad, para ejercicio de vuestro sufrimiento. Considerais este tiempo como perdido; pero sabed, que es el mejor empleado de toda vuestra vida, porque os exercita en la mas necesaria virtud de todas á los que deben mandar. Importa ser sufrido para llegar á ser dueño, así de sí mismo, como de los otros: la impaciencia, que parece esfuerzo y vigor, es flaqueza de ánimo. Quien no sabe esperar y sufrir, parece al que no sabe callar un secreto; y uno, y otro estan faltos de brio para contenerse. Como un hombre que corre velozmente en un carro, y no tiene la mano harto firme para detener, quando importa, los impetuosos brutos, conoce al fin, que no obedecen al freno, y van á precipitarse, y el carretero débil, de cuya mano escapan, queda quebrantado, cayendo; así un impaciente es arrastrado á un abysmo de miserias de sus indomitos; y feroces deseos, quanto su poder es mayor, tanto le es mas funesta su impaciencia. No puede tolerar que se interponga alguna tardanza á la consecucion de lo que desea; no se permite tiempo de ponderar las cosas; usa de la violencia para satisfacerse; rompe las ramas para coger el fruto ántes que se madure; despedaza las puertas mas presto que se le abran de voluntad; quiere segar quando el labrador cuerdo no atiende á otro, que á hacer su sementera: en suma, es mal executado quanto él obra de priesa, ni puede tener larga duracion, como no la pueden tener sus deseos volubles, é inconstantes. Tales son los designios desatinados de un hombre, que se imagina poderlo todo, y se abandona á las propias pasiones, por abusar de su poder. Los dioses, amado Telémaco mío, exercitan vuestra paciencia de esa manera y se burlan de vos, al parecer, con la vida errante que pasais en medio de la incertidumbre, porque aprendais á ser sufrido. Los bienes, que esperais, se os ponen delante de los ojos; pero luego se desvanecen, como ligero sueño, que desá

for this cause, the gods have given you up to the caprice of fortune, and suffered you to be still a wanderer, to whom all things are uncertain. Every object of your hope hast just appeared and vanished, like the fleeting images of a dream when the slumbers of the night are past, to apprize you, that the blessings which we imagine to be within our grasp, elude us, and disappear in a moment. The best precepts of the wise Ulysses would instruct you less than his absence, and the sufferings which, while you sought him, you have endured.»

Mentor then determined to bring the patience of Telemachus to another trial, yet more severe than any that were past, at the moment, therefore, when the young hero was urging the mariners to set sail without delay, Mentor suddenly stopped him, and proposed that they should offer a solemn sacrifice to Minerva upon the beach. Telemachus consented, without remonstrance or complaint; two altars of turf were immediately prepared, the incense smoked, and the blood of the victims was shed: the youth looked up to heaven, with a sigh of tenderness and devotion; and acknowledged the powerful protection of the goddess.

As soon as the sacrifice was ended, he followed Mentor into the darkest recess of a neighbouring wood; and here he suddenly perceived the countenance of his friend assume a new form; the wrinkles disappeared, as the shadows of the night vanish when the rosy fingers of Aurora throw back the portals of the east, and kindle the horizon with the beams of day; his eyes, which were keen and hollow, changed to a celestial blue, and sparkled with divine radiance; his beard, grised and neglected, totally vanished; and the sight of Telemachus was dazzled by new features, which were, at once, mild and awful, lovely and majestic. He beheld the countenance of a woman, soft and delicate as the leaves of a flower just opening to the sun, and blooming with the tints both of the lily and the rose; it was distinguished by the ineffable beauty of eternal youth, and the easy dignity of familiar greatness: her flowing hair impregnated the gale

parece al despertar, para mostraros, que las mismas cosas que creen los hombres tener en las manos, se les escapan de ellas en un momento. Los documentos mas cuerdos, que os dará Ulises, no os ocasionaran tanto provecho, quanto su larga ausencia, y los trabajos que padeceis en buscarlo.

Despues quiso Mentor por ultimo acrisolar la paciencia de Telémaco por un medio todavia mas fuerte. En el mismo instante en que iba el joven con el mas vivo ardor á excitar á los marineros á que apresurasen la marcha, Mentor le detubo subitamente, y le convidó á hacer sobre la rivera un sacrificio solemne á Minerva. Hace con docilidad Telemaco lo que Mentor quiere. Se levantan dos altares de cespedes: humea el incienso, y corre la sangre de las victimas. Suspira tiernamente Telemaco mirando al cielo, y conoce la poderosa proteccion de la diosa.

Apenas se acabó el sacrificio, quando sigue á Mentor por las sombrías sendas de un bosquecito inmediato. Allí repara de improviso, que el rostro de Mentor tomaba una nueva figura. Huian de su frente las arrugas, como se desvanecen las sombras, quando apareciendo en Oriente la aurora, hace bermejejar todo el Orizonte en contorno; los ojos, hundidos ántes, y severos, se trocaron en azules, de un hermoso color celeste, y centelleantes, con divina luz; desapareció la barba entrecana, y desaliñada; y apareció un semblante noble y soberano, mezclado de dulzura y gentileza, á la vista del desalumbrado Telémaco. Vió entónces el hijo de Ulises un rostro de muger, harto mas brillante, y mas terso que una flor, que poco ántes se desabrochó al sol. Reparábasele en la cara la blancura de la azucena esmaltada con el carmin de la rosa recién nacida; y florecia en ella, junta con una magestad llana, y sin afectacion, una juventud dura.

with ambrosial odours; and her robes shone with a various and vivid splendor, like the clouds of heaven, which the sun diversifies and irradiates with his earliest light. The divinity was no longer supported by the earth, but reclined upon the air, in which she floated like a bird in its flight: in her hand was the shining lance, at which nations tremble, and Mars himself becomes sensible to fear: her voice was sweet and placid, but penetrating and strong; her words pierced the heart of Telemachus, like shafts of fire, and thrilled him with a kind of delicious pain: upon her helmet appeared the solitary bird of Athens; and her dreadful ægis glittered upon her breast. By these characteristics, Telemachus knew that he beheld Minerva.

« And is it thou thyself, » said he, « O goddess! who, for the love that thou bearest to Ulysses, has vouchsafed guidance and protection to his son! » He would have said more, but his voice failed him; and the thoughts that rushed, with impetuous tumult, from his heart, his tongue laboured to express in vain: he was overwhelmed by the presence of the divinity, like a man who is oppressed, to the loss of breath, in a dream, and who, although agonized with an effort to speak, can articulate nothing.

At length the goddess addressed him in these words: « Hear me, O son of Ulysses, for the last time! I have hitherto favoured no mortal with such instructions as I have vouchsafed to thee. In countries unknown, in shipwreck, in battle, in every situation of danger and distress, by which the heart of man can be tried, I have been thy protection. For thee I have illustrated, by experiment, all maxims of government, both false and true, and I have improved, not thy misfortunes only, but even thy faults, into wisdom. Who can govern, that has never

dera, é inmortal. De su melena undosa se difundia el olor fragante de la ambrosia; resplandecian en su ropage aquellos hermosos colores de que matiza el cielo el sol, quando amanece, y le halla aun ocupado de las obscuras sombras de la noche, y de las nubes, que llega él á dorar con sus rayos. No tocaba la diosa con sus pies la tierra, sino que discurría por el ayre ligeramente, como una ave: empuñaba con su poderosa diestra una lanza resplandeciente, que era bastante para hacer estremecer las ciudades, y naciones mas belicosas, y hubiera puesto espanto al mismo Marte. Su voz era dulce y templada; mas fuerte, y penetrante: todas sus palabras eran saetas de fuego, que atravesaban el corazon de Telémaco, y le hacian experimentar no se qué apacible dolor, y delicioso. Vefase encima del yelmo la triste ave de Atenas, y le centelleaba en el pecho la horrible Egide. Con estas señas Telémaco la reconoció por Minerva.

Luego vos sois, dixo, ó gran diosa, la que por amor de Ulises se ha dignado de servir de guia á su hijo. Quería proseguir, pero le faltaron palabras, y en vano se esforzaban sus labios á expresar aquellos conceptos, que impetuosamente iban á salir de la boca, y de lo profundo del corazón. Oprimiale la presencia de la diosa, y parecia á un hombre, que queda en un sueño angustiado de tal manera, que pierde hasta la respiracion; y moviendo los labios con gran trabajo, no puede sin embargo articular acento.

Finalmente Minerva le dixo de esta suerte: Escúchadme por último, Telémaco: nunca yo he doctinado á algun hombre con tanto cuidado, quanto he aplicado ácia vos: os he por la mano llevado al traves de espantosos naufragios, de desconocidos paises, de sangrientas batallas, y de todos los males, que pueden hacer prueba del valor de un hombre; y os he mostrado con experiencias sensibles las verdaderas, y falsas máximas, con que se puede reynar. Los yerros, que habeis cometido, no os han sido de utilidad menor, que vuestras mismas desgracias: ¿porque quien es



suffered? who can avoid error, but by experience of its evil?

Thou hast filled earth and ocean with disastrous adventures, like thy father; and art now worthy to follow him to Ithaca, where he is this moment arrived, and whither thy passage is short and easy. In battle, let thy station be at his side; obey him with implicit reverence; and let the meanest subject learn his duty from thy example. He will give Antiope to thy wishes; in this alliance thy object was rather merit than beauty, and it shall be happy.

When thou shalt be invested with sovereign power, let it be thy only ambition to restore the golden age: let thy ear be open to all, but thy confidence restrained to few: trust not implicitly to thy own virtue, or thy own wisdom: fear to deceive thyself, but fear not that others should know thou hast been deceived.

Love thy people; and neglect nothing that may inspire them with love of thee: those whom love cannot influence, must be ruled by fear; but this expedient, like a violent and dangerous remedy, should always be used with reluctance.

Undertake nothing of which thou hast not considered the most remote consequences: look steadily at the future, whatever evils it may present; for true courage consists in the anticipation and contempt of necessary danger: he who will not voluntarily look danger in the face, will shrink from the sight, when it is obtruded upon him; the only wise and brave who willingly looks on all that can be seen, who shuns all that can be shunned, and meets that which is inevitable with equanimity.

Avoid luxury, profusion, and pomp, and place thy glory in simplicity: let thy virtues be the ornaments of thy person and thy palace; let these be the

aquel que puede gobernar sabiamente, si no ha sido jamas infelice, y si nunca ha sacado ningun provecho de los infortunios, que ha padecido, y en que le han sus errores arrojado?

Hábeis, como vuestro padre, llenado las tierras, y mares de vuestras desventuras: andad pues, que ahora bien sois digno de caminar sobre las pisadas, que él os ha dexado estampadas. No os falta mas, que un breve, y fácil trecho para llegar á Itaca, adonde él ahora mismo llega: Andad, pelead en compañía de Ulises: obedecedle como el infimo de sus súbditos, y dad vos mismo exemplo de obediencia á todos los demas. Permitiráos vuestro padre poder tomar por esposa vuestra á la discreta Antiope, y viviréis con ella feliz, por haber en ella buscado mas la virtud, y prudencia, que la hermosura.

Quando reynareis, colocad vuestra gloria en renovar la edad de oro: escuchad á todos, y creed á pocos; ántes mirad bien no os creais demasiado á vos mismo: tened temor de engañaros, pero no le tengais jamas de dexar ver á los otros, que alguna vez habeis quedado engañado:

Amad á los vasallos, y no dexéis de usar todos los medios, para que os amen ellos. El terror es preciso, quando falta el amor; mas conviene siempre emplearlo con disgusto, como los remedio violentos, y peligrosos.

Considerad en todo tiempo de léjos todas las consecuencias de lo que querais emprender: prevenid los mayores inconvenientes; y sabed que consiste el verdadero esfuerzo en atender á todos los peligros, y despreciarlos quando se hacen forzosos. El que no quiere verlos, no tiene brio constante para sufrir su vista con constancia; pero quien los ve todos, y evita aquellos que pueden excusarse, y provoca á los otros sin turbacion, es solamente sabio, y magnánimo.

Huid de la afeminacion, del fausto, y de la prodigalidad, y poned vuestra gloria en el candor de vuestras costumbres. Vuestras virtudes, y vuestras buenas

guard that surrounds thee; and let thy example teach the world, in what honour consists.

Let it be constantly present to thy mind, that kings reign not for their own glory, but for the good of their people: the virtues and the vices of kings entail happiness or misery upon mankind, to the remotest generations: and a bad reign sometimes produces calamity for an age.

Above all, guard against thy humour; that peculiarity of disposition which, independent both of the passions and reason, distinguished mankind from each other; that capricious principle, which chuses and rejects, loves and hates, approves and condemns, not in consequence of qualities in the object, but propensities in the mind. This humour is a bosom enemy, which every man is condemned to carry with him to the grave: it will enter into all thy councils; and, if indulged, will certainly pervert them: it will prevent thee from improving opportunities of advantage; it will prefer shadows to the substance, and determine important affairs by petty considerations: it obscures talents, depresses courage, and renders a man feeble, inconstant, odious, and contemptible: against this enemy, be continually upon the guard.

Let the fear of the gods, O Telemachus, be the ruling passion of thy heart: keep it sacred in thy bosom, as thy dearest treasure; for with this thou shalt possess wisdom and justice, tranquillity and joy, unpoluted pleasure, genuine freedom, peaceful affluence, and spotless glory.

«I now leave thee, O son of Ulysses! But, so long as thou shalt feel the want of my wisdom, my wisdom shall remain with thee. It is now time that thou shouldst walk by the light of thy own mind: I withdrew from thee in Ægypt and at Salentum, that I might reconcile thee to the want of that assistance and comfort which I afforded, by degrees, as a mother weans an infant from the breast, when it is no longer necessary to indulge him with milk, and he is able to subsist upon coarser food!»

acciones sean los adornos, no ménos de vuestra casa, que de vuestra persona; sean estas las guardias que os rodean, y aprenda de vos todo el mundo en qué consiste la felicidad verdadera.

No os olvidéis jamas de que los Reyes no reynan para adquirirse gloria, sino para asistir á sus pueblos: todo lo bueno que hacen, se extiende hasta los siglos mas distantes; y los males que obran, se multiplican de generacion en generacion, hasta la posteridad mas remota. De un reynado malo nace algunas veces la calamidad de muchos siglos.

Sobre todo tened cuidado con vuestro humor: es un enemigo que á todas partes llevareis con vos hasta la muerte; el entrará en vuestros consejos, y os venderá si le escuchais. El humor hace perder las ocasiones mas importantes: el da inclinaciones y aversiones de niño, con perjuicio de los mayores intereses; el hace que se decidan los negocios mas importantes por los motivos mas pequeños; el obscurece todos los talentos, abate el animo, y hace que un hombre se vuelva caprichoso, debil, vil é insoportable. Desconfiad de este enemigo.

Sed temeroso de los dioses, Telémaco; ese temor es el mayor tesoro del corazon del hombre, y juntamente con él adquiriréis la prudencia, la justicia, la paz, la alegría, los placeres puros, la libertad verdadera, la abundancia agradable, y una gloria sincera.

Yo os dexo, hijo de Ulises; pero nunca os desamparará mi sabiduria, con tal, que conozcais siempre, que no podeis nada sin ella. Tiempo es de que aprendais á andar solo. Yo no me he apartado de vos en Fenicia y Salento, sino para acostumbraros á quedar sin esta dulzura, como se destetan los niños, quando se les quiere quitar la leche, y alimentarlos con manjares mas sólidos.

Such was the last counsel of Minerva to Telemachus; and, while her voice yet vibrated on his ear, he perceived her rise slowly from the earth: and a cloud of intermingled azure and gold surrounding her, she disappeared. Telemachus stood a moment astonished and entranced; then sighing, prostrated himself upon the ground, and stretched out his hands towards heaven. After this homage was paid, he arose, awakened his companions, hastened their departure, arrived in Ithaca, and found his father under the friendly roof of his faithful Eumenes.

THE END.

Apenas puso fin la diosa á este razonamiento, se remontó en el ayre, y entró en una nube de oro, y azul, con la qual desapareció. Telémaco suspirando, atónito, y fuera de sí, se postró en tierra, levantando al cielo las manos; despues fué a despertar á los compañeros, dió priesa á la partida, llegó á Itaca, y reconoció á su padre en casa del fiel Eumeo.

FIN.