In the same manner securing his partisans in the other republics, it was now only necessary to set them at variance with each other, that his alliance might be courted, and an opportunity furnished for introducing the Macedonian troops into Greece. The miserable policy and imprudence of the principal republics accomplished his wishes, without giving him even the trouble of an effort.

The Phocians having ploughed up some of the lands which belonged to the temple of Apollo, at Delphos, were cited on that account before the Amphictyonic council, and condemned to pay a heavy fine. Instead of submitting to this decree, they now pretended that the custody of the temple and all its patrimony belonged of right to them; and they boldly seized the sacred edifice with the whole of its treasures. These proceedings put all Greece into a flame. The Phocians had some plausible reasons to assign in support of their claim; otherwise we cannot suppose that the Athenians and Spartans would have espoused their cause, in opposition to most of the other states of Greece, who regarded their conduct as highly sacrilegious. The Thebans, the Thessalians, and the Locrians, armed in the cause of Apollo, and took a most active part in what was termed *the sacred war*. The spirit of hostility acquired additional rancor from religious zeal; and both sides adopted the sanguinary policy of giving no quarter in battle, and putting to death their prisoners without mercy. The Theban general, Philomelus, found himself in this last predicament, and seeing no possibility of escaping out of the hands of a body of the enemy who had surrounded him, threw himself headlong over a precipice.

The sacred war had lasted for some time. Philip of Macedon in the meantime was gradually extending his territories, and had already, by conquest, made himself master of a great part of Thrace, when the Thessalians implored his assistance against their tyrant Lycophron, the brother and successor of Alexander of Pheræ, whose government they felt yet more intolerable than that of his predecessor. The tyrant had sought aid of the Phocians to support him against his own subjects, who, on their part, were thus fully justified in courting the assistance of the Macedonians to protect their liberties. After several engagements of various issue, Philip prevailed in driving the Phocians completely out of Thessaly; and Lycophron, finding himself unable to cope with the Macedonian power, resigned his sovereignty and put Philip in possession of his capital of Pheræ.

A short time before this period, his queen, Olympias, the daughter of Neoptolemus, king of Epirus, was delivered at Pella, in the first year of the 106th Olympiad (356 B. C.), of a son, Alexander, justly denominated the Great. On this event, Philip wrote to the philosopher Aristotle in these emphatic words, truly worthy of a king: "Know that a son is born to us. We thank

the gods, first, for their excellent gift, and, secondly, that it is bestowed in the age of Aristotle, who, we trust, will render him a son worthy of his father, and a prince worthy of Macedonia." *

The success which had hitherto attended the arms and the policy of Philip inspired him now with the daring ambition of rendering himself the arbiter and sovereign of Greece. The retreat of the Phocians from Thessaly furnished him with the plausible pretext of advancing with his troops to Thermopylæ, in order to enter the country of Phocis; while his real design was to secure that important pass, which opened to him the territory of Attica. This was a bold attempt; for no foreign power had ever passed that gate of Greece, since the defeat of the Persians at Platæa. The Athenians were justly alarmed, not less for their own safety than for the general liberties of the nation; and they owed the energy of their conduct on this occasion to the manly eloquence and patriotism of Demosthenes.

Demosthenes, the prince of the Grecian orators, now made the first display of his eminent talents. He had no advantages of birth or education. His father, a sword-cutler, or, as Juvenal has termed him, a blacksmith, left him an orphan at the age of seven, to the care of profligate guardians, who robbed him of his small patrimony. But he possessed that native genius which surmounts every disadvantage of birth or situation. Ambition prompted him to the study of oratory; for, going one day to the court to hear the pleadings in some cause of moment, he was so impressed with the eloquence of Callistratus, and so fired by the popular applause bestowed on that orator upon his gaining the suit in which he had pleaded, that he determined from that moment that this should be his road to eminence and distinction. No man, in this arduous course, ever struggled with greater natural obstacles, or more happily overcame them. His voice was harsh and uncouth, his articulation indistinct, and his gestures awkward and constrained; but, sensible of his defects, he labored night and day in private exercises of elocution, till he completely subdued them; and then, confident of his powers, he broke forth at once the most distinguished orator of his age. He had in this emergency of public affairs a noble field of exertion. On the first intelligence that Philip was on his march to Thermopylæ, Demosthenes ascended the tribunal in the Ecclesia, and in a most animated harangue roused the patriotic ardor of his countrymen, by painting to them, in striking colors, the ambitious designs of this artful and enter-

* Aristotle, by birth a Stagyrite, came to Athens at the age of eighteen, and was for twenty years a scholar of Plato, who died 348 B. C. In the forty-third year of his age he went to Macedonia, and was for eight years employed in the education of Alexander; at the end of which period he returned to Athens, 335 B. C., and taught for twelve years in the Lycæum. He died in his sixty-third year, 322 B. C, a year after the death of his illustrious pupil

prising prince; and urged the absolute necessity of an immediate and most vigorous effort for the preservation of the national liberty. His eloquence was successful. The Athenians instantly flew to arms, and arrived at Thermopylæ in sufficient time to defend the entry to the straits. Philip was disconcerted at this unexpected proof of hostility from the Athenians, with whom he had taken the utmost pains by every means to ingratiate himself; but he was too prudent to hazard a premature discovery of the extent of his ambitious views. He made a plausible pretext for withdrawing his troops to the northward, and postponed for that time his vengeance against the sacrilegious Phocians. The Athenians, imposed on by this politic conduct, began to consider their fears of danger as altogether groundless, and were lulled into a pleasing dream of perfect security.

The sacred war had now lasted about ten years; and every campaign had given a fresh acquisition of power to the daring and politic Macedonian. The Athenians, finding no advantage on their part, and heartily tired of hostilities, which gave too much interruption to their favorite ease and luxurious enjoyments, sent ambassadors to Philip with instructions to negotiate a general peace. But he bribed the ambassadors, spun out the negotiations, and in the mean time proceeded in the most vigorous prosecution of the war. This conduct might have opened the eyes of the Athenians, had not their corrupted orators, the pensionaries of Philip, labored assiduously to foster their blind security. "The interests of Philip (said Æschines) are the same with your own. Why therefore this groundless jealousy and alarm at all his motions? Let him once pass Thermopylæ, and you will see what will be his conduct. His darling object is the destruction of your enemies. His design is to subdue Thebes, that insolent rival of the Athenian power and sovereignty. In this enterprise he wishes only to coöperate with yourselves; and when accomplished, as it speedily must be, by your joint endeavors, Athens has then the full command of Greece." This infatuated people were actually the dupes of such chimeras.

The Athenians withdrew their army from Thermopylæ; Philip poured down like a torrent upon the country of Phocis, and carrying all before him, presented himself at Delphos as the avenger of Apollo. He then hastily assembled the Amphictyonic council, taking care previously to sound the deputies of the several states, and to admit only such as were devoted to his interest. The assembly, thus prepared, passed a decree which declared the Phocians to have forfeited their place in that general council, which henceforth should be supplied by the king of Macedon, whom, in consideration of his important services, they appointed to preside at the Pythian games, jointly with the Thebans and Thessalians. Thus, by the most artful policy, Philip had acquired the rights of a naturalized Greek, his dominions of Macedonia now formed a part of the body of the nation, and he had henceforth an

undisputed title to take a part in all such measures as regarded the general and national interests.

From that moment Philip became the arbiter of Greece, and the umpire in all differences between her contending states. While the more powerful republics courted his friendship to assist them in their ambitious designs against each other, or against the liberty of the smaller states, these, on the other hand, solicited his protection to defend their rights against lawless usurpation and tyranny. Others, again, who fell under neither of these descriptions, but were embroiled with faction at home, besought his aid to compose their domestic dissensions, and would have cheerfully parted with their liberty to rid themselves of the miseries of tumult and anarchy.

In this situation of Greece, the politics of Demosthenes, who incessantly endeavored to rouse the Athenians to a vigorous opposition to the designs of Philip, and incite them to declare open war against this ambitious prince, have been by some writers censured as imprudent and pernicious; and it is no doubt a truth that some of the best patriots of Athens, the virtuous Phocion for example, were of this opinion, and proposed an opposite counsel. They saw that the martial spirit of the republic was extinct, the finances of the state were at the lowest ebb, and the manners of the people irretrievably corrupted. There was assuredly too much solidity in the argument of Phocion which he opposed to the *Philippica* of Demosthenes:—"I will recommend to you, O Athenians, to go to war, when I find you capable of supporting a war; when I see the youth of the republic animated with courage, yet submissive and obedient; the rich cheerfully contributing to the necessities of the state; and the orators no longer cheating and pillaging the public." But granting the verisimilitude of this degrading picture, was it not a nobler attempt of Demosthenes to revive the martial spirit, to stimulate by shame the indolence of his countrymen, to hold up in glowing colors to their view the striking contrast between the days of former glory and of present disgrace, and to excite to some great and patriotic exertion for the recovery of the national honor and the preservation of their liberties?

When Athens was thus roused to a vigorous exertion for the preservation of Grecian freedom, it was surely to be hoped, and confidently expected, that she was not to stand alone in that noble effort of patriotism. But even had none of the other republics followed her example, and joined her standards, that circumstance, instead of diminishing, must have signally enhanced her honor, and afforded the only possible consolation in the event that the issue was unprosperous. "No," said Demosthenes, in a tone of animation which fired the whole assembly, "it can never be to your reproach that you have braved dangers and death for the safety and freedom of your country. I swear it by our brave forefathers, by the manes of those illustrious men who fell at Marathon, at

Platæa, and at Salamis, by their sacred ashes which sleep with honor in the public monuments."* It was in a similar strain of glowing eloquence that Demosthenes roused the torpid spirits of his countrymen to a vigorous effort to preserve their independence against the designs of this artful and ambitious prince; and Philip had just reason to say that he was more afraid of *that man* than of all the fleets and armies of the Athenians. It was highly, therefore, to the honor of the Athenians that they listened to the counsels of this excellent orator, and, however unequal to the contest, determined that they would dearly sell their freedom. The Thebans joined them in this noble resolution, persuaded likewise by the eloquence of Demosthenes, who went thither as ambassador from Athens to form an alliance for their joint interests against the Macedonian. It was now no shame to court the aid of Persia; and a league was formed likewise with the islands of Rhodes, Cos, and Chios. A fleet was armed under the command of Chares to relieve Byzantium, then besieged by Philip; but Chares, of whom the allies had no favorable opinion, was soon after superseded by Phocion; for this illustrious man, though in his private judgment more inclined to peace, was in war justly regarded as the main support of his country's honor and glory.

Phocion delivered Byzantium and Perinthus from the yoke of Macedon, drove Philip out of the Chersonesus, and took several of his dependent cities. The Macedonian loudly complained of the Athenians, as having first commenced hostilities; and the artful dissembler, still further to preserve a show of moderation, requested a renewal of the peace. A negotiation for that purpose was prolonged by him for two years. Demosthenes still raised his voice for war. It was upon this occasion that the Athenians, having consulted the Delphian oracle, which advised them to make peace, Demosthenes, in an animated harangue, openly insinuated that the oracle was corrupted, by declaring that the *Pythia Philippized*. The eloquence of the orator prevailed over the counsel of the hireling priestess, and the Athenians took the field in great force, joined by the Thebans and their other allies. It was the interest of Philip, who had long wished, and, consequently, prepared himself for a fair trial of strength, to bring his enemy as soon as possible to a general engagement. This the Athenians ought of course to have as earnestly avoided; but the disunion of counsels which commonly attend allied armies, was the cause of a fatal resolution to abide a decisive issue. This took place in the field of Chæronea.

The Macedonian army amounted to 30,000 foot and 2000 horse; that of the Athenians and their allies was nearly equal in number. The left wing of the Macedonians was commanded by

* Demosth. Orat. pro Corona.

the young Alexander, and it was his fortune to be opposed by that body of the Thebans called the *sacred band;* the courage of the combatants on both sides was therefore inflamed by a high principle of honor. The attack of Alexander was impetuous beyond all description, but was sustained with the most determined bravery on the part of the Thebans; and had the courage and conduct of their allies given them an adequate support, the fortune of the day would probably have been fatal to the Macedonians; but, unaided by the timely coöperation of the main body of the Greeks, the *sacred band* were left alone to sustain this desperate assault, and they fought till the whole of these noble Thebans lay dead upon the field. The Athenians, however, on their part, had made a most vigorous attack on the centre of the Macedonian army, and broke and put to flight a great body of the enemy. Philip, at the head of his formidable phalanx, was not engaged in the fight, but coolly withheld his attack till he saw the Greeks pursuing their success against the centre with a tumultuous impetuosity. He then charged them in the rear with the whole strength and solidity of his phalanx opposed to their deranged and disorderly battalions. The aspect of affairs was now quite changed, and the Grecian army, after a desperate conflict, was broken and entirely put to flight. Two thousand Greeks were made prisoners, and Philip gained the praise of great clemency by checking the slaughter of the Athenians and sparing the lives of all his captives. It was now his policy to soothe and conciliate the minds of that people whom he wished henceforth to rule as a legitimate sovereign. This decisive engagement, which, in its immediate consequences, put an end to the liberties of Greece, was fought in the year 338 before Christ.

The Athenians sought a desperate consolation in attributing their defeat at Chæronea to the fault of their generals Lysidas and Chares. The former they condemned to death; the latter owed his life to the boldness and intrepidity with which he made his defence.

Demosthenes had fled from the field of battle; so different is speculative from active courage. Yet the merits of this illustrious man were not forgotten, though the issue of his counsels had been unsuccessful. He was entrusted by the Athenians with the charge of rebuilding the walls of the city, and a crown of gold was decreed to him, at the suggestion of Ctesiphon, as the reward of his public services. This mark of honor excited the jealousy of his rival Æschines, and gave rise to that famous controversy περι Στεφάνου (i. e. *concerning the crown*)—which produced two of the most animated orations that are preserved to us of the composition of the ancients. Demosthenes came off triumphant, and his opponent was banished from his country. Cicero, in his third book "De Oratore," c. 56, has recorded a very beautiful anecdote on this occasion. Æschines, in exile among the Rhodians, amused

himself with reciting to that people some of his own orations. Among others, he rehearsed to them that which he had spoken against Demosthenes in the cause of *the crown*. The Rhodians expressed a desire to hear what his opponent had answered to a composition so powerful and convincing. He then read to them, with proper modulation of voice and emphasis, the oration of Demosthenes, which, when they had all united in admiring—"Think now, my friends," said he, "how much greater must have been your admiration had you heard that extraordinary man himself recite this masterly composition." A singular instance indeed of his generosity of mind, who could thus do justice to the merits of a rival, whose success and triumph had been the cause of his own disgrace.

It may be justly said that of all those sciences which deserve the name of manly or truly dignified, eloquence was the only one which yet continued to flourish in Greece.

After the battle of Chæronea all the states of Greece submitted to the conqueror. But it was not the policy of Philip to treat them as a conquered people. He knew that the Greeks must be very cautiously managed. He endeavored to withdraw their minds from all idea of the degraded condition to which they were now reduced. His views had pointed to a greater object of ambition than the sovereignty of Greece; and in proposing to them the conquest of Persia, he withdrew their attention from the galling thought of their own servitude, while he flattered their self-consequence by making the Greeks the partners in his own schemes of extensive dominion. It was a natural preparatory measure to appoint Philip the generalissimo of the nation.

At this period the Persian monarchy was embroiled with the revolt of several of the provinces. Ochus had reduced them less by force of arms than by corrupting and bringing over to his interest the heads of the rebellion. Mentor of Rhodes delivered up to him the Sidonians, who, when they discovered that they were betrayed, set fire to their city and perished in the flames. The dreadful catastrophe was followed by the submission of all Phœnicia; and Cyprus, which had likewise revolted, returned soon after to its allegiance. Mentor's services were rewarded by the Persian monarch with the government of all the Asiatic coasts. Ochus did not long enjoy the pacification of his empire. Bagoas, a favorite eunuch, poisoned him and all his children, except Arses, the youngest, whose infancy afforded the murderer the prospect of governing Persia as his tutor; but dreading the punishment of his crimes, he thought it his safest policy to raise to the throne a prince of the royal blood, Darius, surnamed Codomannus, who is said to have been the grandson of Darius Nothus.

Such was the state of Persia when Philip prepared for his great enterprise, by sending his lieutenants Attalus and Parmenio into Asia. As usual before all expeditions of importance, he consulted the Delphic oracle, and received the following response, equally applicable to the prosperous or unsuccessful event of the war:—*The bull is ready crowned; his end approaches, and he will soon be sacrificed.* "The prophecy," said Philip, "is quite clear: the bull is the monarch of Persia." The prediction speedily found its accomplishment, but Philip himself was the victim. While engaged in celebrating a magnificent festival on the marriage of his daughter Cleopatra with the king of Epirus, and walking in solemn procession to the temple, he was struck into the heart with a dagger by Pausanias, a noble youth who had been brutally injured by Attalus, the brother-in-law of Philip, and to whom that prince had refused to do justice. Philip had in the latter period of his reign degraded himself by some strong acts of tyranny, the fruit of an uncontrolled indulgence of vicious appetites. As the pretext of a divorce from his queen Olympias, the mother of Alexander, he threw the most unjust suspicions upon her character, and drove her son from court in disgust at the conduct of his father, who now assumed Cassandra, the niece of Attalus, who had captivated him by the charms of her person, into the place of his injured queen. The disgust which Alexander justly conceived at these proceedings, encouraged a suspicion, for which, however, there are no solid grounds, that he was privy to the design of Pausanias.

The Athenians, with much meanness, expressed, on occasion of Philip's death, the most tumultuous joy. A solemn sacrifice of thanksgiving was offered to the gods, and a crown of gold decreed to Pausanias in reward of his services to the nation. It is probable that a gleam of hope arose from this event that the liberty of Greece might yet be recovered; but they were strangers at this time to the character of that youth who now succeeded to the throne of Macedonia.

CHAPTER IV.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT takes and destroys Thebes—Submission of the Grecian States—Alexander declared General of the Armies of Greece—Battle of the Granicus—Issus—Siege of Tyre—Expedition into Egypt—Battle of Arbela—Alexander at Persepolis—Expedition to India—Return to Susa—Enters Babylon, and dies—Division of his Empire—Kingdom of Egypt—of Syria.

ALEXANDER was in the twentieth year of his age when he succeeded, by the death of Philip, to the throne of Macedonia This