

for many bulwarks. The Romans were never abandoned by one of their allies till the battle of Cannæ; the reason is, the Samnites and other nations of Italy were used to their sovereignty.

As most of the cities of Africa were poorly fortified, they presently surrendered to the first enemy that appeared under their walls; so that Agathocles, Regulus, Scipio, in a word, all who made a descent on those places, immediately spread despair through all Carthage.

We can ascribe to nothing but to an evil administration, the several calamities which the Carthaginians suffered during the whole war that Scipio carried on against them; their city (*a*), and even their armies were famished, at the same time that the Romans enjoyed a profusion of all things.

Among the Carthaginians, the armies which had been defeated grew more insolent upon it, inso-much that they sometimes used to crucify their generals, punishing them in this manner for their own cowardice. Among the Romans, the consul, after punishing such soldiers as had fled from their colours, by a (*a*) decimation, marched the surviving forces against the enemy.

The government of the Carthaginians was vastly oppressive (*c*): they had trampled so much upon the Spaniards, that, when the Romans arrived among

(*a*) See Appian, lib. Lybicus.

(*b*) This punishment, which was inflicted on those who had run from their colours, on mutineers, etc. was thus: the names of all the criminals, being put together in a vessel or shield, were afterwards drawn out, every tenth man being to die without reprieve. By this means, though all were not put to death, yet all were terrified into obedience. *Note by the translator.*

(*c*) See what is related by Polybius concerning their exactions.