

won by Duillius the consul: the Romans were totally ignorant of navigation, when a Carthaginian galley, happening to be stranded on their coast, served them as a model for the building of others: in three months time their sailors were trained, their fleet was completely fitted out; the Romans put to sea, came up with the Carthaginians, and defeated them.

In this age, the whole life of a prince is scarce sufficient for the raising and equipping a navy capable to make head against a power already possessed of the empire of the sea: this perhaps may be the only thing which money cannot of itself effect; and though a great (*a*) monarch in our days succeeded immediately in an attempt of this kind, experience has proved to others (*b*), that such an example is to be admired rather than imitated.

The second Punic war made so much noise in the world, that it is known to every one. When we survey attentively the croud of obstacles which started up before Hannibal, and reflect, that this extraordinary man surmounted them all, we view the most august spectacle that antiquity can possibly exhibit.

Rome was a miracle in constancy and resolution after the battles of Ticinus, of Trebia, and Thrasymenus; after the defeat at Cannae, which was still more fatal to them, though they saw themselves abandoned by most of the nations in Italy, yet they would not sue for peace; and for this reason, the senate never once receded from their antient maxims: they conducted themselves towards Hannibal, in the same manner as they had before behaved with re-

(*a*) Lewis XIV.

(*b*) Spain and Muscovy.