

selves, with the greatest application to war, amidst all the softening of luxury and pleasure; which seems to me, to be a circumstance, in which they were never imitated by any nation in the world.

The Romans were not solicitous to improve commerce, or cultivate the sciences, but ranked them among the attentions proper for slaves (*a*); we may except, indeed, some particular persons, who had received their freedom, and persisted in their former industry. But their knowledge, in general, was confined to the art of war, which was the only track (*b*) by which they could arrive at promotions in the magistracy, and other stations of honour; for which reason, their military virtues subsisted after all the rest were extinguished.

CHAPTER XI.

Of SYLLA, POMPEY, and CAESAR.

I Intreat the reader's permission to turn my eyes from the horrors of the wars between Marius and Sylla; Appian has collected all the dreadful particulars into his history: besides the jealousy, ambition, and barbarity of the two chiefs, each particular Roman was infatuated with fury; the

(*a*) Cic. Offic. l. i. cap. 42. Illiberales et sordidi quaestus mercenariorum omnium, quorum operae, non quorum artes emuntur: est enim illis ipsa merces auctoramentum servitutis. The merchants, adds that author, raise no profit, unless they falsify their word. Agriculture is the noblest of all arts, and most worthy of a man in a state of freedom.

(*b*) They were obliged to serve ten years, between the age of sixteen years and forty seven. Polyb. l. vi.