

extraordinary application, appears contemptible in our opinion, because the generality of these exercises produce nothing more than a little exterior agreeableness; whereas among the ancients, all their exercises, even dancing itself, became incorporated into their martial discipline.

We may likewise add, that, even among us, an affected mastership, in the weapons we employ in war, is considered as a ridiculous attainment, because, since the custom of duelling became so prevailing, fencing has been treated as the science of boisterous wranglers or bullies.

Those who censure Homer, for his usual manner of celebrating the strength or activity of his Heroes, must likewise think Sallust (*a*) very ridiculous, when he praises Pompey, for running, leaping, and carrying a burden better than any other man.

Caligula was a true sophist in cruelty, for as he equally descended from Antony and Augustus, he declared he would punish the consuls if they celebrated the day appointed to commemorate the victory at Actium, and that they should likewise feel his severity if they neglected to honour that event; and Drusilla to whom he accorded divine honours, being dead, it was a crime to bewail her because she was a goddess, and as great an offence to forbear that sorrow because she was his sister.

We have now ascended an eminence from whence we may take a view of human affairs; when we trace in the Roman history, such a variety of wars, and their prodigal effusion of human blood; when

(*a*) Cum alacribus saltu, cum velocibus cursu, cum validis recte certabat. Fragm. of Sallust cited by Vegetius l. i. c. 10.