

talk to them of the dignity of the senate: in vain did (a) Vitellius send the principal senators to make his peace with Vespasian: they did not, for one moment, pay to the orders of the state that respect which they had so long lost. The armies looked on these deputies as the most abject slaves of a master whom they had already rejected.

It was an ancient custom at Rome, for those who obtained a triumph, to distribute some money to each soldier: it was not much (b). In the time of the civil wars these gratuities were augmented (c). Formerly they were made with the money taken from the enemy; in these unhappy times, they gave that of the citizens, and the soldiers would have a share where there was no booty: These distributions had taken place only after a war; Nero made them in a time of peace: the soldiers were used to them, and they raged against Galba, who boldly told them, that he knew to choose, but not to buy them.

Galba, Otho, and Vitellius, (d) made a very transient appearance in the imperial scene. Vespasian, who, like them, was elected by the army, devoted

(a) Idem. Lib. iii.

(b) See in Livy the sums distributed in the several triumphs. It was the humour of the generals to carry a great deal of money into the public treasury, and give but little to the soldiers.

(c) Paulus Æmilius, at a time, when the greatness of the conquests had occasioned these liberalities to be augmented, gave only one hundred denarii to each private man; but Caesar gave two thousand, and his example was followed by Antony and Octavius, by Brutus and Cassius. See Dio and Appian.

(d) Suscipere duo manipulares imperium populi Romani transferendum, et transfulerunt, Tacit. l. i.