

ed in their infantry, which was the most firm and best disciplined body of soldiers in the world.

The Parthians, on the contrary, had no infantry, but then their horse were admirable, and always combated at such a distance as placed them out of the reach of the Roman army, and the javelin was seldom launched far enough to wound them. Their own weapons consisted of a bow, and many formidable shafts, and they rather besieged an army than gave it battle; they were pursued to no purpose in their flight, for that was the same with them as an engagement. They carried off all the inhabitants of the country, and only left garrisons in their fortified places; and when these were taken, the conquerors were obliged to destroy them. The Parthians likewise set fire to all the country that lay round the Roman army, and did not leave them the least blade of herbage. In a word, they managed their wars in a manner very like that which is now practised on the same frontiers.

We may add to these disadvantages, that the Illyrian and German legions, which were drawn out for this war, were no way capable to sustain it, (a) because the soldiers, who were accustomed to plentiful food in their own country, perished in these regions for want of many necessaries.

The Parthians by these means had accomplished that, for the preservation of their liberty, which had hitherto been impracticable to all other nations, against the victorious power of the Romans: but they owed this advantage not to any resistless valour, but to their inaccessible situation.

Adrian gave up the conquest of Trajan, and

(a) See Herodian's Life of Alexander.