

made Euphrates the boundary of his empire; and indeed it was surprizing that the Romans after such a series of war should lose nothing but what they were desirous to quit; and thus they resembled the ocean, whose expansion is never lessened but when it retires of itself.

This conduct of Adrian occasioned great dissatisfaction among the people. It was recorded in the sacred book of that nation (a), that when Tarquin intended to build the capitol, he found the place most commodious for his purpose filled with the statues of other deities, upon which he employed his skill in augury to discover if they were inclinable to resign their places to Jupiter, and they all consented, except Mars, Hebe, and Terminus. This proceeding gave birth to three religious opinions, namely, that Mars would never resign his place to any other being; that the Roman youth would be always invincible; and that their god Terminus would never recede from his station; the contrary of which was however verified in the reign of Adrian.

CHAPTER XVI.

*Considerations on the State of the Empire from
ANTONINUS to PROBUS.*

IN this period the Stoics propagated their doctrines in the empire with great popularity; and it seems as if nature herself had been industrious to produce this admirable sect, which resembled those

(a) Augustin. *de Civit. Dei*. l. iv. c. 23 & 29.