

without much precaution in foreign countries, and were at that time chargeable with the same exceptionable freedoms we are reproached for at this day.

A French nobleman was going to seat himself upon the emperor's throne, but earl Baldwin caught him by the arm; you ought to know, said he, that when we are in any country whatever, it is proper to comply with the customs that prevail there. What a clown is he, replied the other, to sit whilst so many captains are standing!

The Germans, who came after the French, and were the most civil and undesigning people in the world (*a*), suffered very severely for our follies, and were continually embarrassed with a set of dispositions that had been sufficiently irritated by our countrymen against all foreigners.

In fine, the aversion of those eastern people was worked up to the highest extreme; and this with some incivilities offered to the Venetian merchants, operating upon the ambition, avarice, and false zeal of that nation as well as the French, determined them to form a crusade against the Greeks.

The united army of these two European nations found their enemies altogether as pusillanimous and unwarlike as the Chinese appeared to the Tartars in our time. The Frenchmen ridiculed their effeminate habit (*b*), and walked through the streets of Constantinople dressed in flowered mantles, and carrying pens and paper in their hands, in derision to that nation, who had degenerated from all milita-

(*a*) History of Manuel Comnenus by Nicetas, l. i.

(*b*) Nicet. History of the eastern transactions after the taking of Constantinople, c. iii.