

to evade a war; well knowing that the war was not to be avoided by such means, though it might perhaps be deferred for some time; which would rather be an advantage than otherwise to the enemy. Upon which account, they rather chose to make war upon Philip and Antiochus in Greece than suffer them to invade Italy [t]. And though they might at that time have avoided one, and prevented the other by temporary expedients; yet they judged better, and never acted according to the maxim which prevails so much amongst the Politicians of our days, *that we ought to trust to time for what is to come, and make the best of the present*; for as time might bring forth evil in its course as well as good, they thought it a safer way to depend upon their own wisdom and valour.

But let us return to the King of France and see how he followed these rules. I do not mean Charles VIII, but Lewis XII, who continued so much longer in the possession of some parts of Italy, that his conduct affords more room for observation. And here we shall find that he proceeded in a manner entirely contrary to what a Prince ought to do, who would keep possession of a State so different in most respects from his own. Lewis was introduced into Italy by the ambition of the Venetians, who were in hopes of gaining some part of Lombardy by so doing; and I am far from condemning this enterprize in general, or the course which he took at first: for as he wanted to get footing in Italy, and was then so far from having any friends in that Country, that almost every avenue into it was industriously barred against the French (out of resentment for the usage which the Italians had met with from Charles VIII); he was obliged to avail himself of such as he could afterwards make there: and he would certainly have accomplished his designs, if he had not been guilty of some subsequent errors. For he soon made himself Master of Lombardy, and having recovered the reputation which Charles had lost, Genoa presently submitted to him, the Florentines, the Marquis of Mantua, the Duke of Ferrara, the Bentivogli Lords of Bologna, the Countess of Furli, the Lords of Faenza, Pefaro, Rimini, Camerino, Piombino, the Lucchese, the Pisans, the Sieneſe, all paid their court to him, and made him offers of their

[t] “Fuit proprium populi Romani longe a domo bellare,” says Cicero. Tiberius always observed this maxim, “Destinata retinens, consiliis & astu res externas moliri, arma procul habere.” *Annal.* vi. This the Romans did to preserve the liberty, and save the treasures of Italy. For if foreigners ever got footing there, they were sure to avail themselves of the riches and arms of the Country; which must have weakened the Romans exceedingly. Upon which account, Hannibal told Antiochus, that they never could be beaten, but in Italy.

friendship.