

C H A P. IV.

How it came to pass that the Kingdom of Darius, usurped by Alexander, did not rebel against Alexander's Successors after his death.

C O N S I D E R I N G the difficulties therefore that occur in keeping possession of a State newly acquired, it might reasonably have been expected, that Asia, which Alexander wholly subdued in the space of a very few years, and died before he had well established himself in the possession of it, would have rebelled immediately after his death: and yet his Successors supported themselves in it for a considerable time, and without meeting with any material difficulties, but such as arose amongst them from their own ambition. To account for this, I say that all Monarchies of which there are any records left, have either been governed by an absolute Prince, who arbitrarily appoints such of his Servants as he thinks fit, out of his mere grace and favour, to assist him in the administration of the State: or by a Prince and his Barons who claim a share in the government, not from his grace or favour, but from the antiquity and nobility of their extraction. Such Barons have States and subjects of their own, who acknowledge them as sovereigns and pay them a natural obedience. But a Prince has much more authority who either governs his dominions himself, or by Ministers of his own appointment; because there is no other Sovereign acknowledged there: and if any other man or men are obeyed, they are obeyed as his Servants and Officers, and not out of any natural or particular respect to their persons. The Grand Signior and the King of France may serve for examples of these two different kinds of Government in the present times. The whole Empire of Turkey is governed by one Prince; all the rest are but Slaves: this Monarch divides his dominions into Sanjacs or Provinces, into which he sends different Governors and changes them as often as he pleases. The King of France on the contrary, has a multitude of ancient Barons [e], who again have their respective subjects and are beloved and revered by them: not to mention several privileges and preeminencies, of which the King cannot deprive them

[e] The Reader must remember this was written when the Dukes of Burgundy, Bretagne, Normandy, Gascony, &c. had great power, and frequently used to combine against the Kings of France, and side with foreigners against them; but the case is far otherwise at present.

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