

lic Magazines sufficient to maintain them for twelve months. Besides which, they have work-houses to maintain their poor in such a manner that they shall be no burden to the public; where they may be employed if they please, from one end of the year to the other, in such manufactures as are the chief support of those Cities, and sustain themselves by their labour. Military discipline and exercise are likewise in much request there; for the regulation of which they have many good laws and institutions.

A Prince then who has well fortified his Capital and is respected by his people, will hardly be attacked by any one; or if he is, the Enemy will be sure to come off with loss and disgrace: for the affairs of this World are so subject to change, that it is almost impossible for any army to lie a whole year before a town without interruption. If it be objected that the people who have houses and possessions in the Country will not have patience to see them plundered and burnt; and that self-interest added to the miseries of a long Siege will at last make them forget their duty to their Prince: I answer, that a prudent and spirited Prince, who sometimes artfully buoys up his Subjects with hopes that their sufferings will soon be over; sometimes strikes a terror into them by magnifying the cruelty and bloodthirstiness of the Enemy; and takes other proper means to quiet such of them as are most clamorous, will always overcome these difficulties at last. We may add to this, that it may reasonably be supposed the Enemy, as usual, will lay waste the Country with fire and Sword at their first arrival, whilst the people are yet in good Spirits and determined to defend themselves: in which case a Prince has still the less to apprehend, because all the mischief will be done, and the loss irretrievable, before their ardour has begun to cool; and then they will unite themselves so much the more closely with their Prince, as they will look upon him to be the more obliged to them for having sacrificed their houses and possessions in his defence: for such is the nature of mankind that they generally attach themselves to those whom they have once benefited, with as much zeal and fidelity as if they had received a favour from them. So that when all these things are thoroughly considered, it will appear no difficult matter for a Prince both to gain and keep the affections of the people in such a manner, as to engage them to stand firm to him in a long Siege, if he be wise and provident, and takes care that they are well supplied with every thing necessary for their Sustenance and defence [y].

[y] Agricola, therefore, reinforced the garrisons, and laid up fresh quantities of ammunition and provisions every year in all the towns under his command; that so they might be always in a condition to sustain a long siege upon occasion. *Tacit. in vit. Agricole.*