

with great towers, and surrounded with ditches now almost filled up with earth that has mouldered down into them. They have but few troops, and those badly disciplined; their Officers being, for the most part, old men and worn out in the Service. Some of these towns indeed are pretty well provided with artillery: but this is not sufficient to oppose the Emperor, who often treats them in such a manner as makes them thoroughly sensible of their weakness. In short, to make war, to fight battles, to attack or defend fortresses, only belongs to great Princes: and those that imitate them in these respects, without power to support themselves in it, are like him who thought himself Jupiter because he mimicked his thunder [c].

CHAP. XI.

Of Ecclesiastical Principalities.

IT now remains only to say something concerning the nature of Ecclesiastical Principalities; which, when once acquired, are easily preserved afterwards. For though the persons that are raised to such dignities are indebted either to their virtue or good fortune for their exaltation; yet they may maintain themselves in the possession of them without either one or the other; as they are fortified by religious constitutions of ancient and venerable authority, which have such an influence upon the minds of men, that they will always support an Ecclesiastical Prince let his conduct and manner of life be what it will. These are the only Princes who have dominions and

[c] Salmoneus, a King of Elis, who built a great bridge of brass in that City, over which he used to drive his chariot, to imitate the noise of thunder, carrying lighted torches in his hand, which he darted down upon the people by way of lightening: those upon whom they fell, were immediately knocked on the head by a parcel of Ruffians, whom he had ready stationed for that purpose. Virgil numbers him amongst the damned, in the following passage.

Vidi & crudeles dantem Salmonea pnceas,
Dum flammæ Jovis & sonitus imitatur Olympi,
Quatuor hic in vectus equis & lampada quassans
Per Graium populos mediæque per Elidis urbem
Ibat ovans, Divumque sibi poscebat honorem.
Demens, qui nimbos & non imitabile fulmen,
Ære & cornipedum cursu simularat equorum!
At pater Omnipotens densa inter nubila telum
Contorsit (non ille faces nec fumea tædis
Lumina) præcipitemque immani turbine adegit.

Æneid. vi. 585.

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