

The Florentines having then few or no troops of their own, employed ten thousand French in their attempt upon Pisa; by which they run themselves into greater danger than ever they had been in before in all their distresses. The Emperor of Constantinople sent for ten thousand Turks into Greece, to assist him against his neighbours there: but when the war was over, they refused to quit the Country [k]; which proved the occasion of all Greece being at last reduced into Slavery by the Infidels.——Whosoever therefore avails himself of such troops, is always sure to suffer by them; for they are much more dangerous than Mercenaries, and do their business sooner; because they are united, and under obedience to some one Head of their own. Whereas it will be much longer, and proper opportunities must offer, before Mercenaries can effectually mischief him, even if they have gain'd a victory; as they are divided into separate corps, and receive their pay only from his hands: so that it must be some time before the person, whom he appoints to command those troops, can acquire such an influence and authority over them all, as will put it in his power to do him any material prejudice.——In short, what he has chiefly

Venice, he thought of executing the second; which was to drive the barbarians out of Italy. With this view, he entered into a League with that very Republic, and against those same French, whom he had employed to distress her. He wanted to destroy all the foreign forces in Italy, by making them cut one another's throats, and to form a powerful body, of which the Pope was to be the head. In this design he spared neither negotiations, nor money, nor labour. He headed his troops himself, he mounted the trenches, and often looked death itself in the face. The French Historians censure his ambition and obstinacy; but they should also have done justice to his courage, and the grandeur of his designs.——After he had secured the Venetians, and drawn over the Swiss and several other powers to his side, he began the war in the neighbourhood of Bologna and Ferrara, and laid siege to Mirandola in person: and though his Holiness was then seventy years old, he was seen to mount the trenches with his helmet on, to visit the works, to press the Engineers, and at last victoriously to enter the breach. And notwithstanding the loss of the battle of Ravenna, within three months after that event, all the Germans were recalled out of Italy, and the French totally expelled by the assistance of the Swiss." See *Voltaire's Gen. Hist.* Vol. II. part 3. chap. xxii.——But not being able to bring the Emperor and the Venetians to an accommodation, as he passionately desired, he fell into a lingering fever, of which he died in 1513, after he had reigned above nine years, and turned the world almost upside down. His turbulent and warlike disposition gave occasion to the following Epigram, made upon him by our Countryman Buchanan.

Stare diu haud poterant mundusque & Julius unà,
Omnia perdendi tam ferus ardor erat.
Ergo ne ante diem mundi structura periret,
Ad Styga decessit Julius ante diem.

[A] Andronicus Palæologus was obliged to give up Trebisond to the Turks, whom he had called in to defend Constantinople.——And John Palæologus was forced to cede all Thrace to Sultan Amurath I. who insisted upon it as a recompence for the succours with which he had furnished him against the Servians.

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