

body to hardships and fatigue, and at the same time to inform himself of the particular circumstances and conveniences of different countries through which he rides; as the ascent and elevation of mountains, the avenues of vallies, the extent of plains, the course of rivers, and the nature of fens and morasses [*d*]; in all which he should be extremely curious and exact, as he will reap two considerable advantages from it. In the first place, he will thus become well acquainted with his own Country, and consequently be better able to provide for its defence; and in the next, by frequent practice, he will more easily comprehend the nature of other such situations, when he has occasion to reconnoitre them: for there is a certain resemblance and similitude betwixt the hills, the vallies, the plains, the rivers and marshes of Tuscany (for instance) and those of other Provinces; so that the perfect knowledge of one, will enable him to form a pretty good judgment of the other. The Prince that is deficient in this point, wants the first qualification of a General: for by knowing the Country, he will have an opportunity of chusing his camp, of marching his army, of drawing it up, of engaging an enemy, and of laying siege to a town, with great advantage [*e*]. Historians relate it as praise-worthy in Philopœmenes, Prince of the Achaians, that in times of peace he did not cease to think of military affairs, and that when he was travelling upon the road with his friends, he would often stop and ask them such questions as these. *Suppose the enemy was upon that hill, and our army where we are now; which would have the advantage of ground? in what order should we march towards them, if we designed to make an attack? If we intended to retreat, which would be the safest way? and if they drew off, in what manner could we pursue them with the most security?* Thus, as they went along, he would propose all the different cases and accidents that could happen to an army; and when he had heard their several opinions, he gave his own, and his reasons for it: so that by continual attention to these matters, he acquired such a degree of experience and presence of mind, that in any exigence or inconvenience that occurred in time of war, he presently found a remedy for it [*f*].

As

Vonomius was despised by the Parthians, who were a very warlike people, because he did not love hunting. "Accendebat de dignantes & ipse, diversus a majorum institutis, raro venatu." *Tacit. Annal. 2.*

[*d*] See Machiavel's *Political Discourses*, Book III. Chap. xxxix.

[*e*] All these parts of Generalship, Tacitus ascribes to his Father-in-law Agricola. "Loca castris ipse capere, æstuaria ac silvas ipse prætentare, disiectos coercere:" and in the next page, "Ad notabant periti, says he, non alium ducem opportunitates locorum sapientius legisse." *In Vit. Agric.*

[*f*] The author of the *Estimate of the manners and principles of the times*, makes the following remark upon this passage, "Land officers in the capital are occupied in Drefs, Cards,