

this can be attributed to nothing else but his extreme severity, which, in conjunction with his other admirable qualities, made him both feared and respected, and without which, all the rest could not have produced such an effect. And yet there are some writers (but of little judgment indeed) who though they admire his great exploits, make no scruple of condemning the causes to which they might principally be assigned. But in order to shew that his other virtues would not have been sufficient for this purpose without such a degree of severity, let us reflect upon the conduct of Scipio, a General of the highest reputation, not only in his own times, but in the history of all others that have since passed. His forces mutinied against him in Spain; a disaster that was wholly owing to his lenity, which had encouraged them to such a degree of licentiousness, as was by no means consistent with military discipline [z]: upon which account, he was upbraided by Fabius Maximus in full Senate, as *the corrupter of the Roman Soldiery* [a]. Another instance of his too great mildness in this respect was, that when the inhabitants of Locris complained to him of being plundered and abused by one of his Lieutenants, they met with no manner of redress, nor was that officer in any wise either reprimanded or chastised for his insolence [b]: to excuse which, one of the Senators [c] said, "there were some men who knew better how to avoid doing ill themselves, than to punish it in others." It is certain, however, that so dangerous a manner of proceeding would in time have tarnished his glory, if he had been a Prince: but as he lived under a Republican government, it was not only connived at, but added to his reputation.—I conclude then with regard to the question, *whether it is better to be feared or beloved*, that it entirely depends upon the inclinations of the subjects themselves, whether they will love their Prince or not; whereas the Prince has it in his own power to make them fear him; and if he is a wise man, he ought to trust to what depends upon himself alone, and not upon the caprice of others, but to remember at the same time, to conduct himself (as I have said before) in such a manner as to avoid being hated [d].

[z] He was afterwards obliged to use more rigour, *ibid.*

[a] "Natum eum ad corrumpendam disciplinam militarem arguebat." *Tit. Liv. Dec. 3. Lib. II.*

[b] Plutarch calls him Pleminius. It was upon these complaints that the Romans were for depriving Scipio of the Government of Sicily, and bringing him to a trial.

[c] Quintus Metellus.

[d] Plutarch says, in the life of Lycurgus, that Eurytion, King of Sparta, having relaxed the royal authority a little, in order to please his Subjects, they grew so insolent and licentious after they perceived the reins loose, that when his Successors endeavoured to resume a proper degree of authority, they became mortally hated by the people.