

without running the risque of a battle; as it must of course either separate or die of hunger. Hannibal, on the contrary, wanted to come to an engagement: his circumstances obliged him to strike some bold stroke as soon as possible, in order not only to gain him reputation and intimidate the enemy, (as spirited actions always do) but for the sake of other emoluments and advantages which usually attend a victory. If the Elector of Bavaria and Marshal Tallard had not quitted Bavaria in the year 1704, and advanced to Blenheim and Hochstet, they might have made themselves masters of all Suabia: for the army of the Allies not being able to supply itself with provisions in Bavaria, would have been forced to retire towards the Maine, and disband. It was want of prudence and circumspection therefore at a proper time that obliged the Elector to hazard a battle, the event of which was no less memorable than glorious to the German empire, which owed its preservation entirely to it: for the Marshal and the Elector were totally defeated, and not only lost Bavaria, but all that Country which lies betwixt the high Palatinate and the Rhine. There is seldom much said of such as perish in their rash undertakings; those only are talked of who are favoured in them by fortune: just as it happens with regard to dreams and prophecies; though thousands have proved false and are soon forgotten, we remember here and there one that has been accomplished. But the world should judge of events from their causes, and not of causes from their events.

I conclude then that the people run a great risque, and are in continual danger, who are governed by a bold enterprizing Prince: and that if a Sovereign, who acts with circumspection and deliberation, is not so well formed for great exploits, he seems however much better qualified for government. But to make them both great men, it is necessary they should come into the world at a favourable conjuncture, without which their respective talents will be rather of prejudice than advantage to them. Every reasonable man, but especially those whom God has destined to govern others, ought to lay down a plan for his conduct, as regular and well connected as a geometrical demonstration; by following which with strictness and perseverance, he will acquire a habit of acting consistently, and cannot be led astray from his main object. By this, he may likewise make all conjunctures and events subservient to his interests, and every thing concur to facilitate the execution of the designs he has formed.

But who are these Princes from whom we expect these rare talents? They are but men, and we may very well be allowed to say that human nature cannot completely discharge so many different duties. We may as well search for a Phenix, or the unities of Metaphysicians, as the man that is delineated by Plato. It is but reasonable to expect that people should be content with the efforts of sovereigns to arrive

*... in order to ... their happiness*