

make sufficient provision for their safety, by war at least, if not by other means. I am of opinion therefore, that any other Prince or people endued with the same degree of Virtue and Courage, and observing the same wise measures, would likewise have the same good fortune that the Romans had.

I should here have taken notice of the methods which that Commonwealth took, in order to get footing in other nations which they invaded, if I had not already discussed that point at large in a Treatise called *the Prince*: yet I cannot help briefly observing, that they always took care to gain over some powerful friend in those States to their interest, whose assistance they made use of not only to open a passage into them at first, but to keep possession of them after they were conquered. Thus they availed themselves of the Capuans in the territories of the Samnites, of the people of Camerino in Tuscany, of the Mamertines in Sicily, of the Saguntines in Spain, of Massinissa in Africa, of the Etolians in Greece, of Eumenes and other Princes in Asia, and of the Massilians and Edui in Gaul: and so dexterous were they both in forming and conducting such alliances, that they never were at a loss for friends of that kind, who greatly contributed to facilitate all their enterprizes, and enabled them both to conquer other nations and afterwards to retain the dominion over them. Those then that carefully follow the same Maxims, will always have much less occasion for the assistance of Fortune than others that do not: and that there may be no further room left to doubt that their own Wisdom and Virtue conduced much more than Fortune to the aggrandizement of that Empire, we shall shew in the next Chapter, what sort of people they were whom the Romans subdued, and how obstinately they defended their liberties.

C H A P: II.

With what Nations the Romans were engaged in their wars; and how obstinately those Nations defended their liberties against them.

THE excessive love of liberty, and the obstinacy with which both the neighbouring nations, and some of those that lay at a great distance from the Romans, defended it against them in those times, made it so difficult to conquer them, that it never could have been effected, without an uncommon degree of virtue and courage. This is evident from the many and great dangers to which they exposed themselves, sometimes to preserve, and sometimes to recover it; as well as from the severe revenge they took when an opportunity offered, upon those that had usurped it. It likewise sufficiently appears from History what