the latter ſubmitted, and were incorporated among his ſubjects.

Thoſe who endeavour to extract ſome truth from the multitude of fables in which the early part of the Grecian hiſtory is obſcured, are of opinion that Cadmus was one of the Canaanites expelled by Joſhua ; and that he was oſ the family of the Cadmonites mentioned by Moſes and Joſhua. He is univerſally allowed to have introduced the Phoenician letters into Greece, ſet up the firſt ſchools, and introduced braſs ; which, from him, had the name of *Cadmean* given to it. The government of Thebes continued for a long time monarchical ; and the names of a number of its kings have been tranſmitted to us, with ſome account of their tranſac­tions ; but ſo much obſcured by fable, that little or nothing can be determined concerning them. We ſhall therefore paſs over this fabulous part of their hiſtory, and only take no­tice of that period of it when the Thebans emerged from their obſeurity, and for a time held the ſovereignty of Greece.

Though the Thebans had been famed in the early period of their hiſtory for their martial atchievements, yet in pro­ceſs of time they ſeem to have degenerated. At the time of the invaſion of Xerxes, they were the firſt people in Greece who were gained over to the Perſian intereſt. On ac­count of this miſbehaviour, they were become very obnoxi­ous to the other ſtates, eſpecially to the Athenians, whoſe power and renown increaſed every day, and threatened at laſt to ſwallow them up altogether. The Thebans being in no con­dition to oppoſe ſuch a formidable power, put themſelves under the protection of the Spartans, who, out of jealouiy of the Athenians, readily forgave them ; and ſo grateful were the Thebans for the kindneſs ſhown them at this time, that du­ring the whole of the Peloponneſian war Sparta had not a more faithful ally. By theſe means they not only recovered the government of Bœotia, of which they had been former­ly in poſſeſſion, till deprived of it on account of their ſiding with the Perſians, but their city became one of the firſt in Greece. By this proſperity the Thebans were ſo much elated, that, when the peace of Antalcidas came to be ſigned, they refuſed to agree to it, as they were thus once more deprived of the government of Bœotia ; ſo that it was not without the utmoſt difficulty that they were overawed into it by the other ſtates. Not content with forcing them to give up this point, however, the Spartans undertook to change the form of the Theban government, which at this time was a democracy, and accompliſhed through the treach­ery of thoſe who had the care of the citadel.

The Thebans continued under the power of the Spar­tans for four years ; at the end of which term a conſpiracy being formed againſt them by ſome of the principal people in the city, among whom was a young nobleman named *Pe­lopidas,* the Spartans were maſſacred and driven out, and the citadel regained. During the tumult Epaminondas, after wards the celebrated general, with a number of the beſt ci­tizens, joined the party of Pelopidas ; and the latter having called a general assembly of the Thebans, proclaimed liberty to them, and exhorted them in the ſtrongeſt manner to fight for their country. This ſpeech was received with the greateſt acclamations ; Pelopidas was unanimouſly proclaim­ed the preſerver of Thebes, and was charged with the ma­nagement of the war which was then to be declared againſt Sparta.

Theſe tranſactions ſo much exaſperated the Spartans, that they immediately sent their king Cleombrotus againſt them, though it was then the depth oſ winter. The Athe­nians, in the mean time, who had hitherto aſſiſted the The­bans, declined any farther connection, lest they ſhould draw upon themſelves the reſentment of the Spartans. But

they were ſoon after determined to act again on the ſame side, by an attempt which the Spartan general, Sphodnas, had raſhly made on the Pyræum or harbour of Athens. Thus, by means of the Athenians, a powerful diverſion was made in favour of the Thebans, who gradually recovered all the towns of Bœotia, and at length began to act offenſively againſt their enemies, and made a powerful invaſion in Phocis. They had now many ſharp encounters with them ; which, though they did not amount to deciſive battles, yet did not fail to raiſe their courage, and diſtreſs that of the Spartans. In theſe encounters Pelopidas al­ways ſignalized himſelf; and in the battle of Tanagra, where the Lacedænmnians were entirely defeated by the Athenians and their allies, Pelopidas had a principal ſhare in the victory, and killed the Spartan general with his own hand. Soon after this, with a body of only 300 Thebans, he entirely routed and diſperſed near 1000 Spartans ; which was the greateſt diſgrace the latter had ever known ; for till that time, whether in war with the Greeks or Barbari­ans, they had never been overcome by an equal, much leſs by such an inferior, number of troops.

Theſe ſucceſſes of the Thebans greatly alarmed the Athenians, who continually fought to oppoſe their growing power. In this oppoſition they were joined by the Platæans, who on this account became extremely obnoxious to the Thebans, ſo that they at laſt came to a reſolution to surpriſe their city. This they accompliſhed, and entirely de­ſtroyed it, together with Thespia, another city extremely well affected to Athens. Soon after this, the Thebans, encouraged by their ſucceſs, began to think of enlarging their territories, and of making encroachments on their neigh­bours, as they ſaw other ſtates had done before them. This ſpirit of conqueſt is ſaid to have been raiſed by their gene­ral Pelopidas ; in which he was ſeconded by Epaminondas, a person who, though like him endowed with all the neceſſa­ry qualities to make a complete captain or patriot, had till then preferred a private life, and lived in a constant courſe of virtue and the ſtudy of philoſophy. He had as yet ſeldom appeared in public, except to get himſelf excuſed from thoſe ſtate-employments which were ſo eagerly courted by others. This, however, had not hindered him from con­tracting an intimate friendſhip with Pelopidas, which had been daily improved by the correſpondence of their tempers and principles, as well as by that zeal which both diſplayed for the good of their country ; which laſt had made them, even before this time, appear together in action, and to ſuch advantage, that Epaminondas’s merit could be no longer concealed, nor indeed ſuffer him to continue longer in his beloved retirement: ſo that he ſaw himſelf, at length, deſervedly placed at the head of the Theban troops ; where he gave ſuch early proofs of his future proweſs and abilities, as juſtly gave him the next rank to Pelopidas. Both came now to be conſidered in the ſame light, as generals in the field, as governors at home, and as complete ſtateſmen in the council. When the general treaty for reſtoring peace **to** Greece came to be propoſed by the Athenians, and was upon the point of being executed by the reſt of the ſtates, the Thebans refuſed to agree to it, unleſs they were com­prehended in it under the name of *Laotians.* This demand was as ſtrenuouſly oppoſed by the other contracting powers as inſiſted on by Epaminondas, who was there as ambaſſador on the part of the Thebans. Ageſilaus, in particular, told him in plain terms, that the Thebans ought to evacuate Bœotia, and leave the cities of it free and independent. To which he was anſwered by him, that the Lacedaemonians would do well to ſet them the example, by reſtoring Messenia to its ancient proprietors, and Laconia to its ancient freedom ; for