Athens and Sparta were accordingly applied to, and were eaſily prevailed upon to aſſiſt the Mantineans, and to come into a ſtrict confederacy againſt the Thebans ; and to prevent all diſputes about the command of the army, it was agreed that each ſtate ſhould have it in its own territories ; which plainly ſhows how terrified they all were at the apprehenſion oſ a freſh invaſion of the Thebans : for this was a point which neither the Spartans nor Athenians would have ſo readily given up to the Arcadians, though theſe had formerly as ſtrenuouſly inſiſted upon it, even when they were almoſt reduced to the laſt extremity, and had never been able to obtain it till now. But Epaminondas was then in full march at the head of his Boeotian troops, with ſome Eubcean auxiliaries, and a body of ſtout Theſſalian horſe ; and was moreover to be joined by the Meſſenians, Argives, and ſeveral other nations, as ſoon as he had entered Peloponneſus. The confederate army againſt him had ordered their rendezvous at Mantinea, the place which they natural­ly concluded would be firſt attacked, as being the chief ſeat of thoſe who had revolted from the Thebans But whilſt they were ſecuring themſelves on that side, Epaminondas, who wiſely conſidered how far this confederacy and expedi­tion muſt have drained the city of Sparta oſ its main ſtrength, broke up privately from Nemæa, where he had lain for ſome time encamped, and marched all that night with a deſign to have ſurpriſed that important capital : but his project being timely diſcovered, the vigilant king took care to diſconcert it ; ſo that, though the Theban general made ſeveral vigorous aſſaults on that city, he was ſo ſtoutly repulſed, and the Spartans behaved with ſuch intrepid va­lour, that he was forced to retire and turn his thoughts againſt Mantinea, which he judged by this time to have been quite defenceleſs. He judged rightly indeed ; for the place was not only drained of its troops, but likewiſe of its inhabitants, who took that opportunity, whilſt the ſcene of war was in Lacedaemon, to gather in their harveſt, and were ſcattered all over the country ; ſo that he would not have met with any difficulty in gaining the town, had not the Athenian auxiliaries come unexpectedly to its relief, and gi­ven him a freſh repulſe.

Theſe two laſt defeats greatly exaſperated the Theban general, who had never till now been uſed to them, and could not but foresee that they would not only leſſen his reputa­tion with his allies, but, if not timely retrieved, would ſully the glory of all his former exploits. What added to his preſent difficulties was, that the time allotted him for his expedition was almoſt expired ; ſo that he had but a ſhort ſpace left to undertake ſome brave atchievement, which might recover his and his country’s honour, and keep up the ſpirits of his auxiliaries and thoſe under his protection. He was moreover got very far into the enemy’s country, and ſaw plainly enough how narrowly they watched all his mo­tions, and how well prepared they were to oppoſe him what­ever attempt he resolved upon, whether to attack them or to retreat. Under all theſe difficulties, he rightly conſider­ed, that he muſt immediately reſolve upon a decisive battle ; in which, if his priſtine fortune followed him, he might at once retrieve his affairs, and make himſelf maſter of Peloponneſus ; or, if that failed him, as it lately had done, fall honourably in the attempt. In this engagement Epami­nondas made the wiſeſt diſpoſition of his troops, attacked and fought with the moſt intrepid courage and conduct, and had opened himſelf a way through the Spartan pha­lanxes, thrown them into the utmoſt confuſion, and made a terrible daughter of them, inſomuch that the field of battle was covered with their wounded and ſlain, when, in the heat of the fight, having ventured himſelf too far in order to give them a total overthrow, the enemy rallied again, pour­ing with their whole fury three volleys oſ darts at him, ſome of which he drew out and returned to them, till at length, being covered with wounds, and weakened with the loſs of ſo much blood, he received a mortal wound from a javelin, and was with great difficulty rescued from the ene­my by his brave Thebans, and brought alive, though ſpeechleſs, into his tent. As ſoon as he had recovered himſelf, he aſked his friends that were about him what was be­come of his ſhield ; and being told that it was ſafe, he bec­koned to have it brought to him, and kiſſed it. He next inquired which side had gained the victory ; and being anſwered, The Thebans ; he replied, Then all is well : and up­on obſerving ſome of his friends bewail his untimely death, and leaving no children behind him, he is ſaid to have anſwered, Yes ; I have left two fair daughters, the victory of Leuctra, and this of Mantinea, to perpetuate my memory. Soon after this, upon drawing the point of the javelin cut of his body, he expired.

The conſequence of this great general’s fall, and of this bloody ſight, in which neither side could boaſt any great advantage over the other, but a great loſs of men on both ſides, inſomuch that Xenophon makes it a drawn battle, was, that both parties agreed on a cessation of arms, and parted, as it were by conſent, to take care of their wounded and ſlain. The Thebans indeed thus far gained the greater ſhare of glory, that they renewed the fight, and after a moſt deſperate conteſt, gained the victory over thoſe Spartans that oppoſed them, and reſcued the body of their dying ge­neral out of their hands. However, an effectual end was put to this bloody war, and a general peace agreed on by all but Sparta ; who refuſed it only becauſe the Meſſenians were included in it. But as to the Thebans, they had no great reaſon to boaſt of this dear-bought victory, ſince their power and glory began to decline from that very time ; ſo that it may be truly ſaid, that it rose and ſet with their great general.

On the death of Epaminondas, the Thebans relapſed into their former ſtate of inactivity and indolence; and at laſt having ventured to oppoſe Alexander the Great, their city was taken, and the inhabitants ſlaughtered for ſeveral hours, after which the buildings were deſtroyed. It was rebuilt by Caſſander, but never afterwards made any conſiderable figure among the ſtates of Greece. About the year 146 B. C. it fell under the power of the Romans, under which it continued till the extinction of their empire by the Turks. It is now called *Thive,* and is nothing to what it was for­merly ; yet it is four miles in circumference, but ſo full of ruins, that there are not above 4000 Turks and Christians in it. It is now famous for a fine sort of white clay, of which they make bowls for pipes after the Turkiſh fashion. They are never burnt, but dry naturally, and become as hard as a ſtone. There are two moſques in Thebes, and a great many Greek churches. It is seated between two ſmall ri­vers, in E. Long. 23. 40. N. Lat. 38. 17.

Thebes, in Egypt, one of the moſt renowned cities of the ancient world. It was alſo called *Diospolis,* or the city of Jupiter, and was built, according to ſome, by Osiris, ac­cording to others by Buſiris. Its length, in Strabo’s time, was 80 furlongs, or ten miles; but this was nothing in compariſon of its ancient extent, before it was ruined by Cambyſes, which, we are told, was no leſs than 420 ſtadia, or 52 miles and an half. The wealth of this city was so great, that, after it had been plundered by the Persians, what was found, on burning the remains of the pillage, amounted to above 300 talents of gold and 2300 of ſilver.

Mr Bruce viſited the ruins of this celebrated city ; but informs us that nothing now remains except four temples, and theſe neither ſo entire nor magnificent as ſome others at