without her, he built, or rebuilt, the city of Thebes, after having long sought her in vain. He was at first opposed by the Hyantes and Aones ; the former of whom he defeat­ed in battle, and forced to retire into Locris ; 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 of the family of the Cadmonites mentioned by Moses and Joshua. He is allowed to have introduced the Phoenician letters into Greece, established 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, though much obscured by fable.

Although the Thebans had been famed in the early pe­riod of their history for their martial achievements, 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 conduct, they became very obnoxious to the other states, especially to the Athenians, whose power and renown increased every day. The Thebans being in no condition to oppose such a formidable power, placed them­selves under the protection of the Spartans, who, out of jea­lousy 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 Boeotia, of which they had formerly been 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 An- talcidas came to be signed, they refused to agree to it, as they were thus once more deprived of the government of Boeotia ; so that it was not without the utmost difficulty that they were overawed 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 their purpose, 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 expiration of which, 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 all massacred or driven out, and the citadel was regained. During the tumult Epaminon­das, afterwards 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 declared the preserver of Thebes, and was charged with the management of the war which was then to be undertaken against Sparta.

These transactions so much exasperated the Spartans, that they immediately sent their king Cleombrotus against them, though it was then the depth of winter. The Athe­nians, in the mean time, who had hitherto assisted the The­bans, declined any further connection, lest they should draw upon themselves the resentment of the Spartans. But they were soon afterwards determined to act again on the same side, by an attempt which the Spartan general, Sphodnas, had rashly made on the Pyræus, 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 Boeotia, and at length began to act offensively against their enemies, and made a powerful invasion in Pho­cis. They had now many sharp encounters, which, though they did not amount to decisive battles, yet did not fail to raise their courage, and depress that of the Spartans. In these encounters Pelopidas always signalized himself ; and in the battle of Tanagra, where the Lacedæmonians 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 nearly 1000 Spartans, which was the greatest disgrace that the lat­ter had ever known ; for till that crisis, 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 sought to oppose their growing power. In this opposition they were joined by the Platæans, who on that 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. Encouraged by their success, the The­bans soon afterwards 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. 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. Before this period, they had often appeared together in action, and to such advantage, that Epaminondas’s merit could no longer be concealed, nor in­deed suffer him to continue longer in his beloved retirement. He at length found himself placed at the head of the The­ban troops ; where he gave such early proofs of his future prowess and abilities as justly secured 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 *Boeotians.* 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. He replied, that the Lacedæmo­nians would do well to set them the example, by restoring Messenia to its ancient proprietors, and Laconia to its ancient freedom ; and that the pretensions of the city of Thebes to Bœotia were at least as well founded as those of Sparta to those two countries. He then proceeded to shew how far Sparta had aggrandized herself at the expense of her neigh­bours ; that peace might be indeed obtained, and upon a solid and lasting footing ; but that this could pot be other­wise than by admitting the principle of equality. His bold though just remonstrance, in which not only Thebes, but Greece in general, was concerned, failed not to exasperate the haughty Spartan monarch ; and the Athenians, who had till now looked upon the Thebans as dependants either on