that Pelopidas was obliged to give over his pursuit and come to their relief. This immediately inspired the Thes­salians with fresh courage. They again began to charge the enemy at several onsets, and soon threw them into such disorder that they were forced to give way. Pelopidas no sooner perceived the advantage, than he began to look for Alexander, with a design of engaging him. Having des­cried him as he was commanding his right wing, and en­deavouring to rally his men, he moved directly to him ; and having approached so near as to be heard by him, chal­lenged him to decide the battle by single combat. Alex­ander, instead of accepting the offer, turned about, and, with all the speed he could, ran to screen himself among his guards. Upon this Pelopidas charged him with such furi­ous speed that he obliged him to retire farther, and shel­ter himself within the thickest ranks ; the sight of which made him attack with fresh vigour, and fight more despe­rately against him. He tried in vain several times to break through their ranks to reach him, cutting down great num­bers of those that came forward to oppose him. His eager­ness at length exposed him so far to the darts that were dis­charged from a distance, that some of them penetrated his armour, and gave him one or two desperate wounds, when some of the enemy advanced, and stabbed him in the breast with their spears.

It is scarcely possible for words to express the grief and despair which not only his brave Thebans, but likewise the Thessalians and other allies, showed at the sight of their slain general. Some of the latter who had perceived the danger to which he was exposed, descended from the hill with all possible speed to his relief ; but when they per­ceived that they had come too late to save him, both they and the rest of the little army thought of nothing but how to avenge his death. They rallied accordingly both horse and foot, as quickly as possible, and began to charge the enemy afresh, and with such desperate fury that they at length gained a complete victory over them, and killed above 3000 in the pursuit, besides a much greater number which they had slain on the field of battle, though they still looked upon all these advantages as too small to compen­sate the loss of their brave general.

The news of his death had no sooner reached Thebes, than the whole city was seen in as deep mourning as his army. They however sent a reinforcement of 7000 foot and 700 horse, as well to revenge the death of that general, as to improve the victory which he had gained over the enemy. The Thebans then fell so furiously on them, that they quickly broke and totally defeated the shattered re­mains of Alexander’s army. He was forced to sue for peace, and to accept it on such conditions as the conque­rors thought fit to impose. He was at length despatched in his bed by his wife Thebe, assisted by her brothers, about seven years after his defeat. His body was after­wards dragged along the streets, trodden under foot, and left a prey to the dogs.

All this while the Thebans were watching to improve every commotion that happened, every success they gained, to the forwarding of their reigning and favourite project of increasing their power above all the rest, and in their turn of giving laws to Greece. Their late success in Thessaly, and the rupture between the Arcadians and Mantineans at the same time, about some consecrated money which the former had taken out of the temple of Olympia to pay their troops employed against the Eleans, and which the latter called a downright sacrilege, besides other discords that reigned in the other states of Greece, gave fresh encourage­ment to Thebes to offer her arbitration in those disputes. Those who had embezzled the sacred money, and wanted rather to embroil matters than to have them brought to light, informed the Thebans that the Arcadians were on the point of revolting to the Spartans, and advised them to come and defeat their design. At the same time they de­spatched some private directions to a Theban officer at Te­gea, to apprehend several of their own people as disturbers of the peace. This was accordingly done, and several emi­nent persons were confined as prisoners of state. They were soon after discharged, and loud complaints were made against such arbitrary and unjust proceedings. The officer was accused before the Theban senate of having intermed­dled in their affairs, and endeavoured to interrupt the good correspondence between the two states. It was even urged by some of the Tegeans that he should be indicted ; while the more moderate, who foresaw the consequences which were likely to attend such appeals, and that it would infalli­bly bring the Thebans upon them, loudly protested against their marching into their territories, and did all they could to prevent it. The Thebans, however, were become too powerful and ambitious to miss so fair an opportunity of once more obtaining a footing in Peloponnesus, as they had long ago premeditated ; and Epaminondas was so far from making a secret of their design, that he told the Arcadian deputies in justification of it, that as it was on their account that the Thebans engaged in the war, they had acted treach­erously with them in making peace with Athens without their consent ; but that when he had joined his army on his march into Peloponnesus to assist his friends, he would soon see what proofs the Arcadians would give of their fidelity. This speech did not fail to occasion great alarm, especially as it was spoken in such a magisterial style and threatening tone. Even those who were best affected to the Thebans could not forbear expressing their dislike of it; and all those who had the welfare of Peloponnesus at heart readily agreed with the Mantineans, that no time was to be lost in using all proper means to prevent the impending storm.

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 in order 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 of a fresh invasion of the Thebans. This was a point which neither the Spartans nor Athenians would so readily have 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 Eubœan auxiliaries, and a body of stout Thes­salian horse ; and was moreover to be joined by the Mes- senians, 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 scat of those who had revolted from the Thebans. But while they were securing themselves on that side, Epaminondas, who wisely considered how far this confederacy and expedition must have drained the city of Sparta of its main strength, broke up privately from Ne- mæa, where he had lain for some time encamped, and marched all that night with a design to have surprised that important capital. His project being 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 indeed judged rightly ; for the place was not only drained of its troops, but likewise of its inhabitants, who took that opportunity, while the scene of war was in Lacedæmon, to gather in their harvest, and were scattered all over the country ; so that he would not have met with any difficulty in gaining