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 before experienced such disasters, and could not but foresee that they would not only lessen his reputation with his allies, but, if not speedily 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 achievement, which might recover bis and his country’s honour, and keep up the spirits of his auxiliaries, and those under his protec­tion. He was moreover in the midst of his 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 ranks, thrown them into the utmost confusion, and made a terrible slaughter 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 of darts upon 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 afterwards, upon drawing the point of the javelin out of his body, he expired.

The consequence of this great general’s fall, and of the bloody fight in which neither party could boast any great advantage over the other, after 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, obtained a victory over those Spartans that opposed them, and rescued the body of their dying gene­ral out of their hands. But an effectual end was put to this bloody war, and a general peace agreed on by all but the Spartans, who refused it only because the Messenians were included in it. 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 had risen 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 *Thiυe,* and, according to Dr Clarke, is about two and a half English miles in circumference. It contains about 300 houses, and many interesting antiquities. The present inhabitants live chiefly within what was anciently the citadel. The circuit of the walls can yet be traced, and many parts of them are still standing. There were two mosques in Thebes, and a great many Greek churches. It is seated between two small rivers, at the south-west side of a large plain, in long. 23. 40. E. and lat. 38. 17. N.

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 others at Den- dera. Thebes has been celebrated by Homer for its hun­dred gates; but Mr Bruce informs us, that no vestiges of these are now remaining, neither can we discover the foun­dation of any wall it ever had ; “ and as for the horsemen and chariots it is said to have sent out, all the Thebaid sown with wheat would not have maintained one half of them. Thebes, at least the ruins of the temples called *Medinet Tabu,* are built in a long stretch of about a mile broad, most parsimoniously chosen at the sandy foot of the mountains. The *Horti Pensiles,* or hanging gardens, were surely formed upon the sides of these hills, then supplied with water by mechanical devices. The utmost is done to spare the plain, and with great reason ; for all the space of ground this an­cient city has had to maintain its myriads of horses and men, is a plain of three quarters of a mile broad between the town and the river, upon which plain the water rises to the height of four and five feet. All this pretended populousness of ancient Thebes I therefore believe to be fabulous.” After examining the ground on which Thebes is supposed to have stood, he concluded that it had no walls, and that conse­quently Homer’s story of its having an hundred gates is mis­understood. The mountains of the Thebaid stand close be­hind the town, not in a ridge, but standing single, so that you can go round each of them. A hundred of these are said to be hollowed out for sepulchres and other purposes. These, he thinks, were the hundred gates of Homer ; in proof of this they are still called by the natives *Beeban el Meluhe,* the ports or gates of the kings. All that is said of Thebes by poets or historians after the days of Homer is meant of Diospolis, which, as its name testifies, was built by the Greeks, long after Thebes was destroyed ; though Diodorus says it was built by Busiris. It was on the east side of the Nile, whereas ancient Thebes was on the west, though both are considered as one city. See Egypt.

THEMISTIUS, a Greek orator and philosopher, was a native of Paphlagonia, and flourished during the latter half of the fourth century. He became very eminent as a pub­lic teacher of philosophy, and distinguished himself by com­mentaries on some of the works of Aristotle. His eloquence procured him the appellation of E*ὐφgαὃὴς*, or the Eloquent. At Constantinople he taught for twenty years. Having been invited to Rome, he removed to that city, but, after an interval of two years, returned to his former place of residence, and there spent the remainder of his life. He