

## Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

## **Montaigne's Essays**

In Three Books. With Notes and Quotations. And an Account of The Author's Life; With a short Character of the Author and Translator, by the late Marquis of Halifax; With the Addition of A Complete Table to each Volume

Montaigne, Michel Eyquem de London, 1743

Chap. 45. Of the Battle of Dreux.

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## WEST STANGERS OF THE STANGES OF THE

CHAP. XLV.

Of the Battle of Dreux.

O'UR Battle of Dreux, is remarkable for several extraordinary Accidents: But such Men as have no great Kindness for the Duke of Guise, nor much savour his Reputation, are willing to have him thought to blame, and that his making a Halt, and delaying Time with the Forces he commanded, whilst the Constable who was General of the Army was raked through and through with the Enemies Artillery, his Battalion routed, and himself taken Prisoner; is not to be excus'd: And that he had much better have ran the Hazard of charging the Enemy in the Flank, than staying for the Advantage of falling in upon the

the Rear, to suffer so great and so important a Loss. But, besides what the Event demonstrated, who will consider it without Passion or Prejudice, will easily be induced to confess, that the Aim and Defign not of a Captain only, but of every private Soldier ought to look at the Victory in general; and that no particular Occurrences, how nearly loever they may concern his own Interest, should divert him from that Pursuit. Philopæmen, in an Encounter with Machanidas, having fent before a good firong Party of his Archers, to begin the Skirmish, which were by the Enemy routed and purfued; who purfuing them, and pushing on the Fortune of their Arms in the Heat of Victory; and in that Pursuit passing by the Battalion where Philopæmen was, though his Soldiers were impatient to fall on, yet he was better temper'd, and did not think fit to stir from his Post, nor to present himself to the Enemy to telieve his Men, but having suffer'd them to be chas'd about the Field, and cut in Pieces before his Face, then charged in upon their Body of Foot, when he faw them left naked by their Horse; and notwithstanding that they were Lacedamonians, yet taking them in the Nick, when thinking themselves secure of the Victory. they began to disorder their Ranks, he did his Business with great Facility, and then put himself in Pursuit of Machanidos: Which Case is very like that of Monsseur de Guise. In that bloody Battle betwixt Agefilaus, and the Bactions, which Xenophon, who was prefent at it, reports to be the ndeft and most bloody that he had ever seen, Agefilaus ward the Advantage that Fortune prefented him, to let the Banians Battalion pass by, and then to charge them in the Rear, how certain foever he made himself of the Victory, adging it would rather be an Effect of Conduct than Vaor, to proceed that Way: And therefore to shew his frowefs, rather chofe, with a wonderful Ardour of Courage ocharge them in the Front; but he was well beaten, and wounded for his Pains, and constrain'd at last to difingage hmfelf, and to take the Courfe he had at first neglected, openmghis Battalion to give Way to this Torrent of the Baotians lory, and being past by, taking Notice that they march'd in Disorder, like Men that thought themselves out of Danger, he then purfu'd, and charg'd them in Flank and Rear;

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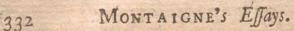
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yet could not prevail so far as to bring it to so general a Rout, but that they leisurely retreated, still facing about upon him, till they were retired into Safety.

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## CHAP. XLVI.

Of Names.

HAT Variety of Herbs soever are shuffled toge ther in the Dish, yet the whole Mass is swallow'd up in one Name of a Sallet. In like Manner, under the Consideration of Names, I will make a Hodge-podge of differing Articles. Every Nation has certain Names, that, I know not why, are taken in no good Sense, as with us, John, William, and Benedict. In the Genealogy of Princes also there seems to be certain Names fatally affected, as the Ptolemies of Egypt, the Henry's of England, the Charles's of France, the Baldwins of Flanders, and the Williams of our ancient Aquitaine, from whence 'is faid, the Name of Guyenne has it's Derivation; which would feem far fetch'd, were there not as rude Derivations in Plato himself. 'Tis a very frivolous Thing in itell, but nevertheless worthy to be recorded for the Strangeness of it, which is writ by an Eye-witness; that Henry Duke of Normandy, Son of Henry the Second, King of England, making a great Feast in France, the Concourse of Nobility and Gentry was fo great, that being, for Sports Sake, divided into Troops, according to their Names, in the first Troop, which confifted of Williams, there were found an hundred and ten Knights fitting at the Table of that Name, without reckoning the ordinary Gentlemen, and their Servants. It is as pleafant to diffinguish the Tables by the Names of the Guefts, as it was in the Emperor Geta, to dislinguish the several Courses of his Meat, by the first Letters of the Meats themselves, where those that began with B, were ferv'd up together, as Brawn, Beef, Bream, Bull tards and Beccaficos, and so of others. Now there is a Say ing, that it is a good thing to have a good Name, that is to fay, Credit, and a good Repute: But besides this, I