

men, where he was soon surrounded, and at length taken prisoner. It was the first time a Roman general had ever been taken alive in battle by the enemy. The victors marched to Carthage; and Regulus followed. Here he long endured the hardships of a rigorous captivity. They gave him but just food enough to prolong his miseries; and to render life insupportable, they exposed him to the public scorn.—Another engagement soon after took place, in which the Carthaginians lost a considerable number of men. Among these were many illustrious citizens, whom the Romans made prisoners. The ill-fortune of the Carthaginians daily increased. A second defeat happened; another, and another still succeeded; their best officers were in the hands of the Romans; and they sent Regulus to Rome to negotiate an exchange of prisoners, or to treat of peace. They trusted that the miseries which he had endured in the dungeons of Carthage, would induce him to give his warmest support to a measure that was to restore him to Rome and liberty. Before he departed they gave him to under-
G
stand,