

at war with Carthage. The Romans, under the command of Regulus, had gained many victories ; and the Carthaginians, dejected by repeated defeats, hired mercenaries from Greece to assist their cause. With these there came Xantippus, who did not appear to have gained any reputation in the armies of his own country. His discourses soon attracted the notice of the Carthaginians. He promised them discipline and victory ; and by a decree of the Senate, he was appointed to the supreme command. He watched for a favourable moment, and at length considering it arrived, he determined to give battle to the Roman army. With this view, he took the advantage of the ground, and made the necessary dispositions. Regulus, inclined to second the wish of Xantippus, drew up the Romans in array of battle. In this arrangement he is said to have committed a material error. Xantippus began the attack, and in a short time the main body where Regulus commanded was broken through, and the Roman army put to flight. Regulus remained upon the field with five hundred men,