

sion of immense riches. When Solon the legislator of Athens, and one of the most celebrated of the ancient sages of Greece came to Sardis, where Croesus held his Court, he was received in a manner suitable to the reputation of so great a man. The king, attended by his courtiers, appeared in all his regal pomp and splendour, dressed in the most magnificent apparel. Solon, however, did not discover surprise or admiration. This coldness and indifference astonished and displeased the king, who next ordered that all his treasures, magnificent apartments, and costly furniture, his diamonds, statues, and paintings, should be shown to the philosopher.

When Solon had seen all, he was brought back to the king, who asked, whether he had ever beheld a happier man than he. Yes, replied Solon: one Telius, a plain but worthy citizen of Athens, who lived all his days above indigence; saw his country in a flourishing condition; had children who were universally esteemed; and, having had the satisfaction of seeing those children's children, died fighting for his country.

Such an answer, in which gold and silver were accounted as nothing, seemed to Croesus to indicate strange ignorance and stupidity. However, as he flattered himself with being ranked in the second degree of happiness, he asked him whether after Telius, he knew another happy man? Solon answered,—Cleobis and Biton, of Argos, two brothers, perfect patterns of fraternal affection, and of the respect due from children to their