

a victory, must be attributed to a remnant of the crusading spirit, which, upon these occasions, and these only, soured the natural humanity of his temper, which was not sufficiently matured by philosophy. He was often affronted in such a state as Poland, where liberty is always upon the watch against the hand that governs; and yet he never lifted up that hand but against those who offended their country. His zeal for religion was free from the acrimony of an intolerating spirit; Greeks, Protestants, Jews, and some remains of the Socinians, lived in peace under his government; and this was no small matter, at a time when other Catholic powers were banishing or massacring their subjects in order to convert them. The dignity of a king did not obliterate from his mind the principles of a citizen, and he assembled the nation much oftener than any of his predecessors. He spent his reign in the Senate, in the midst of Diets, and in the fatigues of war; he never thought that the palace of a king should be appropriated to magnificence and luxury; but made himself thoroughly acquainted with men and things. In concerting the plan of his campaigns, he listened to every one, but was determined by himself alone, and, knowing how necessary the presence of a king is, for the purpose of discipline, celerity and even victory, he always headed his troops in person till the ill condition of his health prevented