

affairs, in order that while preparing for his son a realm of the widest possible extent, he might provide for the same realm a son similar to himself; nay, if that were possible, more illustrious. This work he began by exemplary deeds on his own part, which are mighty stimulants to praiseworthy action in others. He next made search for some one to mould the heart of the august child to the best principles and his mind to every liberal accomplishment. To assist in these cares he soon summoned to his side the most noble Charles de St. Maure, Duke of Montausier, as being a man distinguished in peace and war; firm in the maintenance of truth and equity; furnished with every resource of intellect and learning; altogether one to whose tried fidelity and courage he could with safety entrust the nation's hope and his own. Forthwith the Duke gave himself up wholly to this one enterprise, to guide the boyhood of the prince; to consider everything that might be of advantage to his tender age; to foresee what studies might be of use to him in his after life; with all labour and diligence to develop his lively and ready parts, which had already given promise of fruits more than ordinarily rich, so soon as maturity should be reached. Meanwhile he began to cogitate as to some method of acquiring a knowledge of literature more convenient and more expeditious than the usual one; as well because the minds of princely persons, who for the most part are little patient of hard work, must be relieved from a multitude of unpleasantnesses; as also because in the case of persons likely to be early plunged into the very thick of the most serious public affairs, some compendious modes of conducting their studies must be sought out. As one well practised in the examination of the monuments of ancient literature, the duke had tasted the quality of

many of their interpreters, had found how inaccurate were some of them, how meddlesome and at the same time how obscuring, others! It was his pleasure at length that all the Latin authors should be printed, each supplied with a commentary compiled with brevity, but at the same time with lucidity and care. He deemed it a noble project, to renovate, as it were, the whole Latian field: and while consulting for the education of an individual prince, to deserve well of literature at large. So then, the work was enjoined by him on certain scholars, each of considerable eminence in philological knowledge. To each of these his portion of labour was assigned; remuneration in proportion to what was to be done by each, was fixed; and into the hands of each a schedule specifying the mode of procedure was placed. The first care was to be that the text of each author should appear in as pure a state as practicable; and then, an accompanying gloss or comment was, by a simple and neat verbal arrangement, to make plain the sense whenever obscure; disentangle involved passages, bring back into a natural order, inverted ones; set free those which were trammelled by the laws and measures of verse. This, however, was to be done in such a way that the commentary was not, by too great license, to run into paraphrase; nor yet was it to omit anything likely to assist the understanding of tyros, the words of the authors themselves being used when those were sufficiently well known; but easier ones to be substituted when they were not so readily to be comprehended. Notes also were to be added, calculated, without ostentation of learning, to throw light on obscure metaphors, points of antique custom and ancient mythology and history. For in these annotations it was permitted neither to obtrude empty conjectures nor to foist in frivolous emen-