

Nor was she less distinguished for gallantry than for Martial prowess. She was tall and elegantly formed, and moved with the commanding and majestic air of Juno. The Persian princes and generals felt the influence of her eyes, and paid her amorous homage. Mardonius, who was commander in chief of the army of Xerxes under that monarch, though he had espoused the sister of his sovereign, appeared far from insensible to the charms and merits of Artemisia. But Ariabignes, one of the brothers of Xerxes, appeared most to engage her favor; youthful, handsome, brave and generous, he appeared the counterpart of the Halicarnassian heroine, and, before the departure of the army from Asia, splendid were the entertainments, and sumptuous the banquets which were mutually given and received by the two royal lovers.—But the chance of war soon terminated this amour. Ariabignes, hurried away by too impetuous an ardour, fell, covered with wounds, while attempting to board an Athenian galley at the battle of Salamis.

After the defeat and dispersion of the army of Xerxes, Artemisia returned to Halicarnassus, where she endeavored to forget, amid the splendid luxuries of her court, the disgrace she had in part incurred by the failure of the expedition in which she had been engaged.

Here she again received the homage, partly sincere, and partly interested, of numerous admirers, among the officers of her army and the grandees of her court.—But love, ever capricious, commanded her to disregard them all, and place her affections on a youth of humble birth, named Ortaues, who was an attendant in the palace. She raised him rapidly to the most lucrative offices, and all the honors she could bestow. Still, however, she perceived a coldness and want of passion in the youth, which ill requited the profusion of affection which she bestowed on him; but she attributed it merely to the temperature of his constitution, or the modesty of his youth, which her love and bounty must at last overcome. The idea of a happy rival never presented itself to her fancy to torment her soul. The great officers of her court, however, who saw with envy and indignation an obscure youth