

that, if he went back to Rome, he should be preferred to its sovereignty and, along with this, precipitated into the most odious and disgraceful crimes—whereas if he renounced Rome, the fates would weave for him other destinies, and he become wise and happy. The actual Tarquin resisted not the temptation of a crown—but there were other ideal worlds, each having a Tarquin, with the same history up to the period of consulting the oracle and a different history subsequent to that period. . And the design is to show that the actual world is the best, notwithstanding the disfiguration which it suffered from the atrocities of the actual Tarquin. “You have learned geometry in your youth,” said Minerva to Theodore, “like all other well educated Greeks. You know then, that, when the conditions of a required point are not enough to determine it—this gives rise to an infinity of points, all of which fall into what the geometers term a locus; and this locus at least which is often a line will be determinate. It is thus that you might figure a regular series of worlds all of them enveloping the case in question, but with circumstances and effects which vary in each different world. But if you suppose a world which differs from the actual one, only in one definite thing and its consequences, there is a certain determinate world that will answer the supposition. These worlds are all here, at least in ideal representation. I will show you some where you shall find not quite the same Sextus that you have seen, (that is impossible, for he always carries with him that which is to make him what he should