

SOME

ANECDOTES

Relating to the

LIFE and WRITINGS

OF

NICOLAS MACHIAVEL,

Collected from various AUTHORS.

NICOLAS MACHIAVEL was born at Florence; but in what year is not certain. One might reasonably have expected to find this particular in Neri's posthumous history of the Florentine Authors, published at Florence in 1722. But that writer only says, his father's name was Bernardo, and that he was of a noble and ancient family: after which introduction, instead of mentioning any thing circumstantial of the time of his birth, his studies, his life, or death, he runs out into a long invective against his writings. Paulus Jovius, however, acquaints us that his fortune was so narrow, that he was obliged to serve as Amanuensis to Marcello Virgilio [a], a man very learned in the Greek and Latin tongues; who finding him a youth of good parts, pointed out to him several beauties in the ancient writers, many of which he afterwards availed himself of in his own works [b]. Yet his knowledge in the Latin and Greek languages was but superficial, if we may credit the same author [c].

[a] Neri says, Marcello Virgilio Adriani.

[b] Constat eum, sicuti ipse nobis fatebatur, a Marcello Virgilio, cujus & notarius & assessor publici muneris fuit, Græcæ & Latinæ linguæ flores accepisse, quos scriptis suis infereret. *Paul. Jov. Elog. cap. 87.*

[c] Nulla vel certe mediocris Latinarum literarum cognitio fuit. *Ibid.*