

the account of that author, says, that this Comedy was brought upon the Stage at Florence before Leo X. was Pope [ *b* ].

These talents recommended him to the favour of the Medici, who procured him the office of Secretary, and afterwards that of Historiographer to the Republic of Florence. Mr. Bayle, in his historical Dictionary, says, they did that to pacify his resentment for having been put to the torture (upon suspicion of being an accomplice in the Machinations of the Soderini against the house of Medici) which yet he suffered without confessing any thing: but Neri relates the matter as if Machiavel had obtained those employments before he was suspected of being concerned in such practices. The encomiums which he bestowed upon Brutus and Cassius both in his conversation and writings made it strongly suspected that he was afterwards the principal manager of another conspiracy which was discovered [ *i* ].

[ *b* ] Balzac observes, that the *Clitia* of Machiavel is copied from the *Casina* of Plautus, and justly finds fault with the Florentine Poet, for having followed his original, word for word, in many places, even in ridiculing matters of Religion. “ Scriba quem nostri Florentinus comœdiam (says he) e Latinâ bonâ, Hetruscâ fecit, meo judicio, non malam. *Clitia* siquidem illius eadem est quæ Plauti *Casina*; ex qua nonnulla interpretis fidiſſimus penè ad verbum reddidit, quædam correxit cum arte, multa felicissimè imitatus est, aliqua verò aut imprudenter aut perversè; velut illa Olympionis villici ad stalinonem herum:

Inimica est tua uxor mihi, inimicus filius,  
Inimici familiares.—*Stal.* Quid id refert tuâ?  
Unus tibi hic dum propitius sit Jupiter,  
Tu istos minutos cave Deos flocci feceris.  
*Olymp.* Nugæ sunt istæ magnæ; quasi tu nescias  
Repente ut emoriantur humani Joves.  
Sed tandem si tu Jupiter sis emortuus,  
Cum ad Deos minores redierit regnum tuum,  
Quis mihi subveniet tergo aut capiti, aut cruribus?

*Casina, Act. ii. Scen. v.*

Quæ sic Tuscus effinxit Scenâ Sextâ Actus tertii, ubi Pyrrhus hunc cum Nicomachæ Sermonem habet:

*Nic.* Ch' importa à te? Stà ben con Christo, & fatti beffe de' Santi.

*Pyr.* Si, ma se voi morissi, e Santi mi trattereb bono affai male?

*Nic.* Non dubitare, io ti farò tal parte che i Santi ti potranno dar poca briga, &c.

Hæc quod ad elegantiam, multo inferiora sunt Plautinis; indigna vero homine Christiano, qui sanctiores musas colit, & in ludicris quoque meminisse debet severitatis.”

*Balzac. Epist. Select. p. 202, 203.*

[ *i* ] If we may believe Jovius, a Poet, and a Life-guard-man, who it seems had formed a design to assassinate Cardinal Juliano de' Medici (afterwards Clement VII.) lost their lives for it. “ Quum dicendo scribendoque Brutos & Cassios laudaret, ejus conjurationis Architectus fuisse putaretur, in quâ Ajacetus Poeta, & Alamannus ex ipsâ turmâ prætorîâ eques, concepti sceleris capite poenas dederunt.” The person whom Jovius here calls *Ajacetus*, is by others named *Giacopo da Diacetto*, or, *Jacobus Jacettus*. This person used to frequent the house and gardens of Cosimo Rucellai, where all men of learning, whether natives or foreigners, were well received; amongst whom were