

However he was not prosecuted for it: but from that time he lived in extreme poverty and misery, though he affected to turn every thing into ridicule and abandoned himself to irreligion. He died in the year 1526 as some say, or according to others in 1530, of a medicine which he took as a preservative. Some authors, amongst whom Varrillas is one, relate that his friends were obliged to have recourse to public authority, in order to make him receive the Sacraments; and others, that he died blaspheming [k]. What Jovius says of his death is as follows “Fato functus est quum accepto temere pharmaco, quo se adversus morbos muniret, vitæ suæ jocabundus illufisset, paulo antequam Florentia Cæsarianis subacta armis, Mediceos veteres dominos recipere cogeretur [l].” He had said a little before, “fuit exinde semper inops, uti irrisor & Atheus.” He supposes then that the Medici abandoned him from the time that they suspected him of having a hand in Diacetto’s conspiracy: but in that he is mistaken. For Clement VII was not yet advanced to the Papal dignity; and we see that Machiavel in the Dedication of his Florentine History to Clement VII, acknowledges that he was supported by the liberality of that Pontif, “I come boldly into the field, says he; for as I have been honoured with your countenance and preferred by your bounty, I am not without hope that I shall likewise find a shelter

Zanobi Buondelmonti and Luigi Alamanni. This company generally conversed in a circle round Rucellai, who was so infirm, that he used to be carried about in a cradle. Machiavel too sometimes made one of them, and not only read his works to that assembly, but dedicated some of them to Cosimo; which made such an impression, that they resolved to kill the Cardinal, not out of any personal hatred to him, but in order to set the Republic at liberty. Diacetto confessed it in his examination before a Magistrate; and both he and the Life-guard-man were put to death for it. Machiavel was violently suspected of having a share in the plot: Alamanni, who was then in the country, made his escape into the Duchy of Urbino: Buondelmonti quitted the City at the instances of his wife, and escaped into Carfagnana, where he was protected by the Poet Ariosto, who resided there in quality of Governor, under the Duke of Ferrara. *Pierre de Boissat, Histoire Genealogique de la Maison de Medici.* Varrillas in his *Anecdotes of Florence*, says, that Leo X. was alive at the time of this conspiracy: but he is as widely mistaken in this, as in his account of the interval betwixt Machiavel’s promotion to the office of Historiographer, and the advancement of that Pontif to the papal chair. But Jovius has fallen into much grosser errors. He says, that the distinguishing part of Ajacetus’s character was his being a Poet; which is false. He ought to have said of Alamanni, instead of making him one of the Horse-guards; and he should not have reckoned him amongst those that lost their heads. Luigi Alamanni, a fine genius, and a great Poet, was indeed an accomplice in that conspiracy, but he did not suffer for it. He fled, over the Alps, and met with a very favourable reception in France, where he wrote several Poems in praise of Francis I. and upon many other subjects.

[k] Blasphemans evomit inprobum spiritum. *Tb. Raynaud, de bonis & malis libris.* Num. 46.

[l] That event happened upon the 9th of August 1530.