

la Fontaine and dressed up in a new garb. His poetical talents may further appear from several little pieces which he wrote in verse, as *the Golden Ass*; four *Capitoli*, as he calls them, upon *Opportunity*, *Fortune*, *Ingratitude*, and *Ambition*; and his *Duoi Decennali*, or, a *Summary of what happened in Italy, during a period of twenty years*. But his performances hitherto mentioned, may be considered only as what the Italians call *Operette*, or *Prolusions*. It is time therefore to say something of the rest.

Mr Bayle says, there is a very curious passage in the Sequel to the *Menagiana* p. 96. relating to the finesse which Machiavel made use of in drawing up the Life of Castruccio Castracani; to which the Editor of these Anecdotes must refer the Reader, as he has not had an opportunity of seeing it himself. Some alledge that it is not faithfully written [s]; and his History of Florence is charged with the same fault [t]. But as that matter is pretty well cleared up in the *Advertisement to the Reader*, prefixed to this translation of it, let it suffice to add here what Monsieur Gohory, an old French translator of Machiavel's works, says concerning the merit of that History. "It is so excellent and perfect a one, that the late Milles Perrot, Master of Accounts, and my near relation (one of the most learned men in the kingdom in languages and sciences) having read it over with more diligence than he had done either Livy or Tacitus, told me, that as the temper of it was accommodated to our times, there was more advantage to be reaped from reading it, than from those great ancient historians, who wrote in an age so very different in its manners and customs from ours [u]."

He also wrote three books of *political discourses upon the first Decad of Livy*, a work much esteemed by Politicians; and seven more on the *Art of War*; from the perusal of which, the Duke of Urbino (Son of Pietro de' Medici, and Nephew to Leo X) conceived so high an opinion of his military knowledge that he solicited him to accept of a commission in his army: but he had the prudence not to venture upon any practical proofs of his theory, not even so far as to command

[s] Machiavellus plane multa comminiscitur in vitâ Castrucci; nempe quia is hostis fuisset Reipublicæ Florentinæ." *Vossius de arte historica*, cap. 10. And Jovius complains bitterly of his unfairness, in his Elogium upon Nicholas Tegrinus, Counsellor and Historian of Lucca, who has given a very exact account of the actions of Castracani. "Sed Machiavellus Florentinus Historicus, patrii veteris odii memor, petulanti malignitate, non interituram memorabilis Ducis famam fabulis involvit, quum vitam acerrimi hostis Etrusco Sermone scribere orsus, tam impudenti quam astuto illudendi genere, sacrosanctam rerum gestarum fidem corruperit." *Elog. cap. 141.*

[t] Ibid. cap. 87.

[u] *Epître dedicatoire des discours sur Tite Live.*