

a troop of horse. In which he certainly judged right: for one who has studied the art of war from books only, would presently expose himself to the derision of the meanest Soldier. If Cardan had not mentioned this particular, it might possibly never have been heard of [x]. The rest of his works consist of, *A Narrative of the method taken by Duke Valentine to rid himself of Vitellozzo Vitelli, Oliverotto da Fermo, Paolo Ursini, and the Duke di Gravina at Sinigaglia. A sketch of the Constitution and affairs of France; and another of those of Germany:* all which were published, and are included in this Volume. Besides these, he wrote a piece entitled *Relations*, or an account of the most remarkable things that happened in his time, and left it in manuscript to Francisco Guicciardini, who made great use of it in the composition of his History. There are also many of his Letters to his friends still to be seen in manuscript, besides a large Volume of others written upon various occasions in the name of his Republic: and in the Gaddian Library at Florence there is a dissertation in his own hand writing styled, *A discourse concerning the reformation of the State of Tuscany, for the use of Leo X.*

But of all his writings, that which has given most offence is a political work entitled *the Prince*. The maxims contained in it are of such a nature as hath made the public look upon him as a dangerous author: so that *Machiavellism*, and the art of reigning tyrannically, are become in a manner synonymous terms. Indeed several of the same maxims are scattered through his historical works: but they generally appear there as *Reflections*, and sometimes as conjectures or reasonings upon the actions of Princes and the secret springs of them. And in this, it must be allowed, he has done no more than imitate many other both ancient and modern Historians. He might therefore perhaps have escaped with as small a portion of censure as Tacitus, for instance; if he had not taken it into his head to reduce his Diabolical Politics into a regular sort of a *System* or *Institution* to be learnt and practised by Princes. In this he is certainly inexcusable; and one may venture to say, those that think it hard that the same people should shew this author no mercy, who yet make no scruple of giving quarter to Sallust, Livy, Plutarch, and even Tacitus himself, have not duly considered how very different the method which Machiavel takes of venting such things is from that observed by the others.

[x] Machiavellum sæculi superioris Doctorem, qui tot & tanta de militari Romanorum disciplinâ disertissime scripserat, ne unam quidem cohortem, quantumvis eum id ut tentaret, Urbini Princeps hortaretur, instruere ausum esse Cardanus testatur. l. iii. de utilit. ex advers. capiend. citante Besoldo, cap. i. de arte jureque belli.