

that piece, he has the following remark. "The Preface is full of just reflections: and amongst other things you will find that observation of Mr Wicquefort, *that Machiavel through his whole work, tells us what Princes do, not what they ought to do* [a]. It is surprizing that almost all the world should be of opinion that Machiavel is teaching Princes a mischievous System of Politics; whilst, on the contrary, he writes only what he has learnt himself from the actions of Princes. He was instructed by the study of mankind, and observation of what passes in the world, not by mere barren speculation in his closet. Let his books be committed to the flames, let them be refuted, let them be attacked with ridicule and criticism as you please; the affair of Government will be just where it was. By an unhappy and fatal necessity, Politics generally get the better of morality and honesty. Policy indeed does not avow it; but it acts in the same manner with Achilles, *jura negat sibi nata*, it will be controlled by no laws, though it does not care to acknowledge that. A great Philosopher of this age, will not admit that man is under a necessity of Sinning. I think, however, he grants with respect to Kings, that Sin is necessary, without its being excusable in them upon that account: for, besides that few of them content themselves with unavoidable Sins, if they were all men of probity, they would not be reduced to such a hard necessity. One may add to this the words of an ancient Poet, who says, "that by the mere exercise of Royalty, the most blameless learn to commit crimes without the help of a teacher [b]." All the world has heard of this maxim, *qui nescit dissimulare, nescit regnare*; He that does not know how to dissimble, does not know how to reign: and one must be very ignorant of State affairs to deny the truth of it [c]." It must be allowed however that, if the author of the *Prince* intended to be serious and actually meant what he says there, that performance cannot be looked upon in any other light, after all that has been urged in its defence, than as a comment upon that passage in Euripides which Tully says Julius Cæsar always had in his mouth,

[a] Lord Chancellor Bacon has said the very same thing in his book *de Augment. Scient.* lib. viii. cap. 2. "Est quod gratias agamus Machiavello & hujusmodi scriptoribus, qui aperte & indissimulanter proferunt quid homines facere soleant, non quid debeant."

[b] "Ut nemo doceat fraudis & sceleris vias, regnum docebit." *Seneca* in *Thyeste.* Act. ii. v. 312. He had said before, v. 217. "Sanctitas, pietas, fides, privata bona sunt; qua juvat, Reges eunt."

[c] See the *Nouvelles de la Lettres* for the month of January 1687, p. 99. *The Oeuvres diverses de Bayle*, Tom. iii. p. 740. fol. Edit. and the *General Dictionary*, vol. vii. p. 308.