

There have been several translations of Machiavel's works into French: the last and best is by Mr. Tetard, a French Refugee, printed at Amsterdam, at different times, in 1691 and the five next ensuing years; it has passed into several Editions. That which has been chiefly consulted by the Editor of this English translation, was printed at the Hague, in 6 volumes 12mo. 1743; in the last of which, Tetard's version of the *Prince* is supplied by that of Mr. Amelot de la Houffaye, at the instance of Mr. Voltaire, who preferred it to any of the rest. Indeed, the works of this Florentine have appeared in most of the European languages; especially the *Prince*, which is also said to have been translated into the Turkish, and read by Amurath IV. [9].

Those people are grossly mistaken, who assert, that the author, in his work, meant to represent the character of Charles V. and it is surprizing, that Monsieur Gohory should have spread this opinion. "Machiavel (says he, in one of the detached pieces of his old translation, published at Paris, about the year 1570) wrote a book, which he calls the *Prince*; wherein he has given a particular detail of all the measures requisite to be taken by one that aspires to sovereign power; designing secretly to represent Charles V. who reigned at that time, as appears from a particular passage in it." But how came this writer not to be aware, that Machiavel's *Prince* was written before the world knew what renown Charles V. was to acquire? Had he not read in the twenty-first chapter, that Ferdinand, King of Arragon, was alive when Machiavel composed that work? Had he not found in another passage of the 23d chapter, that Machiavel makes mention of the Emperor Maximilian, as a Prince that was still alive? And did not he know that Maximilian died in January 1519, three years after the death of Ferdinand, and before his Grandson Charles V. had completed his nineteenth year?

Some have related that Catharine de' Medici, Queen to Henry II of France, made the *Prince* her particular study and put it into the hands of her children: and those that make this observation, have taken care to accompany it with many injurious terms both against the Queen and Machiavel. The author of the *Tocsain contre les Massacreurs*, p. 54. observes that Charles IX had been very ill educated, and that he was kept ignorant of these scripture precepts, *that the King who is raised up to rule over the people of God, ought not to exalt his heart above his brethren; but to observe the Law of the Lord, and to read and meditate upon it continually* [r]. That on the

[9] See *Sagredo memorie di monarchi Ottomanni*. Printed at Venice, 1673.

[r] Deuteron. xvii. 19, 20.

contrary,