

down to Clement VIII. permitted the sale of Machiavel's *Prince* all over Italy; and it passed through several Editions and Translations. It was known however that the work gave offence to some Doctors: for in a book written by Ambrose Catharin and printed at Rome in 1552 [e], there is a whole Chapter *against the discourses and Prince of Nicholas Machiavel*. At last, in the year 1592 under the Pontificate of Clement VIII. the successor of Innocent IX, the writings of this author were condemned after the outcry that had been raised against them at Rome by Possevin the Jesuit, and one Thomas Bozius a Priest of the Oratory. Nevertheless it is certain, as has been said above, that Possevin had never read the *Prince*, as plainly appears from the censure which he passed at Rome in 1592 by the order of *Innocent IX*, upon the four following authors, *viz.* la Noue, Bodin, du Plessis Mornai, and Machiavel; where he supposes the *Prince* of the last mentioned writer to be divided into three books (which is visibly false) and charges things upon him which are not to be found in that work. Conringius happily guesses at the cause of these mistakes: which is, that Possevin had no further acquaintance with that book than what he had picked up in reading Gentillet. His words are as follow. "In ea (dissertatione Possevini) vero ita differitur, quasi a Machiavello tres de Principe libri compositi sint: hinc statim initio, ubi de Machiavello agit, aliquot ejus sententiis enumeratis, *et hæc quidem*, inquit ille, *sceleratum illud Satanæ organum prioribus duobus libris, quibus de Principe agit, insipienti mundo obtulit.* Non multo post cum diceret, *redeo ad easdem labe Machiavelli, ut cognita pestis magis*

status, gradus, conditionis existentibus, nostræ ditioni temporaliter non subjectis, in virtute sanctæ obedientiæ & sub excommunicationis latæ sententiæ poenâ; Nobis vero & sanctæ Romanæ Ecclesiæ mediate vel immediate subjectis, etiam sub amissionis librorum impressorum & viginti quinque ducatorum auri de Camera pro una Cameræ nostræ Apostolicæ, pro reliquâ vero medietatibus præfato Antonio, toties quoties contraventum fuerit applicandis poenis; districte præcipimus & mandamus, quatenus dicta opera per prædictum Antonium, ut præfertur, imprimenda, ad decennium non imprimant, neque imprimi facere, aut vendere, seu venalia habere audeant vel præsumant, nisi ad id dicti Antonii expressus accesserit assensus. Quocirca quibuscumque locorum Ordinariis, seu eorum officialibus & vicariis in spiritualibus, committimus per præsentem, ut ubi, quando, & quoties, pro parte dicti Antonii requisiti fuerint, ipsi Antonio efficacis defensionis præsidio assistentes, faciant præsentem Literas & in eis contenta quæcunque inviolabiliter observari & publicari; contradicentes quoscumque, & rebelles per censuras Ecclesiasticas & poenas prædictas appellatione postpositâ compescendo; invocato etiam ad hoc, si opus fuerit, auxilio brachii sæcularis, in contrarium facientibus, non obstantibus quibuscumque. Datum Romæ apud sanctum Petrum, sub annulo Piscatoris, die XXIII Augusti, Pontificatus nostri anno octavo.

Blosius.

[e] It is entituled, *De libris a Christiano detestabilis, & ex Christianismo penitus removendis.*

caveatur