

Monfieur AMELOT DE LA HOUSSAYE's Dedication of his
French Tranflation of MACHIAVEL's *Prince*, to the Grand
Duke of Tuscany.

S I R,

DEDICATORS generally fix upon a Patron to whom they think their works will either prove agreeable, or seem to bear some relation. For my own part, I was soon determined to whom I should present Machiavel's *Prince*. When I had once resolved to translate that work, the very title of it immediately led me to address my Translation to your *Most Serene Highness*, as Machiavel had formerly dedicated the Original to Lorenzo II. de' Medici, the father of Alexander first Duke of Florence. And this resolution appeared to me the more reasonable, as it was agreeable to the common course of nature; according to which, all things must sometime or other revert to their first principles. But there is this difference betwixt what I am now doing and what Machiavel did so long ago, that he addressed his performance to Lorenzo de' Medici in a dictatorial manner, as Tutors instruct their Pupils: but I, on the contrary, presume only to offer mine to your Serenity, as to a Prince of consummate experience in the Art of governing (an Art which every one knows is the ancient inheritance of the illustrious House of Medici) and a Judge who perfectly knows how to distinguish betwixt true and false Politics, as well as to hold the balance duly poised betwixt reasons of State and Religion, how incompatible soever they may seem to be with each other. Upon which consideration, *Sir*, I am not at all afraid of being accused of temerity in having prefixed your august name to this piece; since it belongs properly to none but Princes like yourself to judge of Politics; the government of a private family being a very different thing from that of a State. A private man has nothing to do but to regulate his own conduct and expenses and to provide for his household: but he that governs a State must accommodate himself to other persons, as well as to different times and circumstances of affairs, which change every day. There are likewise sad and pressing conjunctures sometimes, when Princes are forced to do what they *can*, instead of what they *ought*: and of this, the great Cosimo de' Medici (who was accounted the wisest man of his time) was so sensible, that when some of his Fellow-citizens represented to him the bad consequences that might attend the banishment of so many of the