

usually done, upon certain Maxims of State; the practice of which is become in a manner absolutely necessary through the wickedness and perfidy of mankind: especially, as Princes likewise are grown so double-hearted and deceitful, that any one who should attempt to deal with his neighbours upon the footing of honour and sincerity, would presently become their Dupe. Many other things might be alledged in favour of Machiavel: but as I am writing a Preface and not an Apology, I shall leave those to defend him that are either more interested in it, or better qualified for such an undertaking than I am.

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N. B. *Here the Prefacer runs into a long aescant upon the merit of his Translation; but as it contains nothing curious or interesting to any one else, it is therefore omitted.* After which, he proceeds as follows:

Somebody perhaps may ask me, whether I think Cæsar Borgia, whom Machiavel proposes as a Pattern, is really a good model. To which I answer, that I think he is a very good one for new Princes, I mean for such as from private men have become Princes by usurpation: but a very bad one for hereditary Princes. Now it is manifest from two passages in the Seventh Chapter of this work, that Machiavel proposes Cæsar Borgia as a Pattern only to usurpers, who cannot maintain the possession of a new State without being cruel, at least in the beginning of their reigns; because all such are sure to be their enemies as do not find their account in that change: and even those that assisted them in the acquisition of their dominions, will not long continue their friends; because they cannot be gratified in every thing they ask for. Whereas hereditary Princes, on the contrary, how ill soever they may govern, are under no necessity of having recourse to violence and rigour to support themselves amongst subjects who have been long accustomed to be ruled by Princes of the same blood. As to Duke Valentine (as Cæsar Borgia was generally called) I confess he was a very wicked man, and deserved to die a thousand deaths [m]; but it cannot be denied, at the same time, that he was both a great Soldier and Politician, and one of whom we may justly say what Paterculus says of Cinna, "that he did things which no good man would have dared to do; and succeeded in several enterprizes which nobody but a man of the greatest valour durst have attempted [n]."

[m] "Cæsarem Borgiam vel mille neces meritum." *Onuph. Panvin. in vit. Jul. ii.*

[n] "De quo vere dici potest, ausum eum, quæ nemo auderet bonus; perfecisse, quæ à nullo nisi fortissimo perfici possent." *Hist. ii.*