

MR. VOLTAIRE'S PREFACE.

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cans and the Dominicans, &c: for what have Monks to do in the case? It is the affair of Sovereigns only; whom Machiavel endeavours to teach the art of being wicked; an art, alas! that was but too well known before he taught it. Besides, would any one think it a sufficient justification of Mirvais [ *b* ], Cartouche, [ *c* ] Jacques Clement [ *d* ], or Ravillac [ *e* ], to say *they had very religious sentiments*? Must that Sacred word *Religion* be for ever prostituted to varnish over the most execrable crimes, and to justify the wickedest and vilest of mankind?

“ Cæsar Borgia (continues the Translator) is a very good model for *new* Princes, that is for Usurpers [ *f* ].” But in the first place, every *new* Prince is not an Usurper: the Medici were *new* Princes, and yet they could not be reproached with usurpation. And in the next, the example of that bastard of Pope Alexander VI, who was always detestable and often unfortunate, is but a wretched model for *any* Prince.

In the last place Amelot pretends, “ that Machiavel hated Tyranny.” Without doubt, every man must hate it: but is it not base as well as horrible to the last degree to hate, and at the same time to teach and recommend it?

I shall prosecute this matter no further however: let us hear the virtuous author of the *Examen*, who has done it in a much nobler style and manner of argumentation.

Brussels,  
June 24, 1740.

V. - - - - -

N. B. Soon after the first Edition of the *Examen* by J. Van Duren at the Hague; another was published there by Mr. Voltaire himself, with the new title of *a Critical Essay upon Machiavel's Prince*.

In the latter, which is here translated, there are many and large alterations and suppressions as well as additions made by the King of

[ *b* ] Mirvais, or Miruveis, or, as he is sometimes called, Miriwitz, was an enterprising Afghan, who made himself master of Candahar, a Province in Persia, during the reign of Shah Hussein, about the year 1713. See *Hanway's Travels*, vol. ii. p. 101, & seq.

[ *c* ] A notorious Robber, and head of a gang of Thieves in France, some time ago.

[ *d* ] A Jacobin Monk, who assassinated Henry III. of France.

[ *e* ] The wretch who assassinated Henry IV.

[ *f* ] Voltaire does not quote Amelot exactly in this place. The words of the latter are, “ I think he is a very good model for new Princes, *I mean*, for such as from private men have become Princes by usurpation.” He does not say, that *all new Princes are Usurpers*, as Voltaire charges him with saying; who, therefore, has in this article been rather too sharp upon him.

Prussia