

THE  
P R I N C E.

C H A P I.

*Concerning the different kinds of Principalities, and the means by which they are obtained.*

**T**HERE never was, nor is there at this day, any Government in the world, which exercises, or ever did exercise, power and dominion over others, but it is either a Republic, or a Principality [a]. Principalities are either hereditary, in a family which has been a long time in the possession of them [b], or such as are newly acquired. The latter are either wholly and absolutely new, as the Government of Milan was to Francisco Sforza; or annexed as appendages to the hereditary dominions of the Prince that makes himself master of them; as the Kingdom of Naples now is to those of the King of Spain. The States, therefore, that are thus acquired, either by dint of one's own arms, or by those of others, or by good fortune and conduct, must of necessity either become subject to the dominion of one Prince, or be left to enjoy their liberties under a freer kind of Government.

*Examen: or Critical Essay upon Machiavel's Prince. Chap. I.*

[c] **B**EFORE Machiavel proceeded to particularize the different kinds of Government, he ought, methinks, to have examined into the original of Civil Empire in general, and to have shewn the

[a] This division seems to be founded upon the doctrine of Tacitus, who opposes a Republic and a Principality to each other, as two contraries. "Res diffociabiles Principatum & Libertatem," says he, *in vit. Agricola*. "Romam a principio Reges habuere, Libertatem L. Brutus instituit." *Annal. i.* "C. Marius & L. Sulla Libertatem in Dominationem verterunt." *Hist. ii.* "Haud facile Libertas & Domini miscentur." *Hist. iv.* Every Republic, however, in fact, is a Principality. Accordingly, the Edicts of the Venetian Common-wealth run in this manner: "Il serenissimo Principe fa saper, &c." "Our most serene Prince hereby enacts, &c. But every Principality is not a Republic.

[b] "In gentibus quæ regnantur, certa dominorum domus." *Tac. Hist. i.* "Non contra Caii, aut Claudii, vel Neronis, fundatam longo imperio domum exurgimus." *Hist. ii.*

[c] The first Edition of the *Examen, or Critical Essay upon the Prince*, begins in this manner: Lorsqu'on veut raisonner juste, il faut commencer par approfondir la nature du  
reasons