

posely entered into to guard them against the violence of such oppressors.

There are but three justifiable means, by which any one can obtain dominion over others; the first is, by lineal and established succession; the second, by being elected by a people who have a right to choose their Prince; and the third, from conquest, in consequence of a war justly undertaken against an enemy. From these principles I shall argue in the course of my future reflections upon this work.

CHAP. II.

*Of Hereditary Principalities.*

AS I purposely here omit all mention of Republican Governments, because they will be treated of at large in another place [d], I shall confine myself solely to the subject of Principalities at present, and endeavour to shew how the different sorts of them, which have been already specified, should be governed and maintained. I say then, that it is a much easier matter to support an hereditary State, which has been long accustomed to obey the family of a Prince that reigns over it, than such a one as has been newly acquired [e]. Since nothing more is requisite in this case, than to keep within the bounds that have been observed by the Ancestors of that Prince [f], and to comply with the exigencies of the times upon

[d] In his *Political Discourses* upon Livy.

[e] Tacitus says, that dominion acquired by violence, cannot be maintained by mild and gentle methods. "Non posse Principatum scelere quæsitum, subitâ modestiâ & prisca gravitate retineri." *Hist.* i. The rigorous measures, however, which are usually taken, in order to secure a State that has been newly conquered, often occasion the loss of it, as they provoke subjects to revolt. "Atque illi (says the same author) quamvis servitio sueti, patientiam abrumpunt." *Annal.* xii.

[f] Seneca's enemies urged this argument to Nero, viz. that as he was out of his minority, and old enough to govern of himself, he had no occasion for any other Tutor or Instructor than the example of his predecessors. "Finitam pueritiam, & robur juventutis adesse, exueret magistrum, satis amplis doctoribus instructus, Majoribus suis." *Annal.* xiv. Tacitus says, that Tiberius, in the beginning of his reign, made it a rule, to imitate Augustus in every thing; "neque fas Tiberio infringere dicta ejus." *Annal.* i. "Qui omnia facta dictaque ejus, vice legis observem." *Annal.* iv. and that he durst not at first shew any severity to a people whom Augustus had treated with so much lenity. "Populum per tot annos molliter habitum, nondum audebat ad duriora vertere." *Annal.* i. That Vonones was despised by the Parthians, and driven out of his Kingdom, because his conduct was very different from that of their former Kings: "accendebat designantes et ipse, diversus a majorum institutis." *Annal.* ii. and that Italus was much beloved by the Cheruscans; because, though he was brought up at Rome, he nevertheless conformed to their debaucheries, as much as if he had been educated amongst them. "Lætus Germanis adventus ejus; atque eo magis, quod sæpius vinolentiam ac libidines, grata barbaris, usurparet." *Annal.* xi.