

rising greatness, they will be held in veneration, and afterwards not only maintain their power, but live in security, honour and happiness [u].

To these great and remarkable examples I will add another; not so conspicuous perhaps, but yet such a one as shall bear some proportion and resemblance to the rest, and may suffice for all others of the like nature: I mean that of Hiero the Syracusan. This man raised himself from a private condition to be Prince of Syracuse; for which he was obliged to fortune no further than for indulging him with a proper opportunity: for the Syracusans being oppressed made choice of him to be their General; in which command he behaved himself so much to their satisfaction, that they afterwards thought him worthy to rule over them. And indeed so eminent were his virtues even whilst he was in a private station, that such authors as speak of him all allow, that he wanted nothing but a Kingdom to make him a complete Prince. He disbanded the veteran troops and raised a fresh army: he quitted his former alliances and contracted others: and having secured the affections of new friends, and a new Soldiery, he was afterwards enabled to erect such a superstructure upon that foundation as he thought fit: so that although he met with many difficulties in acquiring that Principality, he found few or none in maintaining it.

EXAMEN. CHAP. VI.

IF mankind had been born without passions, Machiavel might have been in some measure excusable for endeavouring to supply that want by inspiring them into us, like another Prometheus who had stolen fire from Heaven to animate creatures of his own making. But that is not the case; no man is without passions: when they are kept within proper bounds, they constitute the life and Soul of Society; but if they break loose, they tend to the subversion of it.

Of all the passions that tyrannize over the heart of man, there is none more ruinous to the person himself who is under their dominion, more opposite to the laws of Humanity, or more fatal to the repose of mankind, than irregular ambition and an excessive desire of false glory. A private man who has the misfortune to be born with such a disposition is more to be pitied than a madman. He never has any enjoyment of the present, but continually depends upon future

[u] See the *Political Discourses*, book iii. chap. xxx.