

in due obedience to him as their Sovereign. For this purpose, he made choice of Remiro d'Orco, a man of an active but cruel disposition to govern that Province: and as he was invested with absolute power, he soon restored peace and good order there, with no small reputation to himself. After which, the Duke apprehending that the continuance of so unlimited an authority in the hands of his Deputy, might make himself odious to his new Subjects [o], erected a Court of civil judicature in the midst of the Province, with a worthy and uncorrupt Magistrate to preside over it, where every City had its respective Advocate. And as he was aware that the past severities had already excited some murmurings and discontent, he resolved to clear himself of all imputations of that kind, and conciliate the affections of the people entirely to himself, by shewing them that if any extraordinary degree of severity had been exercised, it was not owing to him, but to the rigorous and cruel disposition of his Minister [p]. Making a handle therefore of these discontents, he caused Remiro to be cut in two one morning in the market place at Cesena; and the two parts of his body to be hung up, with a piece of a gibbet and a bloody axe by the side of them: the dreadfulnes of which Spectacle at once appeased and astonished the people.

But to return to our Subject. The Duke now finding himself very powerful and in a great measure safe from any present danger (as he had taken effectual means to secure himself by putting it out of the power of his neighbours to annoy him) had nothing to fear from any body but the French in the pursuit of further acquisitions: for he well knew that the King of France was at last convinced of his error, and would be far from giving him any further support. Upon this consideration, he resolved to provide himself with new Allies, and began to shuffle and prevaricate with the French; as it plainly appeared when their army was marching to the relief of Gaïeta in the Kingdom of Naples, which was besieged by the Spaniards: for he was determined at all events if possible, to fortify himself effectually against them; and he would certainly have done it, if his father had lived a while longer.

Such were the Methods he took to guard against present dangers. Against those that were more remote (as he had reason to apprehend

[o] "Nec unquam satis fida potentia, ubi nimia est." *Tacit. Hist. ii.*

[p] Princes generally sacrifice the instruments of their cruelty sooner or later. "Scelerum ministros, says Tacitus of Tiberius, ut perverti ab aliis nolebat, ita plerumque satius, veteres & prægraves adflixit." *Annal. iv.* "Levi post admissum facinus gratiâ, dein graviore odio." *Annal. xiv.*