

EXAMEN. CHAP. VII.

IF we compare Monsieur Fenelon's *Prince* with Machiavel's, we shall find one of them full of goodness, equity, and every kind of virtue: he seems to be one of those pure Intelligences that Eternal Wisdom has appointed to superintend the government of the Universe: the other is a composition of cruelty, perfidy, and all sort of wickedness.

In Telemachus mankind resemble the Angels; but in Machiavel's performance they appear like Devils. Cæsar Borgia is the model upon which he forms his Prince, the pattern which he has the effrontery to propose for the imitation of others who are advanced to dominion either by fortune, or the arms and assistance of their friends.

Let us therefore examine the Character of Cæsar Borgia, that so we may form a just Idea both of the Hero himself, and the Author that has undertaken to celebrate his Virtues.

Borgia assassinated his own brother, because he was his rival in glory and love; and that too almost under the eyes of their Sister. He caused the Pope's Swiss guards to be massacred, to revenge himself upon some of that Nation who had affronted his Mother. He violently deprived several of the Cardinals of all they had, to satiate his avarice. He deposed the Duke of Urbino, the lawful possessor of Romagna, and put Remiro d' Orco, his own bloody-Sub-tyrant to a barbarous and unexampled kind of death. He murdered several Lords of the Ursini family whom he looked upon as obstacles to his greatness, after he had decoyed them in the most perfidious manner to an interview at Sinigaglia. He caused a Venetian Lady of quality whom he had ravished, to be thrown into the Tiber and drowned. In short, there is no kind of cruelty or wickedness which he was not guilty of.

Such was the wretch whom Machiavel prefers to all the great men of his own times and the Heroes of antiquity; and whose conduct he proposes as a pattern to those that are exalted to dominion by the smiles of fortune.

But it is necessary to enter into a fuller discussion of this matter, in order to shew the sad expedients which Machiavel's disciples must have recourse to. Cæsar Borgia formed the hopes of his future greatness upon the dissension of the Italian Princes. To get possession of my neighbour's estate, I must weaken him in the first place; and in order to weaken him, I must embroil him in quarrels with others. Such is their wicked Logic!

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