

To secure a firm support in time of need, Borgia prevailed upon his father to dissolve the marriage of Lewis XII. [In this manner those who ought to be patterns of equity and uprightnes to the rest of mankind, mock Heaven to serve their own private ends [z] ! If there were just reasons for the dissolution of that marriage, it was the Pope's duty to dissolve it, supposing he had a lawful power : but if there were no such reasons, the Head of the Roman Church should not have been determined to act as he did by any other motives whatsoever.

Borgia found it necessary to secure a number of adherents and dependants : for which purpose he corrupted the factious Nobility at Rome, by giving them large pensions and presents. But he was guilty of so many other horrid crimes, that there is less occasion to expatiate upon this ; especially as it wears some faint resemblance of beneficence.

Borgia wanted to rid himself of some Lords of the House of Urfini, of Vitellozzo Vitelli, and Oliverotto da Fermo ; and Machiavel commends his address in inveigling them to an interview at Sinigaglia and putting them to death. But is there nothing more than *address* in thus abusing the confidence of mankind ? in practising the vilest and most infamous of all artifices ? in perjury and assassination ? and where is the good policy in teaching men to perjure themselves ? When all regard to oaths and good faith is abolished, what other restraint or security will be left in the World ? If a man teaches others to be traitors, may he not naturally expect to be betrayed himself ? and if he makes assassins, what can he expect but to be murdered by the hands of his own disciples ? Borgia appointed Remiro d'Orco, a cruel and blood-thirsty man, Governor of Romagna, to repress the disorders of that Province : Borgia punished the delinquencies of others, who were not half so vile as himself, with the most unrelenting Severity : the most rapacious of all Usurpers, the wretch that had been guilty of the most horrid perjuries, the most blood-thirsty assassin and poisoner that ever the world saw, condemned some petty Villains and rebels to die a cruel death, who yet had only copied the actions of their new master in miniature according to their humble capacities.

The King of Poland, whose death has lately occasioned such disturbances in Europe, acted in a very different and much more princely manner with regard to his Subjects in Saxony. By a Law that

[z] What is included betwixt the two crochets above, runs thus in the first Edition. C'est ainsi que tant de Politiques se sont jouez du monde, & qu'ils ne pensoient qu'à leurs interets, lorsqu'ils paraissoient le plus attachez celui du Ciel.