

been spent in endeavouring to acquire reputation, he designed to make a handsome entry, attended by an hundred horsemen, consisting of his particular friends and followers; that so his Fellow-citizens might see he had behaved himself like a man: upon which account, he hoped he should be received at home with some degree of honour and respect, as that would not only be a credit to him but to his Uncle likewise, who had educated him. Fogliani therefore was not wanting on his part in any thing that might demonstrate the affection and regard he had for his Nephew; and having so ordered matters that he met with a very honourable reception from his Countrymen, he lodged him in his own house, where Oliverotto continued some days to make necessary preparations for the execution of his wicked designs. After which, he invited Fogliani and all the principal Citizens of Fermo to a magnificent entertainment; and at the end of it artfully turned the conversation upon the greatness of Pope Alexander and the exploits of his Son Cæsar Borgia. But as Fogliani and the other citizens began to talk pretty freely of those matters, Oliverotto said, it would be better for them all to keep their thoughts to themselves till they got into a more private place; and rising suddenly from the table he withdrew into a retired apartment, whither he was followed by the rest: but they were hardly sat down, before some Soldiers whom he had concealed there cut all their throats. After he had caused them to be murdered in this manner, he mounted his horse; and having put himself at the head of his attendants and partizans he first scoured the town, and then surrounded the Palace of the Magistrates, who were so terrified that they presently submitted to his authority and acknowledged him as their Prince. Having proceeded thus far, he caused all such as he thought malecontent or had it in their power to disturb him in the possession of his new Government to be put to death, and fortified himself with new institutions both civil and military in so effectual a manner, that within the space of one year (for he held that Principality no longer) he not only lived with security in Fermo, but was become formidable to all his neighbours: and he would have found no more difficulty than Agathocles did in thoroughly establishing his power, if he had not suffered himself to be trepanned by Cæsar Borgia at the same time that he decoyed the Ursini and Vitelli into his nets at Sinigaglia, where he likewise fell into Borgia's hands, about a year after he had perpetrated the murder above related, and was strangled together with Vitellozzo, to whose instructions he was obliged for his military Virtues, and who also had taught him to be a Villain.