

C H A P XIV.

The Duty of a Prince in relation to Military affairs.

A Prince ought to turn all his thoughts, and care, and application, to the art of War: that, and the several sorts of discipline and institutions relating to it, should be his only study, the only profession he should follow, and the object he ought always to have in view. [x]. For indeed, that is the only profession worthy of a Prince; and is of so great importance, that it not only supports those in their States who are born Princes, but often advances men from a private condition to that dignity [y]. On the contrary, it has frequently happened, that such Princes as have led a soft and delicate course of life, instead of inuring themselves to arms, have been entirely stripped of their dominions. And as a contempt of the Military Science is the principal cause of such losses, so the culture and profession of it chiefly contribute to a man's success and exaltation. Francisco Sforza, from a private man, raised himself to be Duke of Milan, merely by dint of arms: and his posterity, by seeking to avoid the troubles that attend a Military life, were reduced from the State of Dukes, to the condition of private men. For amongst other evils and inconveniencies that must happen to a Prince who is ignorant in the art of war, and consequently in a manner unarmed, he will certainly become contemptible; which is a

mais on se sent indigné de les voir rapportez dans un livre qui doit etre fait pour l'instruction des Princes. La cruauté & la barbarie sont souvent fatales aux particuliers, ainsi ils en ont horreur pour la plupart; mais les Princes que la Providence a placez si loin des destinees vulgaires, en ont d'autant moins d'averfion, qu'ils ne les ont pas a craindre: ce seroit donc a tous ceux qui doivent gouverner les hommes, que l'on devoit inculquer le plus d'Eloignement pour tous les abus qu'ils peuvent faire d'une puissance illimitée."

[x] A King of Thrace used to say there was no difference betwixt him and one of his Grooms when he was not at war. When Nero began his reign, he said he would employ himself wholly and solely in the command of his armies. *Tacit. Annal. 13.* Domitian could not endure Agricola because he was a better General than himself, being vexed to be excelled in Military glory by a Subject, which he thought no one had a right to but Princes. "Id sibi maxime formidolosum, si militarem gloriam alius occuparet; cætera ut cunque facilius dissimulari, ducis boni imperatoriam virtutem esse." *In Vit. Agric.* "What Princes are they, except warriors, says Gratian, whose names are recorded in the annals of fame? The name of *great* belongs properly to them alone. History is full of their exploits; the world resounds with their praises: so much more noble are the arts of war, than those of peace." *Chap. viii. of his Hero.*

[y] Tiridates king of Armenia used to say, that a Prince must not think to support himself in his dominions by the arts of peace alone; that it was sufficient for a private man if he could maintain his own property; but the glory of Princes was to conquer the States of others. *Tacit. Annal. 15.*

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