

kind, as they do to brutes: the cruelties they daily exercise with indifference upon one, will harden them in such a manner at last, as to make them look without compassion at least upon the sufferings of the other. Is this the noble pleasure then that is so much extolled? Is this the occupation so worthy of a rational Being?—It may be said perhaps, that hunting is a wholesome exercise, and necessary for one's health; that it contributes to long life; that it is an innocent recreation, and such as becomes great men; as it serves to make a display of their magnificence, to dissipate their chagrins, and is a sort of a warlike scene, even in times of peace.—I am very far from condemning moderate exercise: but let it be observed, that nobody but such as are guilty of excess and intemperance in other things, have occasion for such exercise as this. Few Princes have lived longer than Cardinal Fleury [g], Cardinal Ximenes [r], and the present Pope [s], and yet none of the three were Hunters [t]. Besides, where is the advantage of spinning out life to the last ebb of old age, if a man spends his days in doing nothing, or what is next to nothing? If he cultivates his mind, he may sufficiently distinguish himself before that period, by great and good actions: and by that rule alone, the length of a man's life ought to be measured. Hunting indeed carries an air of magnificence along with it, which is necessary to Princes, but there are many other, and much more useful ways of displaying their grandeur: and if the beasts of the field are so numerous as to spoil the labours of the peasant, Hunters ought to be employ'd and paid on purpose to destroy them. Princes should exercise themselves wholly in gaining knowledge, and learning to govern well: it is their business to think justly and to act accordingly.

I must add, that it is not at all necessary (though Machiavel says it is) to be a great Hunter, in order to be a great Soldier. Every one, I suppose, will readily allow that Gustavus Adolphus, Marshal Turenne, the Duke of Marlborough, and Prince Eugene, were illustrious men, and great Generals; and yet they were not Hunters: nor do we read that Julius Cæsar, Alexander, or Scipio were so. A man may take a

[g] Prime Minister of France under Lewis XV.

[r] Cardinal of Toledo and Prime Minister of Spain, under Ferdinand V. Isabel, Jean, Philip, and Charles, for the space of twenty-two years. He was poisoned by reading a Letter he received from Flanders, and afterwards by a potion which put an end to his life in 1517, at the eightieth year of his age. See his *Life* written by E. Flechier, *Bishop of Nîmes*, printed at Paris and Amsterdam, in 1693.

[s] This was written in the year 1737, when Clement XII. was Pope.

[t] The following passage, which runs thus in the first Edition, is here struck out. "Faut-il d'ailleurs choisir la profession qui n'a de merite que celui de promettre une longue vie? Les moines vivent d'ordinaire plus long tems que les autres hommes: faut il pour cela se faire Moine?"