

not only to be accounted liberal, but to be so in reality. Was there ever any instance of a hero that was not liberal? For my part, I know of none. To be covetous, is to say in a few words, "if you serve me, do not expect any reward for it; if you do, you will be disappointed:" it is extinguishing the ardour with which every Subject is naturally inspired to serve his Prince. It must be owned indeed, that in order to be liberal, a Prince ought to be an œconomist; for a man who does not take proper care of his own affairs, can never have it in his power to do good to others. Let the example of Francis I. King of France, suffice at present, whose excessive expences were in a great measure the cause of all his misfortunes. That Prince could not justly be said to be liberal, but profuse; and yet towards the latter end of his life he began to grow covetous: instead of being a good œconomist, and distributing his revenue in a proper manner, he filled his coffers with it. But riches, without due circulation, are of little service; a sufficient and well managed revenue is the point to be attended to. A private man, or a Prince, whose knowledge extends no further than how to amass treasure, and then to bury it, is short of the mark; he ought to make it circulate in order to be truly rich. The Medici were wholly indebted for the Sovereignty of Florence to the prudence and Liberality of the Great Cosimo, who, though but a plain Merchant, was the Father of his Country.—Avarice is the effect of a narrow circumscribed genius, and I think Cardinal de Retz was in the right, when he said, *that no expence was to be spar'd in the execution of great designs.* *

A Prince, then, ought to make it his business to furnish himself with sufficient funds and resources, by encouraging commerce and industry amongst his subjects; that so he may have it in his power to be liberal and magnificent upon proper occasions; and that will make him beloved and esteemed, though Machiavel says, it will bring him to poverty and contempt. One might, indeed, have expected such a lesson from a common Usurer; but are these instructions fit for a man to give who pretends to tutor Princes?—A Sovereign ought to be an emblem of Heaven, which daily dispenses its dews and showers, and yet has always an inexhaustible source of blessings left to refresh and fertilize the earth.

The Duke of Marlborough was a very great man and the most generous mind ever existed.

X

** Machiavel in no instance differs from the Cardinal in this point.*