

After our Politician has endeavoured to prove the necessity of being a Villain, he encourages his disciples to be so, from the little difficulty they will find in it; "those, says he, who are masters of dissimulation, will never want Dupes:" which is saying in other words, "your neighbour is a weak man, and you are an artful cunning fellow: it is necessary therefore that you should defraud him." This is a sort of Logic, however, for which several of Machiavel's pupils have either been hanged, or broken upon the wheel.—But he is not content with having shewn, in his manner, how easy a thing it is to be a rogue; he proceeds to recommend fraud and perfidy by the example of some that have succeeded in their designs by such means. Yet unluckily for him, Cæsar Borgia, the most thorough-paced and perfidious villain that ever lived, his great pattern Cæsar Borgia, was utterly ruined at last. He therefore carefully avoids all mention of his name upon this occasion; as he was not an example for his purpose: and where indeed could he expect to find any such, except in the lives of some wicked Popes and Tyrants? He affirms that Alexander VI. the vilest and most faithless hypocrite of his time, always succeeded in his designs, because he was perfectly acquainted with the weakness and credulity of mankind. But I will venture to say that the success of most of that Pope's designs was not so much owing to the credulity of mankind, as to a fortunate concurrence of certain events and circumstances of affairs; particularly to the ambition both of the French and the Spaniards, the hatred and divisions which then reigned amongst the chief families in Italy, and the weakness of Lewis XII. and to assert on the contrary, that want of good faith, and too much refinement, is thought a defect in policy, even by Politicians themselves. Don Lewis de Haro [f], who was an able Minister himself, told Cardinal Mazarin "that he was guilty of a great error in Politics, because he *never* observed his word upon any occasion." The same Cardinal was told by Marshal de Fabert, whom he designed to employ in a negotiation with the Duke of Savoy, "that he could wish his eminence would not insist upon his deceiving the Duke at that time, since the matter in question was but a trifle: for as the world esteemed him a man of honour, he thought it would be better to reserve the sacrifice of his reputation, till the Kingdom itself, or some other such important concern, was at stake" [t].

But

[f] A Grandee and Minister of State in Spain, Nephew to the Duke de Olivarez. He did considerable service to the crown of Spain, and particularly by negotiating the peace with Cardinal Mazarin, betwixt France and that Kingdom, in the year 1659. See *Histoire du Siecle courant*.

[t] Mazarin was Prime Minister of France about the middle of the last century, in the minority of Lewis XIV. and under the regency of Q. Anne of Austria. He ordered