

But to wave such arguments as might be drawn from the dictates of honour and virtue, and to reason only from considerations of self-interest, I maintain that it is bad Policy in Princes to abuse and deceive the world: for they can do it but once; and after that, nobody will put any further confidence in them. Princes sometimes set forth the motives of their proceedings in a Manifesto, and presently after act in direct contradiction to their declarations: but such bold strokes as these soon put an end to all trust and dependance; and the earlier they happen, the more shameless does their prevarication appear. The Romish Church, to avoid inconveniences of this kind, has very wisely ordained, that such as are to be canonized shall pass a noviciate of an hundred years; during which, the memory and witnesses of their foibles becoming extinct, and no evidence of that kind appearing against them, their Apotheosis is secured. Nevertheless, I confess there are some disagreeable and melancholy occasions, which oblige a Prince to break his treaties and alliances: but yet he should do it in as honourable a manner as possible, by giving his allies timely notice that he is going to separate himself from them, and never proceed to extremities, unless the safety of his people, and the most urgent necessity compel him to it.

We may observe in the last place, how vices multiply in Machiavel's hands. He advises a Prince that has little or no Religion to add hypocrisy to his infidelity, and thinks the people will be more taken with a shew of devotion, than disgusted with any ill treatment they meet with from him. There are others I know of this opinion: but, for my own part, I think, one ought to make great allowances for speculative errors, if they are not attended with a corruption of heart; and that the people will always be more ready to excuse a Prince that is Sceptically inclined, but an honest man and their Benefactor, than another who is orthodox in his tenets, but a villain and a Tyrant in his actions: for the actions, and not the opinions of Princes, make men happy or miserable.

dered his body to be opened after his death. Upon which, our Countryman, Tom Brown, amongst many other very severe things in an Epitaph he made upon him, says,

“Pectus tamen post mortem apertum est:

Tum primum patuit vafrum cor Mazarini:

Quod nec precibus, nec lachrymis nec injuriis moveretur,

Diu quæsiimus, invenere Medici, cor lapideum.

*Brown's Works, Vol. IV. p. 249.*

C H A P,