

ported by the Majesty of his State, and the assistance of his friends and allies [a]; so that if he has likewise the affections of his people, it is almost impossible that any man should be mad enough to think of conspiring against him. For if a Conspirator has reason to be afraid (as it usually happens) before the execution of his design; certainly he must have much more afterwards, when he has exasperated the people, and left himself no refuge to fly to. Of this I might give several examples: but I shall content myself with one only which happened not long ago. Hannibal Bentivoglio (grandfather of the present Hannibal) Prince of Bologna, having been murdered by the Caneschi [b], who conspired against him, the people, by whom the Bentivogli were extremely beloved, immediately took arms, and massacred all the family of the Caneschi. Nay, they carried their affection still higher: for as there was no one of the Bentivogli left, who was capable of governing the State (Hannibal's only Son Giovanni, then being but an infant) [c] the Bolognese having information that a bastard of that family then lived at Florence, sent Deputies thither to demand him, though he was

dread of being betrayed, "metus proditiōis." Fifthly, Jealousy. For he says that Piso refused to assassinate Nero at his Country-house whither he often retired, lest either Silanus should be advanced to the throne, or the Consul Vestinus should take it into his head to restore public Liberty, or perhaps make an Emperor to serve his own turn. Sixthly, Discovery: which often happens upon the very eve of execution, "pridie insidiarum." Seventhly, The temptation of reward. "Præmia perfidiæ, immensa pecunia & potentia." The hope of recompence, as well as the fear that another person should run away with it. "Multos adstitisse qui eadem viderint; nihil profuturum unius silentium; at præmia penes unum fore qui indicio prævenisset." Besides which, there is another sort of discovery that proceeds from the countenance, which often betrays what is concealed in the heart. "Ipse mæstus & magnæ cogitationis manifestus erat." Eighthly, Imprudence, for instance, in making certain preparations before Servants, as whetting a dagger, &c. "Pugionem asperari saxo, & in mucronem ardescere iussit;" which necessarily must occasion suspicion of some kind: "arrepitis suspitionibus ex consequentibus." Ninthly, the sight of the rack, &c. "Tormentorū aspectus, ac minæ." Tenthly, the persuasion which conspirators have, that some of their accomplices have revealed the whole, and that it is to no purpose to keep silence any longer. "Cuncta jam patefacta credens, nec ullum silentii emolumentum, edidit cæteros."—To all which, we may add Chance, or the Accidents which happen in all human affairs. The Earl of Leicester miscarried in his design upon Leyden, only because one of the Conspirators having been arrested for debt, all the rest ran away, out of a belief that they were betrayed by some of their companions.

[a] "Illum quidem, said Germanicus to the Legions that had mutinied against Tiberius, sua majestas; imperium Romanum cæteri exercitus defendent;" after he had first represented to them, that Italy and the Gauls were firmly attached to Tiberius, and that all the rest of the Empire was in tranquility. "Italiæ consensum, Galliarum fidem extollit; nil usquam turbidum aut discors." Tacit Annal. i.

[b] A family that vied with the Bentivogli for power, at Bologna, in the year 1445.

[c] Machiavel says here, *quale era in fasce, who was in swaddling cloaths*: The French translator says *étant au maillot, an infant at nurse*. But in the sixth Book of his History of Florence, Machiavel says, he was then six years old. The difference however is not very material.

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