

commonly reputed the Son of an Artificer, and gave him the government of their City, till Giovanni was old enough to take the reins into his own hands [d]. — I say then, that a Prince, whose Subjects are well affected to him, has no occasion to be afraid of Conspiracies; but if he is hated by them, he has every thing to fear from every body: all wise Princes therefore, and well govern'd States, have made it their chief care to content the common people, and not to drive their Nobility to despair.

Amongst the best governed Kingdoms in these times, France is the principal [e]; for there are many excellent Laws and institutions established in that Monarchy, for the security of the King, and the liberty of the Subject, the chief of which is the authority of the Parliament [f]: Those that modelled the polity of France, well knew the insolence and ambition of the Grandees, and of consequence the necessity of curbing it; but as they judged it proper, on the other hand, to secure them from the rage of the Commonalty, who both feared and hated them, they found it the best way to excuse the King from interfering in the matter; that so he might neither incur the hatred of the Grandees, by seeming to favour the people, nor that of the people, by inclining to the Grandees: upon which account, they set up a third power, which might repress the Nobility, and defend the people, without bringing any odium upon the King, either from one side or the other. And as nothing could be more wisely concerted than this Institution, nor better calculated for the safety both of the King's own person, and the Kingdom in general, we may deduce another rule from hence, viz. "that Princes ought to reserve the distribution of favours to themselves, but to leave punishments, and such matters as may create hatred and disgust, to the administration of others [g]:" and I say further, that a Prince should cherish and support the Nobility, but not in such a manner as to make himself odious to the people.

Many perhaps, who consider the lives and deaths of several of the Roman Emperors, will be inclined to think they afford examples that

[d] He was natural Son of one Hercules Bentivoglio, cousin to Hannibal: his name was Santi, and he passed for the Son of Agnolo Cascese, a wool-comber. *Machiavel*, *ibid.* where he adds, that Santi behaved himself with so much prudence in the government of Bologna, that, though most of his Predecessors had been murdered by their enemies, he, on the contrary, lived all his days in great honour, and died a natural death.

[e] "The French, (says he, in his *political discourses*, Book III. Chap. ii.) are more obedient to the Laws of their Country, than any other nation."

[f] The Parliament of Paris is here meant, which gives life and motion to all the other Parliaments in France.

[g] "Viro Principi, ubi pænarum res est (says Xenophon) aliis id delegandum; ubi præmiorum aut munerum, ipsi abeundum."