

day, it is the interest of all Princes to court and care for the people, as they are now more powerful than the Soldiery. I except the Grand Signior and the Sultan of Egypt: because the former constantly keeps about twelve thousand foot, and fifteen thousand horse-guards, about his person, upon which the strength and security of his Empire entirely depend. It is absolutely necessary therefore, to secure their affection at all events, in preference to that of the people: and the Sultan being in the same situation, ought likewise to regulate his conduct in the same manner. It should also be observed, that the Government of the Sultans, is different from all other Principalities, except the Roman Pontificate, to which it bears some sort of resemblance: for the children of the deceased Prince do not succeed to the Empire, but such as are chosen by particular persons, who are vested with the power of election. And this custom being very ancient, the Government cannot be called a new one, nor is it subject to any of those difficulties and inconveniencies that are incident to such States: because, though the Person of the Prince is new, yet the order and constitution of government having been long established, he is received as if he had an hereditary right to it.

But to return to my subject. — Whoever maturely considers what I have said upon this matter, will find, that the ruin of the above-mentioned Emperors was chiefly owing to their making themselves either odious or contemptible; and be able to judge from whence it came to pass, that part of them taking one course, and part another that was very different, some of both sorts succeeded, and others came to unfortunate ends. For as Pertinax and Alexander were new Princes, they found it not only in vain, but pernicious, to imitate Marcus Aurelius, who succeeded to the Empire by right of inheritance. In like manner, Caracalla, Commodus, and Maximin were undone, by pretending to follow the steps of Severus; because they had not abilities equal to their pattern. — A new Prince therefore cannot come up to the example of Marcus Aurelius; nor will he have occasion to follow that of Severus in all respects: but he ought to imitate the latter in such things as are necessary to establish himself in his dominion; and the former, in those that may enable him to maintain it with reputation, when he is so established.