

world, by his barbarities, was likewise murdered in his turn [g]. Machiavel indeed pretends, that the disdain, with which he was looked upon by every body, on account of the baseness of his extraction, was the cause of his death [h]: but in this he is much mistaken: for a man that has advanced himself to Empire, by dint of his own courage, is no longer reproached with the meanness of his family; his power then is only considered, and not his birth. Pupien was the Son of a Blacksmith [i], Probus, of a Gardener, Dioclesian, of a Slave, Valentinian, of a rope-maker; and yet they were all highly respected [k]. Francisco Sforza, who made a conquest of Milan, was the Son of a Peasant: Oliver Cromwell, who bowed the necks of the English to his yoke, was the Son of a private Gentleman: Mahomet, the Founder of the most flourishing Empire in the Universe, had been Servant to a Broker: Samo, the first King of Sclavonia, was a French Merchant [l]. The famous Piaste, whose name is still so much revered in Poland, was elected King, whilst he had yet a pair of wooden clogs upon his feet, and lived in great honour till he was an hundred years old [m]. How many great Generals, Ministers, and Chancellors have been of plebeian extraction? Europe abounds with such examples: and so much the better; as it shews that these employments are commonly given ac-

[g] Yet Mr. Voltaire, in his General History of Europe. Vol. III. part vi. p. 163. speaking of the beginning of the Seventeenth Century, says as follows. "Cromwell made himself Master of England, Scotland and Ireland. A Rebel, whose name was Lift-ching, obliged the last Emperor of the Chinese to strangle himself, together with his wife and children, which opened a passage into China for the Tartars. In India, Aurengzeb rebelled against his father, who died of a lingering death in prison, whilst the son enjoyed the fruits of his iniquity in peace. Muley Ishmael, the greatest of all Tyrants, was practising the most horrid cruelties in the Empire of Morocco. Of all the Kings upon earth, those two Usurpers, Aurengzeb and Muley Ishmael, lived the happiest and the longest. They were both above an hundred years old when they died. Cromwell, though as wicked as either of them, did not live indeed so long, but ruled and died in peace.—If we examine the History of the World, we shall find weak Princes unfortunate, and great Villains successful; as if the Globe was a vast scene of plunder and devastation, abandoned to fortune and caprice."

[h] Machiavel likewise assigns his cruelty as another cause.

[i] *Marechal de Village.*

[k] Pupien and Probus, were both killed by the Soldiery: Valentinian killed himself with passion. How then highly respected?

[l] He put himself at the head of the Sclavonians, to deliver them from the Tyranny of the Huns: in which he succeeded so well, that being raised by them to the throne, he afterwards reigned over that people six and thirty years with great renown. *And. Brunner.*

[m] "In the year 820 there was an Inter-regnum full of troubles in Poland, till the Poles declared Piastus, a country fellow born at Crusswitz, their Prince; from whom ever since, such of the natives as obtained the royal dignity, were called *Piasti*. His posterity reigned a long time in Poland; and from them descended the race of the Dukes of Lignitz and Brieg, in Silesia, which is but lately extinct. It is said he was an hundred and twenty years old when he died." *Puffendorf's introduction to the History of Europe,* p. 305.