

Che l' antico valore
Ne gl' Italici caor' non e' ancor morto.

When virtue takes the field,
Short will the conflict be;
Barbarian rage shall yield
The palm to Italy.
For patriot blood still warms Italian veins;
Though low the fire, a spark at least remains.

EXAMEN. CHAP. XXVI.

Concerning the different sorts of Negotiation, and what may be called a just reason for making war.

IN the course of this essay, I have pointed out the disingenuity of Machiavel's reasoning, and shewn the fallacious manner in which he endeavours to impose upon Princes, by recommending Villains to their imitation, under the mask of great men. I have attempted to pluck off the disguise of Virtue, which he has thrown over Vice, and to correct the errors under which many people lie in their notions of Politics. I have represented to Sovereigns that true Policy consists in surpassing their subjects in virtue; that so they may not be reduced to the necessity of condemning that in others which they practise themselves: and I have made bold to add, that such actions as are usually accounted great and brilliant, are not sufficient to make them truly glorious, except they likewise tend to the benefit and happiness of mankind. To these considerations, I shall subjoin two others; one in relation to negotiations, and the other to the reasons for making war which may properly be called lawful and just.

The Ministers that reside at foreign courts are privileged spies [x], who watch the conduct of those Princes to whom they are sent: it is their business to penetrate into their designs, to weigh their actions, to foresee dangers, and to inform their masters of them in time. Their principal aim should be to preserve amity betwixt Sovereigns; but, instead of being peace-makers, they often stir up wars. They employ all manner of flattery, artifice, and seduction to draw secrets of State out of other ministers: they gain upon the weak by address, upon the

[x] Sir Henry Wotton says, an Ambassador is *Vir bonus peregrè missus ad mentiendum Reipublicæ causâ*; a good man sent to lie abroad for the benefit of his Country: for so it is translated by somebody. But here is an ambiguity in the word *lie*, which was not intended in the Latin.