
A D V E R T I S E M E N T
T O T H E
R E A D E R,

F R O M
The French Translation, concerning the ensuing
Discourses.

MACHIAVEL has been so generally decried, on account of the little regard he is supposed to have shewn to Religion and Morality in his writings, that a good man perhaps might think himself in some danger of being corrupted if he should venture to read them. I confess I was long of that opinion myself, and therefore cannot well tell how to blame others for it. But after I had carefully perused them, and found sufficient reason to alter my sentiments in that matter; I thought many others might probably do the same, and that it would not be an unacceptable performance to several persons of worth and candour, who do not understand Italian, if I should furnish them with the means of reading Machiavel's works, by translating them into the vulgar tongue; that so they might have an opportunity not only of undeceiving, but even of profitting themselves by the many admirable maxims and instructions they will find in them. For indeed it is impossible that any one, who maturely considers them, should not be convinced of their excellence and utility, both in the management of State-affairs, and in the common transactions of life; in one or other of which every man has some concern, and consequently will find his account in perusing these writings. I might add, for my own justification,