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SECOND

Political DIALOGUES

Between the Celebrated

STATUES

OF

PASQUIN *and* MARFORIO.

AT

ROME, &c.

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OF

Paſquin and *Marforio*

AT

ROME.

Tranſlated from the Original *Italian*, publiſhed the Twenty-fifth Day of laſt *March*.

Dedicated to the Right Hon. the Lord *Corruption*.

LONDON:

Printed for *T. Boreman* near *Child's* Coffee-Houſe in St. *Paul's Church-Yard*, and to be had at the Bookſellers and Pamphlet Shops of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, 1737.

(Price One Shilling.)

THE

DEDICATION

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

Lord *CORRUPTION.*

MY LORD,

BEFORE I presume to intreat your Lordship's Sanction of my present Labours, 'tis but just that I make some Apology, for having, last Year, addressed my self to the younger Branch of your Illustrious House, preferable to your All-worthy Self. Let this, then, be my Excuse; that as you intrusted the weighty

Province of Foreign Negociation to your *Junior*, I imagined you would be better pleaſed he ſhould be honoured with the Patronage of all Political Tracts, than your ſelf. If, after this, you ſhould ſtill be of Opinion, that I was wanting in my Duty, I am unfortunate; and can only beſeech your Lordſhip to conſider, that I was erroneous in Judgment only.

I could have no View of Intereſt in my Preference of the Renown'd *Equilibriſt*, to your Lordſhip; for I can ſafely Swear, that I had neither Place or Penſion, nor did I ever Solicite for any. It is true, I was not without Hopes, that a handſome Purſe, or Bank Note, would be ſent me by an unknown Hand, for my genteel Encomiums on the Family. But it ſeems, it is a Maxim with your *Houſe*, never to encourage Merit to find the Avenue to your good Graces.--And I wiſh, for this Reaſon, that the two old *Romans* I introduce to your Lordſhip, may not be coldly received by you. But if it ſhould ſo happen, they

they have ſtill the Comfort of Suffering in my good Company. The *P——ys*, the *B——ns*, the *C——ms*, the *S——rs*, and the much to be lamented *T——t*, have met with the like Fate, whilſt the —— the ——, the —— and Shoals of other worthleſs W—— were cheriſh'd, and loaded with Penſions and Preferments.

If my Authors are to be credited, your Lordſhip's Sway is almoſt univerſal in this our Land, flowing with Milk and Honey. I won't anſwer for the Truth of this bold Aſſertion; but my Lord, ſhould they happen to be Right, one may venture to conclude, that inſtead of Milk and Honey, we ſhall ſoon be over-run with Poverty and Diſpair. And, in ſuch Caſe, I would beſeech your Lordſhip to conſider what Sort of Abject Creatures you'll have to Exerciſe your Power over. A Word to the Wiſe, my Lord. You have a Family; therefore, ſhould think of Futurity.

It is true, *Marforio* is Poſitive that we are incapable of ſeeing at any Di-

ſtance; and I confeſs, one would be inclined to believe him from the preſent Situation of our Affairs; but I ſhould think it impoſſible, that one of your Lordſhips known Sagacity ſhould have a Veil over your Eyes, that have been ſo *Adroit*, as to Hood-wink a whole People.

We have a late glorious Inſtance of your Lordſhip's Addreſs, in the myſterious Art of Blind-folding. It will immediately occur to your Lordſhip's Memory, that I mean your Defeat of a late Scheme, for encreaſing the preſent ſmall Pittance of Milk and Honey, which our induſtrious Poor are obliged to ſubſiſt upon. But, my Lord, tho' you might think it neceſſary to curb the Inſolence of the Doughty *Knight*, that dared to introduce any Thing of that Moment, without your Conſent and Approbation. I cannot help being of Opinion with *Marforio*, who, it ſeems, had wind of that Scheme, that Part, at leaſt, of it would have been of ſingular Uſe to you. I am ſo ſatis-

fy'd

fy'd, that you your ſelf, think it would, notwithſtanding your preſent ſeeming Diſregard, that I am ready to Stake my Stock of Knowledge againſt your *Integrity*, however unequal I may think the Wager, that you will Faſhion the Scheme, and bring it your ſelf upon the *Tapis*, before the end of the next Year.

The late *Schemiſt*, however virtuous and wiſe on other Occaſions, was groſly Miſtaken to imagine your Lordſhip would agree to a Project made Publick, before you and your Creatures could have Time to make a Penny of it. He might have remembered, that you had conſtantly made your *Market* many Months, before you uſhered your Schemes to the Publick. But his Zeal for the Bleeding Publick, hurry'd him beyond his uſual Prudence.

But of all the Inconſiſtencies I have known my Country-men guilty of, and God knows I have been Eye-witneſs of many, I never knew one more abſurd than their Behaviour to-

wards

wards this ſame unhappy Scheming Knight. Methinks I ſee your Lordſhip hugging your ſweet Self for having whipp'd this Darling *Cit* out of the good Opinion of his fellow Citizens with a Rod of his own cutting. Well might *Marforio* ſay that we are incapable of fathoming Futurity, ſince, in this Inſtance, 'tis plain we can't ſee the Length of our Noſes. I ſhould not wonder, indeed, to hear the Money'd part of the People had inveigh'd againſt one that endeavour'd to eaſe the *Indaſtrious*, by throwing part of their Burthen on the *Idle*; but to ſee the ſilly Beaſts of Burthen themſelves, exult in their Load, hug their Chains, and throw Dirt at the relieving Patriot they ſhould revere and adore.—— *Monſtrum Horrendum!*

I think nothing can more evidently point out your Lordſhip's Influence, than the Publick Indignities offer'd to this Second Rate Martyr; nor can I any longer, without wronging my Judgment, heſitate one Moment, to conclude

clude with the Celebrated Statues, that your Sway is Univerſal within the Bounds of the Narrow Seas.

I wiſh, my Lord, for your Sake, I could ſay that you had equal Influence at *Vienna*, *Paris*, and *Madrid*. But 'tis much to be fear'd that your Lordſhip's Power at theſe remote Places ſinks in Proportion to its Increaſe at Home. My laſt *Patron*, your able Negociator, can probably inform you if the Fact be ſo. It is true, if you were never to ſtir from Home, never to apprehend unwelcome Viſits from Abroad, the Decreaſe of your Influence amongſt Foreigners, could be attended with no very Bad Conſequence: But, my Lord, ſhou'd you ever be drove to the dire Neceſſity of calling for Aid, 'tis a terrible thing to be Friendleſs. Your Lordſhip beſt knows if your Conduct, ſince the Memorable Year *Twenty*, has drawn upon you that flagrant Neglect of Foreigners which ſo viſibly encreaſes throughout the whole Continent.

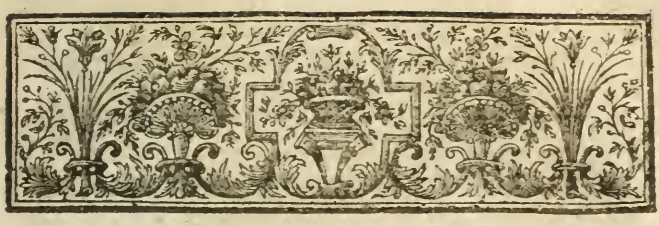
You'll

You'll obſerve from the Dialogues, that *Paſquin* and *Marforio* are your Friends. For your Lordſhip knows, that it is the Part of a Friend to put one in mind of his Faults. They do it with great Sincerity of Heart, and for that Reaſon, I hope your Lordſhip will take them under your All-Powerful Wings. As for my Part, whether or no you will allow me to be of the Number of your Slaves, I ſhall ever think myſelf oblig'd to publiſh your Merit for the General Good of my Fellow-Subjects, who enjoy ſo many *Subſtantial Bleſſings* under your Awful Adminiſtration. I am,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhip's
Moſt humble and
Devoted Servant,

The Tranſlator.

SECOND



Second Political Dialogues between the Statutes of Paſquin *and* Marforio *at* Rome, &c.

DIALOGUE I.

Paſquin and *Marforio.*

Paſq. 

COME, come, *Marforio*; Prithee, be more ſociable. —— Fold up your Pacquet, lay by your Spectacles, and indulge your old Acquaintance, whilſt yet the Silence of Night is propitious to that Frankneſs and Openeſs with which we have, and, I hope, ever will entertain each other. A few Hours will deprive us of the Pleaſure we propoſed; therefore, my Friend, let us enjoy the preſent in Converſe of Mutual Confidence and Freedom. —— What, ſtill Deaf to my Intreaty? Fare thee well, then, thou Political Sot. Fare the well, I ſay; and when thou haſt brought thy Schemes of Freedom to Maturity, call upon me to ſee if I ſhall

be in an Humour to liſten to thy *Utopian* Projects. — Adieu, old, vain Speculatiſt.

Marf. Nay, Prithee, *Paſquin*; do not leave me. I ſhall want thy Aſſiſtance towards coming at the real Meaning, if any there be, of the Bulky Pacquet in my Hand.

Paſq. Are your Letters then in Cypher, that you ſtand in need of an Aſſiſtant? If ſo, e'en ſend them to *E*——, where a certain ſtationed, ſpiritual Band will Decypher them upon Oath.

Marf. Upon Oath, *Paſquin?*

Paſq. Yes, upon Oath. Nay more; they ſhall give them any Meaning you ſhall require, provided your Liberality be as extenſive as their Morality. You forget ſure, a certain memorable Tranſaction in that virtuous Country, which happened not many Years ago.

Marf. I underſtand thee *Paſquin.* That Affair, indeed, was of a very extraordinary Nature. But in the preſent Caſe, I don't want the Aid of venal Decypherers; I want only that of a good Underſtanding. The Letters in my Hand are Intelligible, as to the Characters and Language, but ſo monſtruouſly Inconſiſtent with each other, tho' upon the ſame Subject, and from Natives of the ſame Land, that without much Study and Labour, 'twill be impoſſible to form any juſt Idea of the true Intention of my Correſpondents.

Paſq. I'll lay a thouſand Crowns to a Pomegranate, your Correſpondents are Iſlanders; ever various and inconſtant. Your Letters are from the *Weſt*, I ſuppoſe?

Marf. They are, Prithee, *Paſquin*, take them and try to make Senſe of them, whilſt I examine another Pacquet from *Turin*, which informs me of

of the Alteration of Affairs at that Court, on the Marriage of his *Sardinian* Majesty.

Pasq. No, not I. Thou *Marforio*, art a dull, phlegmatick, plodding Fellow, cut out by Nature to encounter with the Absurdities of that Imaginarily happy and sagacious People. —— But, pray what is the general Import of your Letters from your frothy, changeable Correspondents? Do they still complain of the Decay of their Trade; do they inveigh against the Oppressions of the Administration; are their Taxes encreased; is the Weight of their Debts unsupportable; or are they at last, grown so wise, as to see that they had been Ideots and mad Men for half a Century?

Marf. The Majority of them complain of all the Ills, and much more, than you have enumerated, while others amongst them, (the least in Number, tho' not in Power) are Industrious to propagate Notions of their general Freedom and Happiness. One would imagine the Complainants had Truth of their Side, if they were not known, in the main, to concur in those very Measures on which they found their Complaint. For Example; they complain of the Corruption of their Representatives. This Complaint is General; 'tis Annual. And yet, when they have the Power of changing Hands, and of Electing such Men as would secure them from the Designs of the Administration, they are so abandon'd as to drop their real Friends, and fix their Choice on those very Men they had been Complaining of for seven Years before. Monstrous Absurdity! They complain of the decrease of their Commerce, and yet they will chuse those very Men that have occasioned that Decrease. Nay, more, they chuse them, tho' at the same Time they are satisfied that they give their Suffrages to Men devoted to

a *Fellow Subject*, whoſe particular Views tend to the Impoveriſhment of the Community, in order to complete his Schemes of General Subjection. Of all the Nations under the Sun, this is moſt unſteddy and inconſiſtent. To hear them talk of their Liberty, one would think they had ſecured it beyond the Power of Fate. To hear them Expatiate on the Excellence of their Conſtitution, one would think it had been framed by *Solon* and *Lycurgus*, under the Direction of the Supream Deity. To hear them exult and proclaim the Purity of their Religion, one would conclude the *Evangiliſts* had wrote for them alone. And yet, *Paſquin*, their Liberty is * * * *. Their Conſtitution, little better than * * * *, and their Religion, little leſs than down-right * * * * *. This you and I know to be Fact; this, all the ſound Divines and Stateſmen in *Europe* know to be ſo, except their own, if any ſuch are to be found amongſt them.

Paſq. Unthinking *Marforio!* What, refuſe a People Religion that had been ſo Pious as to raiſe an Immenſe Fund for Building Fifty Additional Churches in one City only; and that too, at a Time they were ſaddled with Two Hundred † Millions of Publick Debt, and were Groaning under the Weight of Taxes and Dearth of Commerce. Nay more, they made this Pious Proviſion at the Deſire of the Sovereign that had not a Pallace in the *Metropolis* fit to Lodge her Majeſties Coach-Horſes. Wilt thou, I ſay, after ſo Glaring an Inſtance of their Piety, and Zeal for their Church, refuſe them the Glory of Thinking themſelves truly Religious and Orthodox? I ſhould rather expect you would Eccho their Religious Fame to the Antipodes. Fy, Little

† Crowns,

tle *Marſy*, Retract, or by the Slipper of our *Pontiff*, I ſhall have but a wretched Opinion, of either thy Charity or Underſtanding.

Marſ. Were I like thee, *Paſquin*, carry'd away with Appearances only, I might, with thee conclude, that People truly Religious from the Legiſlative Inſtance you mention of their Piety. But as my Reſearches into Occurrences of any Moment are never Superficial, I ſeldom fail of coming at the Genuine Springs or Motives that had given them Birth. Religion had the leaſt, if any ſhare, in the Tranſaction you ſo much Magnify. The Church-building Act was projected, partly to gratify the then Sovereign, and partly to lull the Epiſcopal Clergy into an unſafe Security. 'Twas obvious to all the World at that Time, that the Conventicles were throng'd, whilſt the Churches were deſerted from the Arts and Contrivances of a Party. The Churchmen, particularly the eſtabliſhed Clergy, were alarmed; it was therefore neceſſary to gild the *Poinard* deſtined to give the Blow, and no Gilding was thought more likely to Delude, than that vaſt Addition to the Places of Publick Worſhip.

My Dear *Paſquin*, there is nothing more fallacious than the Actions and Profeſſions of the Generality of Miniſters, but particularly of thoſe of the Nation under our preſent Conſideration; there are rarely, if ever, actuated by any Principle; but that of Dear private Self-Intereſt, 'tis their Point in View, and they are ſteddy in no Purſuit, but that one. They riſe to Power by Clamour, Oppoſition and the Animoſity of Party, and they continue their Influence, juſt ſo long as they are able to gratify the Avarice of ſome, and impoſe on others of the Voracious and Credulous of the Individuals that had raiſed them

to the Summit. Though that People had been, what they would perſuade the World they are, Proof againſt Corruption, they would ſtill be more eaſily wrought upon by an artful Miniſter than any other in *Europe*; from this certain Reaſon; that no People in *Europe* act with leſs Reflection, or ſee leſs into Futurity. But as they are more inſatiable of Wealth, eſpecially that Purloined from the Publick, than any Nation in the World, even the *Dutch* not excepted, a Miniſter who has the Diſpoſal of all Employments, and of the publick Treaſure, can never fail of Hoodwinking his Party, and continuing his Influence, eſpecially whilſt his Prince will ſee with no Eyes but the Miniſter's, whoſe Intereſt it is to guide him out of the Path of true Glory.

Paſq. Is it poſſible that ſo profuſe and ſo extravagant a People as they are known to be both at home and abroad, can be ſo inſatiable of Riches, and ſo ſuſceptible of Corruption as you would make them ?

Marf. Call to mind what has been ſaid of our Countryman *Catiline*, and the Paradox will diſappear. *Alieni appetentes, ſui profuſi*, may with equal Juſtice be applied here as there. Here Wealth is the Idol, the only Thing purſued whilſt Virtue, either publick or private, is * * * *. The *Amor Patriæ* is counted a *Chimæra*, and to prefer the publick to private Intereſt, is a Doctrine abſurd and obſolete.

It happens, indeed, ſometimes, that a Miniſter, with all the Advantages I have mentioned above, will fall ſooner than the Publick could imagine. But 'tis becauſe he wants the Means of Corruption: For while that exiſts he muſt be ſafe where all are greedy to receive. You know, *Paſquin*, that that People are divided into two great Parties; and

and that one, tho' infinitely ſuperior in Wealth as well as Number, has been Lorded over by the other for many Years. This, in one Senſe, is owing to the Aſſiduity and Unanimity of the Minority, and to the Inactivity and Diſunion of the Majority. The profeſſed Principles of the latter are more virtuous and laudable; but as they were ſeldom known to act up to their Profeſſions they have been, I mean the Chiefs, conſtantly deſerted and abandoned, whilſt the others, with Principles more injurious to the Generality of the People, and leſs virtuous, have been as conſtantly abetted and ſupported, becauſe they had been more ſteddy in Friendſhip, and more conſiſtent with themſelves.

There is another Reaſon why an Adminiſtration choſen out of this Minority ſhould exiſt longer than one taken from the Majority; and it is obſervable the Fact was always ſo. For as the firſt has fewer to gratify than the latter, the Means of Corruption, or call it Gratification, if you will, is not ſo ſoon exhauſted in the Hands of the one Side as the other. Thus it happens, that the preſent Miniſter in that Country has been able to ſupport himſelf, for above ſixteen Years, againſt the moſt violent, beſt conducted, civil Oppoſition that had been known, either in that or any other Country. But miſtake me not, my Friend, when I mention this Oppoſition with an Air of Applauſe. It would, indeed, merit univerſal Applauſe was it founded on publick Good; but, my dear *Paſquin*, I have told you what I am convinced to be true, that that amiable Virtue is unknown to the whole People, a very few excepted. The Oppoſition in queſtion is chiefly, if not ſolely, founded in Avarice. The Opponents are ſecluded from the Advantages accruing

from Power and Employments, and herein consists the sole Mystery of the Opposition, however artfully it may be gilded. Could the Minister find the Means of satiating the predominant Passion of his Opponents; could he gorge them with Employments and Pensions, he might rule unmolested 'till he should fix the Power of his Master beyond the Reach of Party, and fill his own and his Lord's Coffers with all the Money in the Nation.

But without the Concurrence of the Opponents, I am much mistaken if he will not soon have the Means of attaining these premeditated Designs. For by the Letters now in my Hand, I understand he is cooking up a Project which will enable him to carry on all his Schemes into Execution. The young *Sicilian* Monarch has pointed out to him the alluring Path; and if I know my Man, he is too much in his own Interest to be diverted from going into a Road that must lead him to the Height of his Ambition.

Pasq. Pray, which of the young *Spanish Machiavels* late Schemes has he set his Heart upon; that of the temporal Inquisition; that of reducing Religions to their primitive Poverty, or that of reducing the Interest of the National Debt so low as to starve all the Ratifia-drinking old Women in the Nation?

Marf. One would really think, from the Continuance of his Power and Success, that he had none but old Women to deal with. —— But to the Purpose of my Intelligence. He was beforehand with the beardless King, as to Laws to tie down his Fellow-subjects to actual Obedience, and the Reformation left him little Room to exercise his fleecing Talents on the Church. The last of the *Don*'s Expedients for humbling his *Neopolitans*, is

is that our Stateſman is buſily employed about. The Reducement of the Intereſt of their National Debt is the Scheme now on the Anvil, the Completion of which will enable the Projector to continue his Influence while he would wiſh to be at the Head of Affairs. If, with the Means already in his Hands, he has been able to form ſuch a Party as have ſupported him againſt the Bent of a vaſt Majority, what may he not be able to do when he ſhall have acquired ſuch additional Strength as muſt be the neceſſary Conſequence of this Scheme? Two or three † Millions added to the Capital already in the Management of ſo conſummate an Adept as our Schemiſt is allowed to be in a proper Application of Finances, muſt enable him, either to gain over or intirely cruſh his Opponents. And indeed, if one may judge of him from his paſt Behaviour, 'tis more likely he will ſoon throw off the Remains of the Mask and ſtrike, without Ceremony or Reſerve at the putrified Root of his Country's Freedom.

Paſq. It may be ſaid, indeed, that ſome few of the Branches of that once flouriſhing and glorious Tree are become withered and ſapleſs; but I cannot perceive how the Root can be ſaid to be putrified while two Parts in three of the Legiſlative Power ſtill remains in the Hands of thoſe whoſe immediate Intereſt it is to preſerve it.

Marf. I thought, my political Sceptick, I had, in a former Conference, ſatisfied thee concernning the State of Liberty in that once happy Country. I was in hopes I had convinced thee that little elſe but the Shadow of Freedom remains there. But thou art one of thoſe that are never to be reaſoned out of an Opinion once imbibed, however abſurd or ill founded. Becauſe thou

† Crowns.

thou hadſt heard it ſaid, that in a certain Period of the laſt Century, that People were truly free, thou wilt needs have it that they muſt be always ſo. Becauſe they had on many Occaſions, made glorious Struggles in behalf of Freedom thou thinkeſt they will always do ſo whenever the fair Bleſſing is attacked. Thy Concluſion would not be much amiſs if the Poeple had been ſtill what they were. If, like their Anceſtors, their Breaſts had glowed with Patriot Vertue; the ſame Sentiments, the ſame Actions might be expected from them. But, if they be ſo far degenerated as to have bartered away the Purity of the Goſpel for Atheiſm and Deiſm, Debauchery and Luxury for Abſtemiouſneſs and Parcimony; if Infidelity and Senſuality have ſo far unhinged the Principles of Patriotiſm in their Souls as to be liable to every Impreſſion an artful, corrupting Agent ſhall think fit to make upon their Minds. How long, think thee, will they be able to preſerve the Shadow of their once boaſted Liberty. As for the Subſtance, doſt think it morally poſſible it could have ſubſiſted to this Time amongſt a People that had, for a Series of Years, thrown off all Regard for Poſterity, for publick Juſtice, and for every Vertue neceſſary towards the well-being of the Community.

No *Paſquin*, that once religious, brave, vertuous, induſtrious People are become * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *. Our own Countrymen were, at one Time, poſſeſſed of all the Vertues human Nature is capable of, and yet thou knoweſt how ſhamefully they had contributed to their own Bondage. The *French* were free, and would be ſo ſtill, if they had never courted Employments nor the Smiles of Princes and ſycophant Miniſters. All the Nations of the Earth would be free, as Nature

ture designed they should be, if they had withstood Corruption, and the false Ambition of tinsel Titles and Honours. Gods! that a Bribe, a Riband, a Title, or other silly Feather in a Fool's Cap, should induce a reasonable Being to swop away Liberty for Slavery! And yet, this we have seen, *Pasquin*, in a Multitude of Instances, since the skilful Statuary has struck us out into mortal Shape.

Pasq. Thou seemest to think that the present Despotism of the World is derived from Corruption only. When I say Corruption, I would not be understood that I think you mean that of Manners which enervates and debases the Soul so far as to render it susceptible of the worst of Impressions; but that Species of Corruption, founded in Avarice, with which the Rich and Ambitious are sometimes thought to undermine the Liberties of Communities. Now, for my Part, I should rather be of Opinion that Despotism owes its Being more to Force than that sort of Corruption you would found it upon.

Marf. That absolute Power exists by Force I won't deny; nor can you, that that very Force must necessarily have been first created, and afterwards nursed up by Corruption, that very Corruption founded in Avarice, from which, most undoubtedly, all inordinate Power derives its Original. Let us suppose an Individual become Popular from the publick Opinion of his Wisdom and Virtue, invested with Power for the Good of the Community. A limited Power it must be; for it cannot be supposed that any Society of Men would spontaneously delegate absolute Power to a Fellow Creature. The innate Freedom of Man does not admit of any Thing so repugnant to the Nature of Liberty. Let us inquire then, how

Power

Power ſo limited, becomes abſolute, contrary to the Intereſt and Intention of thoſe that had firſt delegated it. Why, thus ; Wealth being the Concommitant of Power, the Chief Magiſtrate accumulates Riches, with which he corrupts the Chiefs of the People, who ſeldom fail of drawing the Multitude into their Sentiments.

Paſq Your Argument may have ſome Weight as to ſimple Monarchical Government ; but in ſuch a mix'd Government as that of *B*——, where the People are in Poſſeſſion of two Thirds of the Legiſlative Power, it would ſeem impracticable to erect that abſolute Dominion you dread ſo much.

Marf. Still I ſee, *Paſquin*, you cannot be perſuaded that that People are to be bribed of their Freedom. I wiſh I could ſee any Reaſon for my being of your Opinion. But I own to you that I cannot gain upon my ſelf to look upon a People to be Free that concur in the Maintenance of a ſtanding Army during a profound Tranquillity. An Army, in Time of Peace, was a Thing unknown to the Conſtitution of that Country ; nor can the Continuance of ſuch Force as is now ſeen there, be intended for the Purpoſes of Liberty. Freedom and an armed Force are of the Nature of thoſe Things that are incompatible. The Hiſtory of all Nations confirm this Truth, and none more particularly than that of our own Country. You remember the dire Calamities occaſioned by *Marius* and *Sylla*, inveſted for other Purpoſes than Slavery, with martial Authority. Did not the Prolongation of *Cæſar*'s Commiſſion in *Gaul*, enable him to deſtroy the beſt digeſted Commonwealth in the whole World. You cannot forget the Story of *Matho* and *Spendius* at *Carthage*, or that of the *Mamalukes* of *Egypt*. Call to Mind how the *Athenians*, a People ſuperlatively wiſe, and jealous of Liberty, loſt

loſt it by being *Bribed* by *Piſiſtratus* to allow him but *thirty Guards* only, for the Security of his Perſon. Remember how *Timophanes*, entruſted with the Command of but *four hundred armed Men* for the Defence of *Corinth*, became abſolute Maſter of the Lives and Liberties of the Citizens. How *Agathocles* became Tyrant of *Syracuſa* by being inveſted with the Command of the Army. Read the Accounts given by our Countryman *Spada* and *Bentivolio*, of the Power of an armed Force in the *Netherlands*, when a handful of *Spaniards* committed ſuch Devaſtation, notwithſtanding the Power and Wealth of the Subjects and the vaſt Number of fortified Towns poſſeſſed by native Noblemen.

But before that Period of Time, read in *Commines*, how *Philip* of *Burgundy*, a Prince diſtinguiſhed by the Epithet *good*, deſtroyed the Liberty of the moſt opulent People then in *Europe*, with ſo ſmall a Force as *five hundred Horſe*. What *Charles*, ſurnamed the *Bold*, did afterwards in Conſequence of a military Power, is recorded by numberleſs Authors. Did not *Louis* XI. with an Army leſs numerous than that now eſtabliſhed in the *B——h* Empire, enſlave the populous and extenſive Kingdom of *France?* Did not *Francis Sforza* force himſelf into the abſolute Dominion of *Milan*, by a ſmall Army entruſted to his Command for the Safety of the unwary *Milaneze?* And did not our own Countryman, *Olivaretto di Fermo* put all, or moſt of his principle Fellow Citizens to the Sword, and proclaimed himſelf their Prince with ſo deſpicable a Force as *one hundred Horſe*, which he had the Addreſs, by the *Corruption* of ſome of the chief Citizens, to get Leave to introduce into the City? Was it not an armed Force entruſted with *Guſtavus Ericſon*, after he had delivered

livered his Country from the Bondage of the *Danes*, that he had deſtroyed that Freedom it was raiſed to Defend. Innumerable are the Inſtances, may be brought to prove that Liberty, and a Standing Army are Inconſiſtent.

But to bring the Conſideration home to the Point in Queſtion; let it be remembered that an Army in the very Country, whoſe preſent State of Liberty you think ſo very ſafe, had trampled on the Freedom of that very Parliament that had raiſed it; that, in the Courſe of a few Years, that Army had ſet up Ten ſeveral Sorts of Government contrary to the Genius of the whole Nation and the Opinion of half their own Body; ſuch is the Influence of a Commander over an Army, that he can Oblige them to act Mechanically, however the Sentiments of the Individuals of which the Corpſe is compoſed, may happen to differ from his own. When ever a People truſt their Arms out of their own Hands, they muſt expect to be Slaves; for it is ridiculous to Imagine that Men will be Servants when they have it in their Power to become Maſters. Let it not be urged that the Army under our preſent Conſideration, are paid by the Publick, and therefore, properly ſpeaking, are the Servants of the People. Frivilous Sophiſtry! Was not the Army of 1641 the ſame? Was not all the Armies that had ever inſlaved their Fellow Subjects the ſame? Why ſhall we expect this armed Corpſe to be endowed with more Virtue than their Anceſtors, or than all thoſe we read of in Hiſtory? I will venture to affirm that the preſent Generation are not more Pious, more Couragious, leſs Luxurious, leſs Immoral, or more publick ſpirited than they were about the middle of the laſt Century.

But,

But, what are the Reaſons offered for the Countinuance of this Army. Why firſt, that the late Hero of *Sweden* had intended either to Conquer for himſelf, or to introduce a *Popiſh* Prince upon the Throne. Monſtrous Inconſiſtency! When the Inability of that unhappy Prince was evident to the whole World; and when it was alſo notorious, that if he had had the Power, his Enthuſiaſm was ſuch as would never permit him to Uſe it in favour of one whoſe Religion was his Averſion. Next, the Deſigns of *Spain* were to be warded againſt; Reaſoning as ridiculous as the other! Is it not a known Truth that the Naval Force of *Spain* is ſo infinitely Inferior to that of *B*——, that there is not a bare Poſſibility that ever ſhe can be affected by any Embarkation from that diſtant Country. Then again, all was at Stake without an Army, conſidering that the *Emperor* was diſobliged at the famous Treaty of *Hanover*. How was his Power, even his Naval Power, exaggerated on that Occaſion, by a certain Pention'd Herd, tho' it was as clear as the Sun at Noon-Day, that he had no Intention to diſturb his Neighbours, and that, tho' he had, he was not Maſter of one Ship in the World by which he could hope to execute his Deſigns. Next was the late War in Conſequence of the *Poliſh* Election, the Pretext, not only of continuing but increaſing the Number of Forces, tho' there was not a Man in the Nation did not know with Certainty, that it was abſolutely reſolved not to Interfere in that Quarrel.

Well, all thoſe fanthom Apprehenſions are vaniſhed, and ſtill the Army ſubſiſts. But, ſay the venal Creatures of Power, *Spain* is ſtill in an ill Humour, and has ſhewed Inclination of Arming at *Barcelona*, or at the *Havanna*; no Matter

Matter which, either being of equal Concern to *B*——, in Point of Diſtance and Convenience. For my Part, *Paſquin*, I expect a few Poſts will bring me Advice that an Additional Army will be raiſed to prevent the Deſigns of his *Holineſs*, *Don Carlos* and the *Venetians* who are making ſome ſlow Steps towards arming Navally, againſt the *Turk*. Nay, I am not ſure but that the Imperial Fleet of flat Shalloupes in the *Danube* will be urged as a Reaſon for Iſſuing out Commiſſions for Raiſing a Dozen, additional Regiments of Dragoons.

But to be more ſerious; is it not Obvious that an Army thus continued upon the moſt frivolus Pretences, muſt have a View injurious to Liberty? Every Body knows how an Army is capable of Influencing Elections of Parliament; what Middling Borough will venture to Vote againſt a Colonel of a Regiment, that has it in his Power to Diſtreſs the Inhabitants by Quartering; or what Parliament will venture to diſoblige a Miniſter that has above *Thirty Thouſand* diſciplin'd Military Servants in his Retinue, beſides as many more civil Attendants of all Degrees, Qualities and Denominations, that Riot by his Benevolence and Liberality. I don't know, *Paſquin*, if you be yet cured of your Incredulity; but I venture to Prognoſticate, that if you ſhould not, from what I have ſaid, *it won't be many* —— *before you hear that a certain Miniſter ſays, it is expected they will chuſe the Officers of the Army, and that afterwards, he will Harangue the P*——, *and tell them in ſmooth, but very plain Words, that it is expected they will maintain them.*

Paſq. I confeſs I had a ſecret Regard for that once brave and free People, and was unwilling to Harbour any Opinion injurious to their publick

lick Virtue; but you have convinced me that one may carry his Prepoſſeſſion too far. Let us then leave them to their Fate, to take a View of the other Nations of *Europe*. Since fair Liberty is no where to be found, as ſure ſhe is not, let us examine the Conduct and Intereſts of thoſe States where once ſhe was revered with Zeal and Piety. Our laſt Political Conference turned upon the late War in Conſequence of the Election of *Poland*. You concluded with the Peace then, pretty far advanced between the Emperor and the Allies. I expect you will diſcuſs that Matter more amply, for my Satisfaction, and I promiſe, in Return, to inform you of ſome Tranſactions, probably too trivial for the Obſervation of one ſo ſerious and profound as your Magiſterial Worſhip, but which, however, may help to elucidate Matters of Moment and Conſequence.

Marf. Thou haſt ever been a Comical Rogue. Well, *Paſquin*, I will indulge thee for once, provided you promiſe not to reveal the Converſation to the firſt Inquiſitive Inquirer.—But huſh, theſe Bells proclaim the Approach of Day. Adieu till To-morrow Night.

DIALOGUE II.

Marf. WHY ſo Melancholy, my old Mercurial Friend? Has thy natural Gaity been diſturbed by any freſh Inſtances of the Inſults of *Spain* and *Naples*? Do the Diſtractions of the old ſhifting *Pontiff*, occaſioned by the haughty Demands of the Father and Son, ſo engage your Attention, my Dabbler in Politicks,

as to become unſociable and forget the Purport of our Meeting? If the Gloom which hangs on thy Brow proceeds from thy Concern for our Sovereign, a little Time will reſtore thee to thy former Serenity and Quiet of Mind. For thou art to know, *Paſquin*, that tho' *Spain* be Tenacious and Steddy in her Demands and Deſigns on ſome other Potentates of *Europe*, ſhe will not, cannot, be ſo towards the Spiritual Prince we ſerve. She may bully and bluſter, Qualities natural to her, but while ſhe is governed by a Prince of *Philip*'s exemplar Piety and religious Zeal, there is no Danger that ſhe will fall off from an Obedience to the *Holy See*, which the Pious Prince thinks ſo Eſſential an Article of his Faith. Beſides, *Paſquin*, tho' it might be apprehended that *Philip* may give way to Female Art and Charms in Contradiction to his own Opinion, thou mayſt ſecurely Rely upon the refined Politicks of our Spiritual *Machiavels*. My Life they over-reach the *Don's*, and procure the Security by Art and Stratagem which the Spiritual Power alone, was unable to acquire.

Paſq. I confeſs, *Marforio*, that the late unprecedented Attacks of *Spain* on our venerable Maſter, added to that Thoughtfulneſs you obſerve me ſeized with. But, my Friend, there was yet another Cauſe, ariſing from your laſt Converſation. I ever was a Friend to Liberty, and thou knoweſt I was always an Advocate for that *Weſtern Nation* you had lately produced in another Light than I either thought or wiſhed them. I will own I was prejudiced in Favour of that People on whom I built for a Reſtoration of univerſal Freedom. But your Character of their preſent Depravity deſtroys all my Hopes, and partly Occaſions that diſquietude, ſo viſible in my Countenance.

tenance. Pray tell me, my Sagacious Friend, what your Opinion is concerning the future Conduct or Fate of that once, Heroick People? Are they doomed to mix with the other Subſervient Nations on the Continent, or ſhall Freedom and Order ſpring from their preſent State of Corruption?

Marf. If by Freedom and Order you mean a *Common-wealth*, there is not the leaſt Probability that any Form of Government ſo Regular and Conſiſtent with the Nature of a reaſonable Being, will ever take Place in a Country where there is not Virtue enough to make a Common-wealth of a ſingle Village. A Common-wealth, or Liberty in its largeſt Senſe, has always been the Growth of Religion, Wiſdom, Honeſty, Frugality, Reſolution and Publick Spirit. This was plain from the States of *Greece* and *Rome*, while yet theſe Virtues were Eminent, not only in the Chiefs, but likewiſe in the Commonalty. But my Dear *Paſquin*, where ſhall we find a People ſo endowed? Doeſt thou think that that virtuous, *Publick Spirit*, without which Liberty can never ſubſiſt, is to be met with amongſt your favourite *Iſlanders*? Canſt thou imagine that that *Amor Patriæ*, that Love of publick Good, ſo abſolutely neceſſary towards acquiring and maintaining true Liberty, is rooted in the Minds of a People that abandon themſelves to all the vicious Exceſſes human Nature is capable of? To Form a Common-wealth, to ſecure Liberty, there ſhould be the Spirit of a *Codrus* or a *Curtius*. Where ſhall we find thoſe amongſt that People, who would Devote themſelves or chuſe to Die to preſerve the Publick? Doeſt thou think any of them would, with *Themiſtocles*, die rather than Fight againſt their Country? Are there any of them ſo virtuouſly Abſtemious as *Cincinatus*, who, tho' miſerably

Poor, refuſed the Bribes of the *Samnites*, or as *Fabricus*, who rejected the offers of *Pyrrhus*, tho' at the Head of a powerful and victorious Army? Which of them, like *Socrates*, has ſo great a Difference to the Laws of their Country, as to die rather than fly and ſeek Protection in a foreign State?

Frugality, untinctured by *Avarice*, is the inſeparable Companion of Liberty and publick Virtue; Avarice and Luxury are the Concomitants of Riches, and theſe have ever been the Corrupters of Mankind. While the *Spartans* obſerved the Laws of *Lycurgus*, prohibiting Gold, Avarice and Luxury, they were Free; they were Safe. Before the Conqueſt of *Aſia*, *Rome* had Vertue, ſhe had *Freedom:* But with the Spoils of the *Eaſt*, Wealth, Luxury and Avarice entered and vanquiſhed the Vanquiſhers of the World. Where Luxury is countenanced, is cheriſhed, *Avarice* will ever be Predominant; and wherever ſhe governs, Corruption will always be prime Miniſter. Judge then, my Friend, what muſt become of a Land where fell *Corruption* ſways uncontrouled. May it not be ſaid of any State, and particularly that we are ſpeaking of, where Venality and Corruption are held in Veneration, what *Ingurtha* ſaid of this our Place of Abode? *O venalem Urbem*, &c. *O Venal City, and that ſoon would periſh if a Purchaſer could be found!*

Avarice, as it is productive of Corruption and Venality, is an Enemy to Society, to Liberty, to all human Happineſs: Nor can it be doubted that a Vice ſo big with ill in this Life, will meet with Adequate Puniſhment in the next. But alas, the Doctrine of future Reward and Puniſhment, is as much condemn'd, as 'tis unfaſhionable amongſt your Mock *Inamorato's* of Liberty! Avarice has monopolized

monopolized the Souls of the whole People to ſo great a Degree, that they are loſt to every Conſideration, but that ſuggeſted by that deſtructive Paſſion. You remember what old *Saluſt* had ſaid of it in his Advice to *Julius Cæſar*. *Sed Multo Maximum Patriæ*, &c. —— " The greateſt Good " you can do your Country, this City, your ſelf, " your Poſterity, and indeed, all Mankind, is to " take away, or at leaſt to leſſen, as far as hu- " man Nature and the Neceſſities of Life will " permit, that eager Intenſeneſs and Zeal for " *Money* which now prevails, elſe there can be " no juſt Adminiſtration of Affairs, Publick or " Private, in War or Peace. For wherever this " Luſt of Riches invades, neither Diſcipline, " wholeſome Arts, or any Strength of Judgment " are able to be ſo much upon the Guard, as in- " tirely to prevent the Mind from Falling ſooner " or later under its Tyranny."—— A little after he deſcribes the Monſter which he adviſes the *Dictator* to deſtroy within the Extent of his Juriſdiction, in theſe memorable Words. —*Bellua fera, immanis, intoleranda eſt*, &c. " Avarice is a Beaſt " wild and full of inſupportable Cruelty; where- " ever it Journeys it ſpreads a vaſt Deſtruction " all around. It lays waſte Houſes, Temples, " Towns and Countries, impiouſly and promiſ- " cuouſly mingling Things Divine and Human. " No Walls have Strength enough, nor Army " Force enough to reſiſt the Progreſs, whilſt it " robs all Men of Fame, Modeſty, Children, " Parents, Country, *&c.* Such was the Deſcription of Avarice, by one of great Knowledge and Obſervation, who ſaw the dire Effects of it in this once celebrated City, which was, at that Time, haſtening to its Ruin by the Prevalence of that hidious Vice, and which afterwards, from

the ſame Cauſe, ſunk into an Abiſs of Woe and Miſery.

Paſq. Your Conſequence is but too juſt, my Friend; Avarice was the Rock this once Auguſt City had ſplit upon. And could I be ſure that the Vice prevails there as much as it did here in *Saluſt*'s Day, I ſhould give up my Favourites as loſt and undone.

Marf. Sure, ſayſt thou.—— Are you ſure there is an Inquiſition here at *Rome?* Are you ſure that Churchmen are actuated by Paſſions like other Men; that they are devoured by *Ambition* and *Avarice*, as Women are by Vanity and Laſciviouſneſs, and that Miniſters ſeldom conſult any Intereſt, but that which leads them to Power and Wealth? If you be ſure of theſe, *Paſquin*, ſo ſure you may be, that your Favourites, as you call them, are Slaves to *Avarice*. Do not their general Elections prove the whole People to be ſeized with the Vice? What elſe but *Avarice* can induce Men of Forty, nay Sixty and Eighty Thouſand Crowns a Year, to barter their Integrity for Places and Penſions? Is it not Avarice, think you, which obliges Men of Wealth, Rank and Figure to be the wretched Tools of any undeſerving Upſtart in Power, becauſe he has the Diſpoſal of Places and Truſts? What is it but Avarice, that has baniſhed Hoſpitality and true Generoſity from amongſt a People famed for thoſe Virtues thoughout the known World? It would be endleſs to enumerate the Proofs might be brought, that no People this Day in the World are greater Slaves to Avarice, than thoſe whom you Contend for. The Vice has taken deep Root in the ***
**********.

Prithee

Prithee, *Pasquin*, trouble thy Head no more about them. Leave them to follow the ****** of ****, and to the Gratification of their Passions. They deserve not your Care or Compassion who seem to have none, either for themselves or Posterity. Their *Popish* Ancestors had other Notions of Liberty; when they obliged those intrusted with the Care of Souls to read the *Great Charter* of their Freedom on all *Sundays* after divine Service, that so the People might be apprized of the Rights and Liberties which the Law of the Land had given them. This was a signal Instance of the publick Vertue of those Days. —— But now I am sick of the Degeneracy of the present Age. So take Leave of the Subject.

Pasq. In truth, *Marforio*, thou hast given me a Surfeit of a People I own to have had a sincere Regard for, because I thought them virtuously studious in the Pursuit of bright Liberty. But I have done. —— Now you may proceed in your intended Discussion of publick Affairs. I am all Attention.

Marf. You may remember, *Pasquin*, I told you in my Observations of the late Peace between the Catholick Powers, that the whole System of the Politicks of *Europe* had been changed by that Treaty. It is true, this does not so evidently appear at present as it will hereafter; but, even from that Part of the Treaty which has been already executed, I apprehend it plain to a Demonstration, that the States not in Communion with the Contracting Powers, have not been considered in that Light they either wished or expected. When I say, expected, don't imagine that I think they had any Right to expect that their particular Interest should be considered by any of the Powers con-

cerned in that Treaty. From *France*, whom they had, for almoſt a Century, endeavoured to enfeeble and reduce, they could not form a bare Hope of Friendſhip and Benevolence; and from the *Emperor*; they had ſo ſcandalouſly abandoned him in his Diſtreſs, that it would have been Arrogance in them to hope he would retard or leſſen the future Security of his own Family in Compliment to them. Your *Quondam* Favorites, for a long while at the Head of the *Proteſtant* Intereſt, have been the ſole Authors of the Neglect towards the Emperor, which has occaſioned the diſregard ſhewn for the whole Body by this laſt Treaty. Without a freſh Enumeration of their Foibles and Miſtakes ſince the Year 1714, I think our political Conferences of the laſt Year, muſt have convinced you that the preſent Gloom which hangs over the *Proteſtant* Intereſt, is ſolely owing to their Conduct.

You'll hardly think it, my Friend, that *Avarice* had guided theſe deluded People into all their Errors. Fears and Jealouſies ariſing from *********, were thought to have occaſioned that Fluctuation in their Councils and Meaſures which was attended with an Expence that prevented the Diſſolution of their Taxes, the Diſcharge of their national Debt, and the Encouragement of their Commerce. But, as no Apprehenſions concerning Power or Title could, without Madneſs, be a Reaſon for the Continuance of Meaſures which, of themſelves, were obviouſly deſtructive of the Means by which alone that Power was likely to be perpetrated; 'tis plain to me that the chief Agents were actuated by another more powerful Motive; and this, in my Opinion, could be no other than that of immediate *Gain*. For, as no Means ſo ſecure for continu-

ing

ing Power, particularly that acquired by Election, as fixing it on the Affections of the Electors, it is certain that all Measures tending to the alienating that Affection, must be destructive of the End proposed. Now, as the Continuance of Taxes, the Non-payment of Debts, and a disregard for Trade, could not be supposed to be attended with general Affection, it is manifest that *Avarice* got the better of all other Considerations, and that it is to the Gratification of that Passion alone, we are to impute the Instability of those Measures that had necessarily created such Expences as furnished the Agents with Opportunities and Means of acquiring Wealth.

To strengthen this Argument; if *Avarice* had not been the Basis of all their Actions, would they have done a flagrant ****** to a necessary and powerful Prince in Communion with themselves? Would they have disobliged one whose natural Interest it would have been, without such a Provocation, to concur with them on all Occasions in Maintenance of the Common Cause? Would they, on the other Hand, have projected an *Alliance*, barely for the sake of Oeconomy, which has, and will be productive of an unsafe Coldness between them and a natural and necessary *Ally* nearer home? These Mistakes, *Pasquin*, not to mention many others I could produce, prove that *Avarice*, as it had directed all their Councils, contributed solely towards cementing that Union between the *Catholick* Powers, which they have lately taken so much Pains to dissolve.

For this Purpose was an expensive Treaty entered into with *Denmark*; to this End were extravagant Sums employed at *Stockholm*. In this View was the late *Alliance* with a petty Prince of the

the Houſe of *S*———. In this View alſo, are all the powerleſs *Proteſtant* Sovereigns of *G*——— become Penſioners of ——. And to this End were two ſucceſſive, unp———*Journies* to the North. But ——

Paſq. Give me Leave, *Marforio*, to tell you that if you are no better informed of other Tranſactions than you ſeem to be concerning the Motive of the two Journeys you mentioned, you have been greatly impoſed upon. The Intereſt of the Publick, indeed, was the Pretence for taking thoſe Jaunts; but, my good old Friend, allow me to tell you for a Certainty, that the Publick was not, in the leaſt, concerned in them Gambols. No, no, *Marforio*, a nobler Paſſion, I mean when honourably and juſtly directed, than Avarice, dictated on thoſe Occaſions. A certain little *Deity*, powerful in the moſt exalted Breaſts, inſpired and contrived thoſe *Parties de plaiſir*. Take upon my Word, my little *Marfi*, who, you know, am an Adept in ſifting to the Bottom of an amorous Intrigue, that thoſe Excurſions had like to have given the Palpitation to a certain great L———, and her Favourite Rent-gatherer. They foreſaw the Danger, and for that Reaſon, the Perſon moſt concerned in Intereſt, was willing to be paſſive, and with the Self-denial of a Stoick, condeſcended to * * * * * * * * * * *. But as *Cupid* ever delights in Difficulties and Dangers, there was no reaſoning the Votary out of his premeditated Deſign of travelling in queſt of Amuſement. It is true, he repented him that he had not agreed to the Propoſal made to him for bringing his Pleaſures ———; but the Danger once over, he was, as he ſtill is, determined to have his Humour his own Way. As for publick Murmurings they

they are Matters below the Notice of a vigorous Lover with replete Coffers, and attended by a numerous obſequious Retinue.

Marf. Pleaſure, or the Inſpection of it, being your peculiar Province, I ſhan't take upon me to arraign your Account of this Matter. All I ſhall ſay of it at preſent is, that the Sweets of * * * * * * Pleaſures are ever accompanied with diſtaſteful Bitters; whether or no this will happen in the Caſe before us, I leave Time to unfold. ——— But to the Purpoſe in hand. ———

Every String was touched upon; every Pulſe was felt in order to prevent a good Underſtanding between the Houſes of *Auſtria* and *Bourbon*; but Hoſtilities being ceaſed, and Preliminaries being publiſhed, the Plan was changed from abſolute Prevention into Protraction, in hopes ſome lucky Birth or Death might intervene. For you are to know, *Paſquin*, that the ever-famous *B---- Pilot* having more than once eſcaped Shipwreck by the intervening Death of ſome neighbouring Commanders, or Chief Agents, he is too apt ever ſince, to rely upon his good Fortune only, where a wiſe Man would, and might, act ſo as to leave nothing or but very little, to Chance.

During the Continuance of the War the King of *Sardinia* was tampered with to drop his new Allies; but the gallant Prince was too tender of his Honour to liſten to the lucrative Offers that were made him to break his Faith. But the ſagacious *Pilot's* Diſcernment on that critical Occaſion was very conſpicuous in his Choice of an *under Agent* at the Court of *Turin*. Well, failing of Succeſs here, the next *Tentative* was made on the Queen of *Spain*; but that failing alſo by the ſuperior Skill and Induſtry of the equitable *Mediator* of the Peace, as I had obſerved to you in my

my Conferences of laſt Year, it was reſolved to bully *Sp*——— into a Negociation ſhe was not to be either bribed or reaſoned into. I ſay bribed, becauſe it is the known Practice of our political *Pilot* whenever he is pinched. To this Purpoſe, was a trifling Miſunderſtanding occaſioned by a ſenſeleſs *Punctilio*, widened, at leaſt, endeavoured to be widened, into an abſolute Breach, and a formidable naval Force diſpatched to the *Tagus*.

This Step, as it could not fail of adding to that Diſguſt which had for many Years ſubſiſted between *Sp* ——— and *B* ———, was looked upon by the more conſummate Stateſmen of *Europe*, as a Maſter-piece in the bungling Part of the Art. They could not conceive what ſhould induce *one* at the Head of Affairs of a Nation ſubſiſting by Trade, to lay hold of every frivolous Occaſion for deſtroying all Harmony between his Country, and *one* whoſe Friendſhip it would be her Intereſt to Cheriſh and cultivate. But, with Stateſmen of the Complexion of our *Pilot*, the Publick will ever give way to private Intereſt. Taxes were not to be continued without Expences, and Expences could not well be contrived without Armaments. The Articles of private Penſions ran very high, and therefore it was neceſſary to find Employments, that ſhould anſwer the Purpoſes of Penſions. Beſides, from Armaments both by Sea and Land, the private *Emoluments* of a Miniſter are known to ariſe.

But our *Pilot's* Scheme was much deeper laid than the World imagined. For at the Time that he affected to intimidate *Sp*———, ſhe was to be careſſed and cajoled by another Channel. The ſecondary Miniſter of *France* was made Choice of for this End. This Man naturally bold and enterprizing where Wealth was the Object, was raiſed

from

from almoſt the Lees of the People, and had arrived to Power by low Cunning and Chance, like our Pilot himſelf. Well, *Monſieur Ch*——— was B——'d, was gained to inſpire the Q——— of *Sp*—— with thirſt of Glory and freſh Conqueſt. She was to be perſuaded that though the *Pilot* had put his Country to an enormous Expence in fitting out a Fleet for the *Tagus*, that very Fleet ſhould be made ſubſervient to the particular Intereſt of her Family if ſhe would agree not to evacuate *Tuſcany* and *Parma*, in Conſequence of a Treaty that had been conducted without her Knowledge or Conſent. The Keeper of the Seals was to inſinuate, that the whole Power of *B* ———, and of the *Proteſtants* in general, ſhould be employed, not only in Favour of her Eldeſt Son in *Italy*, but likewiſe that of her *Second* ſhould be ſupported in the Recovery of the *Auſtrian Netherlands*. That he would take upon him to bring the *Cardinal*, and conſequently *France*, into all her Meaſures, as ſoon as the *Emperor's* Hands ſhould be full of an approaching War with the *Turk* in Conſequence of his Engagements with *Ruſſia*.

The *Frenchman*, whether he was in earneſt, or whether he was only willing to appear ſo, in order to gratify his Munificent *Employer*, made the Overture with ſo great Art and Delicacy, that the aſpiring Princeſs had almoſt ſwallowed the Bait when the ſubtile *Pat—o* interfered with his uſual Addreſs. He laid before her the Improbability of Succeſs, and the certain Dangers that would attend an Attempt of thwarting ſo juſt and ſalutary Meaſures as had been taken for eſtabliſhing true Concord and perpetual Unity between all the *Catholick* Powers of *Europe*. He told her, that though he was not let into the whole

whole Secret of the Treaty between *France* and the *Emperor*, yet he was ſatisfied, from the known Ability and Virtue of the *Mediator*, that not only the particular Intereſt of her Family, but alſo that of the *Catholicks* in general, were provided for and conſidered with the greateſt Condour and moſt impartial Equity. That it would be inconſiſtent with the Piety or Character of a *Catholick* Queen to obſtruct a Treaty purely calculated for the Propagation of the Faith ſhe profeſſed, and that it was to be feared, however great her Power was with the King her Conſort, ſhe ſhould never be able to perſuade him into Meaſures ſo very repugnant to his way of thinking.

The faithful judicious Miniſter went further, and convinced his Royal Miſtreſs, that as *France* was the only Power in *Europe* capable either of obſtructing or promoting the Intereſt of her Houſe, it would be as dangerous to irritate her too far, as it would be prudent to gain her by Coolneſs and Sincerity. That ſhe was fully determined to annex the *Auſtrian Netherlands*, which he apprehended was the Foundation of the late Treaty, to her other Dominions, and that as any Steps towards defeating the End ſhe propoſed, would render her implacable, and, perhaps, occaſion a Breach never to be healed, it would be highly imprudent to give into Meaſures that muſt neceſſarily provoke her.

But though the experienced Stateſman adviſed his Miſtreſs againſt going in earneſt, into *Monſieur Ch—n's*, I ſhould have ſaid, the *Pilot's* frothy Scheme, he perſuaded her to ſhew a ſeeming Approbation of it for two Reaſons. Firſt, that the Schemiſts might looſe Time, and conſequently be prevented in any Attempts they could be ſuppoſed to make at the Court of *Vienna*; and next, that

that by the addittional Weight of the Proteſtant Powers, a Match for her Son, with the youngeſt *Arch-Dutcheſs*, might be brought to bear.

For theſe purpoſes the Keeper of the Seals was encouraged, a ſecret Correſpondence was opened, and in Conſequence of his Advice, the Evacuations in *Italy* were delay'd, till Means ſhould be found for Gaining upon *France*, to join in an Application to the *Emperor* for his youngeſt Daughter.

Paſq. Did *France* then ſhew a Diſinclination to an Alliance between a Branch of her Houſe, and the Imperial Family?

Marf. She did, *Parſquin*; and ſolely for this Reaſon, that as ſuch an Alliance might one Day raiſe *Don Carlos* to the Imperial Throne, ſhe was unwilling that a younger Branch ſhould have a Chance of Eclipſing the Elder, which could ſcarce fail in Time, conſidering the want of Progeny and infirm Conſtitution of the Prince of *Aſt*———*s*. There is no Accounting reaſonably, for the Whims and Jealouſies of Princes in general; but to do Juſtice to the virtuous young Monarch of *France*, he was inſpired, on this Occaſion, with a Paſſion unknown to his generous, honeſt Soul. The Keeper of the Seals was the Perſon that propagated this injurious, unnatural Doctrine in the *French* Cabinet; but tho' he gilded it with the ſpecious Covering, of regard for the Glory and Grandure of his Prince as Head of the *Bourdon* Family, yet we know that he had received his Inſtructions concerning that Point, along with a Bill of Exchange from *L*——*n* for a Hundred thouſand Crowns.

The Power, which had added Weight to *Cho*—*n's* Reaſoning, begining to decline, his eclipſing Doctrine was no longer adheared to with that Heat and Violence

lence he had inſpired when he was in his Meridian. Signor *Pat——o* was informed of a Change in the Stile of the *French* Court, and thought it now a proper Seaſon for feeling her Pulſe in Relation to the intended Alliance for *Don Carlos.* But as it was neceſſary, before he ſhould make the Experiment, to learn how the Emperor ſtood inclined, he commiſſioned that able Politician Cardinal *Alb——i* to find Means to ſound the Court of *Vienna,* acquainting him at the ſame time, with the Change obſerved in the Language of the *French* Court.

The experienced Prelate being thoroughly acquainted with the Capacity and Integrity of ******, who had ſucceſsfully mediated between *France* and the *Emperor,* communicated to him without Reſerve, the Nature of his Inſtructions, and beſought him to permit him to let the Court of *Spain* know that he was willing the Negociation ſhould paſs thro' his Hands. The Prince, of whom the Queen of *Spain* had entertained a ſlight Jealouſy on Account of his late Mediation, was glad of an Opportunity to give her this Proof of his Regard for her Family; and for this Reaſon, as well as that he believed the Point to be treated, would be reliſhed by all the Parties concerned, he acquieſed in the Cardinal's Requeſt. The Queen of *Spain,* who knew no Man in the World ſo capable of conducting an Affair of this Delicacy, as the ***** wrote to him the moſt engaging, affectionate Letter ſhe was capable of, leaving it intirely to him to adjuſt the Point in ſuch Manner as he ſhould think proper; and at the ſame Time, commanded Duke *Mont*——— to obſerve all Orders that ſhould come to him from ******. concerning the Evacuation.

The

The Negociator, foreſeeing ſome Difficulties both at *Vienna* and *Paris*, ordered the *Spaniſh* General to form new Pretences for retarding the ſtipulated Evacuation, that he might the better introduce the intended Alliance, as the only Means for ſatisfying *Spain*, and putting an End to all the Difficulties raiſed by her from Time to Time.

As the *Emperor* and King of *France* had had late Experience of the Negociators impartiality, his Overtures on this Occaſion, were received by both, with the greateſt Regard and Deference. He met with no great Difficulty in convincing the laſt, that it would be for the Advantage and Glory of his Houſe to enlarge the Dominions, and fix the Power of a Prince of his Blood, and that, tho' he ſhould even become Emperor from the Conſequence of the intended Alliance, it would add Luſtre to his Family without eclipſing or diminiſhing that more ſubſtantial Luſtre and Glory of the Crown he wore, the moſt ſplendid and powerful in the World. He put him in Mind of the very Houſe which was to be ſunk in his own, of which, the younger Branch, tho' raiſed to the Imperial Crown, acquired not the Glory, nor had it the Luſtre or Strength of the Eldeſt, which remained in *Spain*. The young Monarch was ſo captivated with the Force and Charms of his reaſoning, and ſo ſatisfy'd of his Friendſhip and Impartiality, that he not only went into all his Views, but heartily concurred with him in the Demand of the Imperial Princeſs.

The Emperor who had, as it were, adopted the Family of *Lorrain* by beſtowing his eldeſt on the firſt of that Houſe, was to be managed with the utmoſt Delicacy and Circumſpection. The Negociator therefore, with great Force and Ad-

 dreſs,

dreſs, expatiated on the Power of the Houſe of *Bourbon*, and the Inabilities and Perfidy of thoſe from whom alone he might expect Succour againſt that Power. That, as this was his Motive for concluding the late Treaty with *France*, he would find, upon Reflection, the ſame Reaſon ought to determine him to ſtrengthen his Female Houſe with the only Alliance in *Europe*, capable of Supporting any Diſpoſition he ſhould be inclined to make of his vaſt and desjointed Dominions. That it would be impoſſible for the Princes of *Lorrain*, after his deceaſe, to preſerve themſelves againſt the united Force of the Houſe of *Bourbon*; nay, tho' one of them ſhould be raiſed to the Imperial Crown, which he put him in Mind, would be a Matter of great doubt, conſidering the Influence which *France* would not fail to have in the Electoral College. That the diſpoſal of his youngeſt, in the Manner propoſed, was the only Means for ſecuring to his eldeſt Daughter his *German* Dominions; and as for thoſe he had in *Italy*, the Negociator could not ſee how they were to be ſecured againſt the Power of the Houſe of *Bourbon*, but by a Ceſſion of them in Favour of his Child, in Conſideration of this Alliance. That, as a Parent, the firſt Conſideration ſhould be the future perſonal Advantage of his Children, which, without any doubt, would be far better ſecured by this Alliance than any other in *Europe*. That, as a political Father of his People, to whom he ow'd rather more than to his own Off-ſpring, it was not poſſible for him to give them more convincing Proofs of his Tenderneſs and Regard, than by agreeing to an Alliance that was likely to ſecure to them the Bleſſings of Peace. He put his Imperial Majeſty in Mind of the Letter, as well as Spirit and Intention of ſome

ſecret-

ſecret Articles in the late Treaty, that tended to an Union of the Catholick Powers for Righting the *Injured*, and the Eſtabliſhment of Faith throughout *Europe*, and made it evident to him, that without this Alliance, the Thing would be precarious, if not impracticable. Upon the Whole, the Negociation was crowned with Succeſs, and the Wiſe impartial *Negociator* loaded with Thanks and Applauſe by all the Parties concerned.

Theſe were the Steps, this the Canal, by which an Alliance, ſo much the Intereſt of all the Catholick Powers of *Europe*, was brought to a Concluſion. The Demand of the Arch-Dutcheſs by Count *Fuenclara*, was Matter of Form only; and the dubious Anſwer made to it was concerted between all the Powers concerned. It was not yet Time to promulgate an Alliance that Strikes at the very Root of the Proteſtant Intereſt. When the Emperor is diſengaged, and *France* and *Spain* ſhall have taken Breath, you will not only find that this Match takes Place, but alſo, that the ſecret Articles of the late Treaty will be publiſhed and executed with Vigour and Sincerity.

But to return to our political *Pilot* and his *Penſiner*. As ſoon as the Q—— of *Sp*—— had Advice of the Succeſs of the **** Negociator, ſhe informed the Court of *France* of the ſecret Cabals and Intrigues of her entruſted Miniſter; and by this Means only was the Fall of Monſieur *Cho*——*n* compleated. What has been publiſhed concerning Monſieur *Vaug* —— *n*'s Strong Box, I mean as to the Papers ſaid to have been found in it, was Fable and Farce.

You will obſerve *Paſquin*, upon the Whole of this Alliance between the Houſes of *Bourbon* and *Auſtria*, that it was not hoped for by *Spain*, nor ſo much as thought of by *France* or the *Emperor*,

and that nothing but the immediate Hand of Providence, which had directed our refined Schemist the *Pilot*, or his judicious *Brother*, and have so suddenly compleated a Work of so great Weight and Concern. The *B*——— *Machiavels* may be likened to Tinkers, who are known to make many Holes in Endeavouring to stop one. Adieu, my Friend, the Sun already peeps above the Horizon.

DIALOGUE III.

Pasq. WELCOME, my dear *Marforio*; thou art come most Opportunely to assist me with thy unerring Judgment, towards determining an Affair of Delicacy, upon which depends a Wager of Consequence. A Knot of about a dozen Foreigners of different Nations, got about me this Morning, and beseeched me with great Civility, to take upon me the Arbitation of a Dispute that had arisen between them, concerning the personal Merit of their several Sovereigns. In vain did I plead my Inability, beseeching the Company to excuse me, and fix their choice on you, that had apply'd your self chiefly to political Researches. Some of them, indeed, were willing you should be joined with me, but one, of two *Eng*——— amongst them, objected to you as one that had, last Year, betray'd an unpardonable Partiality in your Observations of the late Peace. He allowed you had given manifest Proof of your deep Knowledge in the Affairs of *Europe*; but that your Attachment to *Popery* had clouded your Understanding when ever you treated of his Country, or Country-Men. His *Compatriot*, a Man of Politeness, and good Understanding, justified

juſtified with great Force, your Charge againſt his Nation; adding, that it was plain from the whole Tenor of thoſe Obſervations that you intended, rather a Correction, than a Reflection, on either the Religion, or Politicks of his Country. That like a faithful Friend, you kindly pointed out where the Miſtakes of her Conduct, in order to an Amendment; and that, therefore, he thought the whole People could not in Juſtice to themſelves, do leſs than erect a Statue to your Honour in one of the principal Squares of their Capital.

Marf. It is ſomewhat odd, methinks, that two of the ſame Nation, and I ſuppoſe, of the ſame Religion, ſhould betray in your Preſence, Sentiments ſo very Oppoſite concerning my Obſervations of their common Soil.

Paſq. It is more odd, *Marforio*, to hear you, that are perfectly acquainted with the Genius of the People, their party Animoſities, and their natural Unſteadineſs, wonder at their diſagreeing, either at Home or Abroad. But to ſet you right in this Matter, you are to know that one of theſe Gentlemen is but juſt arrived from *Eng*—, the other has not been there for almoſt half a Century. Time and Obſervation have worn off the Prejudice of Birth in the latter, while the other is bewildered in the Maze of a bad Education, and worſe Example. The one ſeems to mourn the Degeneracy of his Country-men, the other to think, that Immorality and Corruption are the Corner Stones of their Freedom.

Marf. How comes it that Men differing ſo much in their Way of Thinking, ſhould concur in their Opinion concerning the Virtue, or Merit of their Prince?

Pasq. They do not, if you mean a Concurrence in Opinion of the same Prince; for you must understand, ********** *****.

Marf. Now you have set the Matter in a clear Light. Well; but, my good Friend, of what Service can I be to you, towards determining this Wager?

Pasq. You shall direct my Judgment by faithfully Sketching out the Characters of the present Princes of *Europe*: And as in so doing, you'll naturally have Occasion to observe on the political Interest of the several Nations they govern, I don't see, but that a Research of this Kind will answer the Purpose of our present Interview. I am engaged in Honour to publish my Award To-morrow in the Forenoon; therefore, my wary Friend, no Expostulation, but proceed.

Marf. I wish, *Pasquin*, thy Integrity mayn't have been corrupted by that avow'd Advocate of Corruption, you just now mentioned.

Pasq. No Faith, tho' I frankly own to you, he came to me this Evening, and claped a Bill of *Belloni*'s for a thousand Crowns, into my Fist.

Marf. You see I was not wrong in my Conjecture. But Prithee, *Pasquin*, how did you bear so flagrant an Attack upon your Honour?

Pasq. With the Scorn and Contempt of my ancient, heroick Fellow-Citizens. I told the base corrupting Agent that he should remember I was a *Roman*, an old virtuous *Roman*, who scorned to betray my Trust, to gratify my Avarice, or to ingratiate my self to the greatest Monarch in the World. I flung his poisoning Paper at his Head, and bid him never see my Face more.

Marf.

Marf. Well, my good old virtuous Friend, and did he take your Lecture patiently, and leave you?

Pasq. No, he made a thousand Apologies, assuring me, I had mistook his Intention, and that he was the farthest in the World from a Design to corrupt my Integrity. That he was employ'd from home, to get Intelligence in a certain Family, and that the Bill was purely intended for that Purpose alone. That as to any Award I should think proper to make concerning the Superiority of Princes, it was perfectly indifferent to him, upon whom my Choice should Fall; for that he was one of the Millions in his Country, who did not care a Button, whether they had a virtuous, or vicious Prince, provided he had a *N— of W—*, and let the Ministers share with him in the Publick—. He was going on in this Strain when a certain young Prince chanced to come by, going to visit a Lady of Quality of his own Country. 'That, said he, my noble *Signor Pasquin*, 'is the Youth, whose Conduct I would fain employ you about. 'Tis whispered they are preparing his travelling Equipage; now if you will undertake to inform me with the Secrets of his Journey, I promise to make this Bill One Hundred Thousand Crowns. For you must know, that I have an unlimitted Credit for these Purposes, from our generous Prime *M——*.'

Marf. I hope you agreed to take the Money without any more Design to serve him faithfully than Numbers of those who Riot here at his weak Employers Expence. It would be no Breach of Honour, *Pasquin*, to delude so shameless a Political Bungler. It is incredible, my Friend, what Sums are employed for this infamous Pur-

pose all over *Europe*, particularly here at *Madrid*, *Paris*, and *Avignon*. Our *Sextus* V. had not more Spies in his Pay, than that Empirick in Politicks; but the Difference lies here; that the *Pontiff's* Views tended ever to the Advancement of Piety, Justice, and the Glory of the Creator; but this Man's Considerations are quite of a different Complexion. As *Sextus* was one of deep Penetration himself, he chose his Emissaries with Judgment, and was therefore faithfully served: But as this Man's Judgment lies chiefly in little Quirks and shallow Cunning, he Squanders the publick Treasure on Creatures without Art or Address, who have for the most Part, neither Talents, or Power to render him Service. You may judge of his Discernment, in his Choice of so soft a Wretch as this, that had been Tampering with you.

It is true, there are some of our Countrymen, Men of Parts and Dept, that take of his Money pretty plentifully; nay, there are some, even in the very Family he would have observed, that are his Pensioners, and they are known too; but they that can serve him assuredly, don't; nor could they to any great Purpose, tho' they were inclined. For, *Pasquin*, when a Man is his own Secretary in all Matters of Moment, and where no Man in *Europe* understands the Cabinet better, 'tis Difficult to dive into his Secrets. Witness, some great, late Transactions of his Conducting. When your Tempter comes to you next, recommend to him to Address himself for Intelligence to the noble Lady, who had been honoured by the * * * Youth: He may form Hopes that one *Ally'd* as that Lady is, may Interest herself at his Instance. But, as much a Fool as he is, I suppose he is not unacquainted

with

with the good Sence and heroick Virtue of that diſtinguiſhed *Beauty*, who has worn off her Prejudices, as indeed moſt of her Countrymen and Women do, more or leſs, that obſerve and reſide for any Time amongſt us. O, my dear *Paſquin!* How happy would that People be, could they diveſt themſelves of their Avarice, Venality, Impiety and Prejudice! Then would they be happy in the fulleſt Extent of the Epithet. But alas. ———

The Travels, *Paſquin*, of which *Signor A* ——, would be informed, are more Myſterious, than moſt Men think they are, tho' to View the Matter ſimply, as a Tour of Pleaſure and Edification, one would not imagine it could be attended with any Conſequence of Moment. But my tempted Companion, 'tis not ſafe to let thee into Secrets that are attacked by one, who has Millions at Command.

Paſq. Though I believe thee but in jeſt, *Marforio*, I cannot bear any thing like an Inſinuation which reflects ſo nearly on my Honour. I am ſatisfied you cannot entertain ſo mean an Opinion of my Virtue as to imagine me capable of a baſe Action for Lucre. I may, indeed, blab out Secrets inconſiderately, but never with Deſign to injure nor from any Motive founded in Corruption. You have known me for Ages, and can vouch for my Integrity, either actual or intentional ———.

Marf. I know thee, my Friend, for an honeſt, virtuous Block that has ſtood the Threats and Bribes of Popes, Emperors, Kings, Cardinals and Miniſters. Be calm, my teſty Man of Honour, and be ſatisfied, that though I knew you to be an admirer of certain Iſlanders, I never apprehended you could be infected with their Vices. No,

No, *Pasquin*, I knew thee to be an old *Roman*, incapable of Corruption in any Shape. —— But to the Purpose of your Award. Pray, in what Manner do you design to proceed in your Examination of the several Princes of *Europe*? Do you intend to consider their private, personal Qualifications only, which in Truth, is the Manner a great and good Man would wish to be considered, or do you intend they shall stand or fall as Rulers and Legislators?

Pasq. From what I was able to gather from those concerned in the Consequence of my Award, I am only to determine upon their immediate, private, personal Merit, abstracted from their Power or Figure as Sovereigns.

Marf. In an Examine of this Nature, Religion should be intirely out of the Question, for you may remember that our great *Sixtus* thought so when he had spoken such mighty Things of *Elizabeth* and *Henry* IV. when he said, that to restore the golden Age, the World should be governed by and divided between *Elizabeth*, *Henry*, *Philip* II. and *Sixtus*, 'twas plain he was of Opinion a Man might be Great and Good, however he might be prejudiced by Education in Matters of Religion. *Greece* and this our own Country, furnish innumerable Examples of Men illustrious for Wisdom, Piety, Magnanimity and Virtue of every Complexion, though they wanted the Lights of true Religion. I would not be understood to depreciate Religion, which certainly guides to Virtue when judiciously tempered with Prudence and Moderation. A Man truly Religious can never be a bad Man. But he without any Religion can never be truly Good. And that Man may be justly said to be without any who for Interest, changes and conforms to Times and Seasons.

To

To form a true Judgment of the preſent Princes of *Europe* it will be neceſſary to examine firſt, who are qualified to be put upon the Liſt of Candidates, and next, who are intirely unworthy of it. By this Means much Trouble will be ſaved; for I will take upon me to ſay that the Number will ſoon be reduced to a very few. You'll agree that a Prince devour'd by *Avarice* is *Ipſo facto*, preluded, tho' he ſhould otherwiſe be endow'd with Wiſdom, Piety, Chaſtity, Patience and Reſolution. But if he be avowedly deſtitute of any of thoſe Vertues, his very Memory ſhould be held in deteſtation. You'll likewiſe admit that a Raſh, Haughty, Inconſiderate, Impoveriſhing, Irreſolute Enthuthiaſtick Prince has no Title to your Attention, any more, than one that ſhould endeavour to eſtabliſh the Grandeur of his own Family at the Expence of his Honour and even his Soul. You'll exclude, I ſuppoſe, any Prince implicitely govern'd by the Baſe and Weak of either Sex; and all thoſe that have but juſt Senſe enough to know when they are well ſerved. Such as have hitherto given no Proofs either of their Virtue or Vice have no Claim, however the Steadineſs and Virtue of their Miniſters may have rais'd their Characters or extended their Dominions.

By ſcrutinizing in this Manner, *Paſquin*, you'll find yourſelf indiſpenſibly oblig'd to reduce the Number of the Candidates to *three*; and, conſidering the preſent depravity of Man, you may thank Heaven there are ſo many.

Paſ. Your Sentiments, or I am much miſtaken, ſquare with mine; for I had, before I ſaw you, determined to make my Award in favour of one of three who are, I ſuppoſe the very ſame you would recommend to my Choice.

Marf.

Marf. Though you always were an Admirer of publick Virtue, yet *Pasquin*, as you were also, an Instrument and Encourager of Intriegues authoriz'd by the little Amorous Deity, I don't know whether we agree in Opinion: For the Princes, who I think are intitled to your Choice, have not been known, either in the Single or Matrimonial State, to trespass upon the Virtue of Chastity.

Pasq. It is true, *Marforio*, I had often busied myself in Intrigues of Love, but they were always within the virtuous Bounds of strict Honour. I never promoted a Breach of Conjugal Vows which *Louis* XIV. were he living, could vouch for. That Prince, who, abstracted from his Amorous Weaknesses, was undoubtedly the perfectedst and greatest Man of his time, could never bribe me, and many Attempts he made upon my Vertue, to employ my Talents in favour of his Criminal Pleasures. On the Contrary, I prevented his Attempts on Cardinal *Mazerin*'s Neice; I broke the Neck, after the first Sally of his Heat was over, of his Converse with *Mademoiselle de Fontanges*; I inspired *Mademoiselle Lavaliere* with a Desire for the Veil as soon as she was rid of the Royal Burthen, and *Monte Span* was supplanted by old *Scarron*'s Widow by means of my Art and Vertue. I failed indeed, in most of my Attempts in favour of the ——— Monarchs, though I can safely say, that I had constantly, particularly for these * * * * * * Years, employed all my virtuous Cunning to prevent their criminal Excesses: But, *Marfario*, I will, at any other Time, account for my late want of Success in this particular. For the present, you shall he judge if my Choice be not identically the same with yours.

The first of the three is that virtuous and consummate Statesman, the Mediator of the late glorious

rious Peace, a ——, without Vice, without Stain or Blot, but ſuch as his Enemies, the Enemies of Vertue, would injuriouſly fix upon him; A——, whoſe Misfortunes have contributed to his Glory as much as they reflect Diſhonour on thoſe that have occaſioned them. A—— that wants only to be truly known to be univerſally reſpected, to be revered and adored. I am ſo charmed with the perſonal Merit of this amiable Man, that I ſhould be tempted to Award in his Favour, without further Deliberation, if my Difference to your Opinion did not oblige me to wait for yours.

Marf. Delay not then any longer, my Friend, to fix your Choice. For though I have a very high Opinion of the Virtue of the D—— of *L*—— and the K—— of *S*——*a*, who, I think, are the remaining two of your three Favourites, yet I cannot help agreeing with you that the Preheminency is juſtly due to the —— Mediator. And for this Reaſon, that though they may equal him in Piety, Wiſdom, Generoſity, Affability, Humanity and Magnanimity, their Proſperity did not admit of their giving ſuch ſubſtantial Proof as he has, of another Virtue, more neceſſary and exalted than any Human Nature is capable of. Were our old Maſter, the great *Sextus*, living at this Time, we ſhould hear him repeat, in Favour of theſe extraordinary Parſonages, what he ſaid of his great Cotemporaries, in Relation to the Return of the golden Age.

But, *Paſquin*, ſhan't you be afraid of the Conſequence of preferring one, obſcure in every Thing but his Virtue, to all the mighty Sovereigns of *Europe*? Shan't you be afraid that the *Frenchman* will talk you to Death; that the *Spaniard* will challenge you to Combat; that the *Portugueſe* will either ſtab you in the Dark, or arraign

arraign you of *Judaism*; that the *Austrian* will drink you off your Pedestal; that the *Prussian* will enlist you among the tall Grenadiers; that the *Russian* will knock you down, or send you to *Siberia*, that the *Swede* will load you with Copper Coin, that the *Pole* will dispose of you as he does of his Patrimony of Slaves; that the *Dane* will force an exchange of his Carrot Locks upon you, and that the Bearer of *Bellonis* Bill will infect you with Deism and Avarice?

Pasq. Oh! Fear not my Friend, for me that am covered with the impenetrable Shield of Impartiality. If I could apprend any Danger, 'twould be from the Advocate of Infidelity and Corruption; but even there, I am safe, because of the Disagreement of his Countrymen. But, *Marforio*, have not you forgot when you reduced the Number of Canditates to three only; or did you purposely omit mentioning K—— *S*——*s*, because he was not born to Sovereignty? For it must be admitted he was a Prince of great personal Merit, that had distinguished himself by a pious and manly Resignation, for which Providence has a abundantly rewarded him, even in this Life.

Marf. You have mentioned the Reason for which I did not include him in the List. I have ever thought him a Pattern of Virtue, but as he is to be considered as a private Man, in Comparison of those born to Expectations, I did not think he had a Right to be ranked amongst them. —— But see, *Pasquin*, is not that an Imperial Courier, knocking at Cardinal —— Gate?

Pasq. The same. He comes, I suppose, with the last Result of the Court of *Vienna*, in Relation to the *Turkish* War. Prithee, *Marforio*, tell me thy Opinion of a War, in which many of the

the chief Powers of *Europe* ſeem to Intereſt themſelves.

Marf. There are indeed ſome Powers that Intereſt themſelves to prevent it, tho' their Belief of Chriſtianity ſhould induce them rather to Promote and Support it. But their pacifick Interpoſition proceeds more from a Dread of *France*, than from any Regard they have for either the *Emperor* or *Saltan*. They apprehend, that while the Imperial Arms are employed in the *Eaſt*, *France* will take that Opportunity of enlarging her Boundaries on the Side of the *Netherlands*. But, *Paſquin*, did they know as much as I do, of the Secret Articles of the late Peace, they would be leſs Solicitous about the *Turkiſh* War. The itinerant Mediators are much miſtaken, if they imagine that the Emperor will involve himſelf to ſecure Countries that are leſs Uſeful to him, than to thoſe that had abandoned, and obliged him to conſider the future Tranquility of his Family, in the Gratification of the only Power in the World, capable of injuring his Houſe.

Are thoſe Powers ſo near ſighted, as not to ſee, that ſomething of this Nature is ſtipulated between the Courts of *Paris* and *Vienna*? Do they not ſee, by the Harmony that already appears between thoſe Courts, that ſomewhat more than is publiſhed, is ſtipulated by the late Treaty? Is it not obſervable how artfully the Affair of the fourth Article of the Treaty of *Ryſwick* was banded between *Paris* and *Vienna*? Won't they perceive how complaiſantly *France* was put in Poſſeſſion of *Lorrain* and *Bar*, before the Eventual Succeſſion to *Tuſcany* took Effect? But above all, is not the Conſequence of the late Treaty viſibly ſeen in Regard to the Succeſſion of the *Pallatinate*?

If Harmony of the moſt durable Complection had not ſubſiſted between *France* and the *Emperor*, ſhould we have ſeen a Point of this Conſequence, in which the firſt has no right to interfere, digeſted, and planed out at *Verſailles*, and agreed to at *Vienna?* What is yet more obſervable in this Affair is, that *France*, which had always heretofore laid it down as a Rule to herſelf, to Support the *Proteſtant* Intereſt in *Germany*, in Order to raiſe Domiſtick Enemies to the Houſe of *Auſtria*, is now joining that once, Rival Family, in the Suppreſſion of that very Intereſt. This appears evidently from her preſent Attachment, to the Houſe of *Sultsback*, to the Excluſion of the Rights of that of *Pruſſia*.

But theſe, *Paſquin*, are but Dawnings only of what may be ſoon expected from the Conſequence of the late Treaty, by which all future Occaſion of Contention between the two great *Catholick* Powers is moſt skilfully removed. *France* has no Views beyond the *Rhine*, nor was it the Emperor's Intereſt to perpetrate War upon his Family, by refuſing her Conceſſions, which ſhe ſhould at all Times, be in Condition to extort from his Heirs. If the Emperor had had any near Proſpect of Iſſue Male, or could have relied on the Faith or Friendſhip of certain *Proteſtant Powers*, 'tis probable he would not have made thoſe Conceſſions, at leaſt, till he ſhould be compelled by the Fate of Arms; but as he found his Vigour declining faſter than his Years, and the Conduct of his *natural Allies* every Day changing from bad to worſe, it became him to enter early into Meaſures for the future Security of his Daughters. Beſides, the *Emperor* was grown to an Age, that moſt Princes of his Communion, begin to think ſeriouſly of Salvation. He might have reflected, that

that as the long Enmity between his Houſe and that of *Bourbon* had contributed to the Increaſe, nay, the very being of the Reformation ; 'twas incumbent upon him, before he left the World, and whilſt yet 'twas in his Power, to remove a Cauſe that had ſo long obſtructed the Propagation of his Faith. He might have ſcrupled the wrongful Effuſion of ſo much Chriſtian Blood as had been ſpilt in Conſequence of that Enmity ; and, he might have thought it high Time to remove the only Obſtacle that could induce *France* not to obſtruct an intended Reſtitution for certain notorious *Wrongs* done by his Family.

But to conſider the aforeſaid Ceſſion in a political Light only, it was undoubtedly the *Emperor*'s Intereſt to agree to it as he had Females only to provide for ; but having in our Conferences of laſt Year, fully treated of this Point, I ſhall forbear a further Diſcuſſion of it at this Time.

In Conſequence of this wiſe and truly pious Ceſſion, the very Baſis of the late Treaty, *France* is willing not only to gratify the Emperor, but his Son-in-Law. We have found her in this View, agreeing and promoting a Match between the King of *Sardinia* and the Eldeſt Princeſs of *Lorrain* : And we ſhall ſoon ſee her portioning the Second, and beſtowing her on one that has been chief *Author* of the Harmony which ſubſiſts, and is like long to ſubſiſt, between the Great Catholick Powers.

We don't find that *France* joins in the Mediation between the *Emperor* and the *Turk*. On the contrary, *Paſquin*, ſhe has engaged ſecretly, to ſupport Part of the Expence of the War. It is her Intereſt to ſee the Emperor enlarge himſelf on that

Side, while he is contented ſhe ſhould be Arbitreſs in the Weſt; it is the Emperor's Intereſt to gratify *France* in that which would be an Injury to his Family to keep from her; and it is their common Intereſt, as Chriſtians, to depreſs the common Enemy of their Faith.

But though the Commercial Intereſt of *France* does not permit her to act openly againſt the *Turk*, we ſhall not only find her ſecretly ſupport the Emperor, but likewiſe *Don Carlos* and the *Venetians*, who are to declare as ſoon as the War becomes inevitable. Nay, we ſhould find her ſpiriting up *Spain* to join in the Chriſtian Quarrel, if ſome Views nearer *Home* did not admit of ſeparating the Force of that Monarchy. So perfect is the Harmony between the Great Catholick Powers, In Vertue of the late Peace, that we ſhall obſerve them, on all Occaſions of Moment, go Hand in Hand. All former Jealouſies are already ceaſed, and effectual Care is taken that the Cauſe of all future Jealouſy and Diſſention will be amicably removed. That Political Syſtem which had ſubſiſted about two hundred Years, is now changed to another far more pious, equitable and ſalutary.

How juſt, how impenetrable, my dear *Paſquin*, are the Ways of Providence that has wrought, by Means imperceptable to Human Underſtanding, ſo great an Alteration in the Affairs of *Europe!* Who would have thought, twenty Years ago, that the Conduct of *Certain Powers* ſhould have obliged the *Emperor* to throw himſelf into the Arms of *France* for the Eſtabliſhment of their Common Faith, and the future Security of his Family? Who could have imagined that *Avarice* could ſo far have blinded ſome People as to

ſacrifice

ſacrifice their future Security to preſent Gain ?--- But I forget that you are to publiſh your Award before to Morrow's Sun is mounted to his Meridian. Away, my Friend, to proclaim the exalted Vertues of the glorious Author of the preſent Union between the Catholick Powers of *Europe*.

Adieu.

F I N I S.