



Capitano Francesco Romeo.

Vincet enim Stultos ratio

Hor. Serm. lib. 2. V. 25.

H 577
139

MIRROR;

PRESENTED TO
HIS SICILIAN MAJESTY,
GREAT BRITAIN, AND THE ALLIED SOVEREIGNS:

REFLECTING
POLITICAL FACTS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE,
CALCULATED TO UNDECEIVE THEM;

HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED.



BY

CAPTAIN FRANCIS ROMEO,

A native of Calabria, belonging to the noble order of the Sacred Roman Empire
Member of the Academies *Buon Gusto* in Palermo, *Florimontana* in
Vibona, *Peloritana de' Periclitanti* in Messina; and who had
been employed in Sicily, in the confidential department of
the British army stationed there.



Translated into English,

By WM. P. MACDONALD,

Author of the *MONEIAD*, or Poem on the Power of Money.

Audite insulæ, et attendite populi de longe.---SAP.

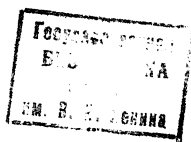
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MOTIVES

That induced the Author to publish this Work;

SUBMITTED TO

*His Sicilian Majesty, to the King of Great Britain,
and to the Allied Sovereigns.*

Seneca held forth his Mirror to those addicted to anger, in the hope, that every one seeing the deformity of such a passion, might avoid and abhor it. A Mirror is here also presented to his Sicilian Majesty, formed on the same principles and for a like purpose. By it, that Sovereign may easily perceive how much he is disfigured and traduced by the iniquitous and perfidious wretches, who are just now his Counsellors. It is not hereby meant however to indispose him against every one of his Counsellors in particular. There are certainly some of them distinguished for their personal honour, merit and wisdom, whom this work truly respects; to whom his people owe their grateful thanks; and whose salutary influence it is the general wish to see exalted, while the destruction of that fatal ascendancy, which those of an opposite description have gained, is as anxiously looked for. Against these last only are my observations directed. Only

villains need complain of me, not the real friends of their country, of reason, of honour, of His Sicilian Majesty, and the Allied Sovereigns! Let the children of darkness, the distinguished proselytes of imposture, do us at least the favour to appear for once in the open day. Let them stand alone, or accompanied with those, their high and worthy supporters, who have hitherto protracted the miseries of the people, and the disgrace of their country. Alone, though the butt of a thousand misfortunes, and subjected to the greatest sufferings, I am still a stranger to fear. The wicked in power inspire me with no terror; and instead of dreading, I pity them. Instead of shunning, I defy them to the combat, and here boldly challenge them to measure their strength with mine.

If the endeavouring to undeceive my Sovereign; if the seeking to withdraw him from the brink of the fatal precipice, on which he is placed; if the wishing to rescue my country from all malefic influence, and to spare Europe the horror of seeing rekindled the torch of *Alecto*, be deemed heresy; let whoever thinks so, be assured that I should be truly proud to find renewed against me the anathemas once fulminated against a Galileo and a Copernic; or against those, who durst assert the existence of the Antipodes. But on the other hand I should think myself very happy, and much beholden to those wise friends of their country, who, animated with the real desire of benefiting their nation and government, would deign to correct, improve and extend the observations and principles here set forth; which, owing to their complicated

state, and the shortness of the time employed in arranging them, leave certainly many blanks to be filled up, and many points to be rectified.

The Mirror presented to his Sicilian Majesty, is at the same time equally recommended to the Allied Sovereigns. The conduct of the actual Ministry of the two Sicilies shews the effects of a violent reaction. The attempts of these assessors render vain the acts of the present Sovereigns of Europe; compromise their virtue, and make their sincerity be questioned: nor will these Princes have forgotten that all their glory was the result of that confidence in their philanthropy and good faith, with which they lately inspired their people. If the principle fails, can its consequences subsist? Will political errors, though their effects be slow, miss to produce their natural consequences? Europe is become clear sighted. The people's enthusiasm is roused. Their courage is exalted. In more than one country the liberty of the press exists. And it were the merest illusion to befriend such ill-omened measures. Such a fatal illusion will be dissipated the moment that the standard of the perfidious is dashed to the ground. Humanity so degraded requires this to be done, as well as the glory and security of every Sovereign; and it is from a wish to perform so sacred a duty to REASON, that I propose to unmask the darkest imposture; and now venture to attack the fiend on his own very ground, supposed so inaccessible; and even within the magic circle of all his fatal enchantments.

Nisi utile est quod facimus
Gloria stulta est.—PHÆDR.

PROSPECTUS.

IN this Work are detailed the attempts of BONAPARTE to make himself master of Sicily in 1810, and the reasons for which MURAT did not second his design. The plan of destroying the English army garrisoned in Messina in 1811, and of assassinating their Commanders, together with all the English resident in that place, conceived by the chief persons in office in the Sicilian Government, which at that time was in alliance with Great Britain. The manner in which this horrid and barbarous plan was to have been executed ; and how the Enemy was to have effected his landing in Sicily. The measures proposed by the Author of the Work, approved of by the British Commanders, Lieutenant Generals MAITLAND, CAMPBELL and DONKIN, and most successfully executed by himself, to prevent the impending mischief. The admirable policy with which the said British Generals, and particularly Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK effected the sepa-

ration of MURAT from BONAPARTE ; which so contributed to the great political changes, that have since taken place in Europe. The motives which at that time induced MURAT to break with BONAPARTE, and concur in saving from harm the British army. The reasons, which in 1814 induced the Sicilian Government to recal from their prisons and exile, and to exalt to the first posts of honour in the kingdom, those very Miscreants who, in the year 1811 had projected the massacre of the English in Messina ; who, to exculpate themselves, had declared her Majesty, the late Queen of Sicily, the author of their conspiracy ; who had been respited from suffering death by the humanity of the British Minister : and whom his Sicilian Majesty had then stiled *most wicked, perfidious and sacrilegious calumniators*. The motives, which, after their reinstalment in office, induced these Revolutionaries to cause MURAT to be shot, as a disturber of the public peace. The circumstances preceding, accompanying and following his execution, which demonstrate the real cause of their having ordered him to be so quickly dispatched : and which has never hitberto been explained. The way, in which these Revolutionaries, now at the head of affairs in Naples, ordered MURAT's execution, in spite of his appeal, from the outset, to Great Britain and the Allied Sovereigns ; and notwithstanding his being furnished with British passports ; while at the same period they insulted Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK ; persecuted all who had favoured the English ; depriving Sicily, on account of its loyalty to its Sovereign, and attachment to the

English, of the rights and privileges it had enjoyed for so many centuries ; and, for the like reasons, thwarted and humbled, as much as in them lay, the Heir Apparent of the throne ; and all in order to discredit the honour, the promises, and good faith of the Allied Sovereigns, and particularly of Great Britain ; exalting thus the glory of BONAPARTE ; and making his system and sway appear the most preferable.

In this Work a view is also taken of all the departments of Government ; it touches on the moral, political, military, diplomatic and economical systems ; on those of public health, education, industry, encouragement, correction, amusement, and the modification of vice. From all which will appear the wants of the several departments, what has been done, neglected or thwarted in each branch ; and hence the method and means of bettering the situation of those countries, by diminishing their wants and miseries ; improving their resources ; obviating, as much as possible, those evils that are most incident to society ; and thus establishing the happiness of the subject, and the prosperity of the State.

The motives will be further noticed and explained, which induced the actual Ministers of the Court of Naples, to annul the Constitution, granted to the Sicilians by their Sovereign, and guaranteed to them, for fifteen years, by Great Britain ; to persecute all over the kingdom, FREE MASONRY, and the CARBONARIAN SOCIETIES ; and to persuade their King to change his title of Ferdinand the *Fourth* to that of Ferdinand the *First*.

It will likewise be shewn how far MURAT's overthrow was owing to his ill treatment of the CARBONARIAN SOCIETIES; and BONAPARTE's rise and downfall, to the favours granted, or insults offered to FREE MASONRY.

Finally, a parallel will be drawn between the conduct of the late Spanish Government, and that of the present one of Naples; and from what has happened in Spain, will be shewn what must be expected soon to take place in Naples.

JAM TUA RES AGITUR PARIES DUM PROXIMUS ARDET.

Ovid.

TO

HIS SACRED AND ROYAL MAJESTY

F E R D I N A N D,

(Late the Fourth, now the First,)

KING OF THE TWO SICILIES, &c. &c. &c.

Circumstances preceding, accompanying, and following Murat's execution, explanatory of that event.

Plan formed in 1811 of massacring the British army in Messina; and how it was defeated.

SIRE,

YOU are aware, and I need therefore only remind you, that the new marriage of Napoleon with the Arch-Duchess of Austria, niece to your late royal consort, introduced a vertiginous spirit into your court, as well as into that of the late Murat (¹).

This new alliance revived in the breasts of your counsellors the almost extinguished hopes of recovering the kingdom of Naples,

while it excited in Murat the utmost apprehensions of losing it.

The preference given to this new, and powerfully influencing, as close connection, gave birth to events, which very much influenced the subsequent changes in the political system of Europe (2).

Murat was too fond of his beautiful kingdom of Naples, not to wish to retain it; and between his anxious desire of preserving, and fear of losing it, he gave headlong into an endless train of chimerical projects, and false measures, which proved so very fatal to him in the end. As soon as, in consequence of the aforesaid marriage, a relationship had taken place between your Majesty and the late Ruler of France, Murat began to contemplate in Bonaparte the defender of your rights, no longer the promoter of his own views; in the French Empress a most formidable rival; and in the English, the fittest supporters possible of his designs and future operations (3).

So fantastical and foolish an idea, which the false politics of his predecessor Joseph had confirmed him in, made him take certain steps, which however did not escape the late Saliceti's notice, the political Argus of that time. Napoleon was secretly informed of all by that minister. Murat, upon this, was called to Paris. The manner in which he justified his conduct was not thought very satisfactory; and Bonaparte was as little pleased with Murat, as this last was at finding himself subjected to so new and so strict a species of superintendence (4). A few months after this the prefect of general police at Naples, the Cavaliero Maghella, gave a diplomatic entertainment; at which Saliceti was present; who, after eating an ice-meat, was immediately taken ill of a violent cholic: the physicians pronounced his case hopeless, and three days after he was a corpse. His situation was bestowed upon Maghella, under whose ministry no further effective obstacles were put to the secret introduction of colonial produce from Sicily into Calabria (5).

Meanwhile the king of Rome was born, and Murat had to set out again for Paris ; where, at the same time that he looked on the Empress with a jealous eye, Bonaparte on that account, no longer shewed him the usual marks of his former confidence ; so that new motives were furnished, on both sides, for mutual diffidence and disgust (6). Murat plainly foresaw that he was going to be deprived of his kingdom ; when the ex-queen Caroline, his wife, interposed with her brother, and through her mediation a reconciliation took place (7).

At this very time the Empress, availing herself of her influence, on having brought forth an heir to the empire, deigned to interest herself with her husband in behalf of her aunt, your Majesty's spouse ; and Napoleon, though he had formerly sworn never more to suffer the Bourbon dynasty to reign in Naples (8), assured her, upon this occasion, "*that if her aunt would but contrive to get rid of the English, and admit his army into Sicily, he would not only restore to her the*

kingdom of Naples, but would make over to her besides the marquisat of Ancona (9).

In consequence of this assurance, frequent and mysterious messages passed to and from your Majesty's cabinet and that of Bonaparte (10).

In the month of March, 1810, Bonaparte ordered the troops dispersed all over Naples to concentrate their forces in the farther Calabria, for the expedition about to be undertaken against Sicily (11).

Murat was charged with the operations, and General Gregner appointed to assist him, and at the same time watch over his conduct (12). An army thus of twenty-eight thousand men remained for three whole months within view of the British forces, busied only in performing mere sham and farcical manœuvres (13).

To give, however, some feasible colour to all this inactivity, Murat caused, at last,