The Secret History of the Present Intrigues of the Court of Caramania

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THE large and fertile Province
of Caramania is situated in
that part of Asia which is call'd
the Minor; and was formerly
in subjection to the Kings of
Anatolia: but THEODERE, the present
Prince, having married HYANTHE, a
Daughter of the late Monarch, had in Dowry
with her a general Release from all Tri-
buthe,
bute, Fehalty, and Obedience, by which himself and Successors are now dignified with the Title of Sovereign Princes of Carnamah.

Nothing could more endear a Ruler to his People than did this Action of Theodore's; it seem'd so magnificent a proof of Love to his Country, that a young Prince, in the full Vigour of those Desires which Loveliness creates, and every way accomplish'd to please the Fair, should, neglecting all the Beauties of the last, and the present Advantages he might have enjoy'd in the Choice of another Bride, sacrifice himself to a Princess much older than himself; and who, when in her Bloom of Youth, was mistress of very few personal Charms, meerly to free his Subjects from a Dependance which had long been uneasy to them; that they thought they could never too much express their Sense of the Obligations they had to him: Statues were in all publick Places errected to his honour! they almost adored him as a guardian God! nor could he appear in publick without the Drums, Trumpets, and other martial Music which accompany'd him, being drown'd in the louder Acclamations of the admiring Crowd, who hanging on his Chariot-Wheels, seem'd to rend the very Skies with Cries of Joy! Liberty and Theodore, was the word! Liberty and Theodore, was all that could be heard.
Nor was this Action of his look'd on with wondering Admiration by the Populace only; those of the deepest penetration, and who made it most their business to pry into the Intrigues of State, could with all their search be able to ascribe no other Reason for it, than that which it had the appearance of: so happy was this Prince in the few trusted by him, and so little is human Wisdom capable of fathoming the Heart.

But not to detain on the rack the Curiosity of my Reader, who by what I have said, cannot but imagine there was some other and more powerful motive for this Prince's Behaviour, than that which I have related, or than was publickly known; I shall, in as brief a manner as the Subject will admit, give an account how very different from their feeming, were the real Inducements of Theodore to act in the manner he had done.

Being, as I have already said, possess'd of many valuable Accomplishments, of an illustrious Birth, descended by his Mother's side from the Kings of ancient Dacia, and by his Father's from the great Arsaces, and in several memorable Engagements against the Inhabitants of Mesopotamia and the Lesser Armenia having very much signaliz'd his Conduct and Courage, he was look'd on as a Prince who would hereafter make a very distinguished figure in the world: and his