





S^r Edward O'Brien Bar.^t

^O
E B
^I
DOCTOR KING's
A P O L O G Y:
O R,

VINDICATION of HIMSELF

FROM

The SEVERAL MATTERS

Charged on him

By the SOCIETY of INFORMERS.

DELATORES, HOMINUM GENUS PUBLICO
EXITIO REPERTUM. TACIT.

O X F O R D,

Printed at the THEATRE for S. PARKER, Bookseller: and Sold
by W. OWEN near *Temple-Bar*, LONDON. MDCCLV.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

TO prevent all misapprehensions: I mean by the SOCIETY of INFORMERS and their ASSOCIATES, the AUTHORS of those LIBELS, which have been published in the EVENING ADVERTISER, and likewise the AUTHORS and EDITORS of a virulent PAMPHLET, called, A DEFENCE of the RECTOR and FELLOWS of EXETER COLLEGE.

OXFORD, St. MARY-HALL,

Jan. 23. 1755.

W. K.

E R R A T U M.

Page 23. line 8. for *the*, read *they*.



DOCTOR *KING*'s
A P O L O G Y:
O R
VINDICATION of HIMSELF &c.

WHEN I communicated to some of my friends my design of offering an APOLOGY to the public, they endeavoured to dissuade me from it. They said, I should descend too low in attempting to vindicate myself from the calumnies of a SET of INFORMERS, who, when they swear, are not believed, and therefore it is not to be supposed, that by their Libels they can possibly injure an established reputation. I might perhaps have listened to this advice, and laid aside all thoughts of writing my VINDICATION, if I had not been convinced, that my ADVERSARIES do not act entirely from the dictates of their own bad hearts, but are encouraged, and
A supported

supported by persons of rank and fortune, and even by some, who are very desirous of being esteemed more just and righteous, than other men. By such a combination the meanest people, who might otherwise be safely despised, may become formidable. And who indeed can rationally think himself secure against the most worthless and contemptible of his enemies, when they are vested with credit, and excited by rewards? When OATES made his first appearance in LONDON in the quality of an apostate Jesuit and INFORMER, he was contemned, and his pretended plot turned into ridicule. But, as soon as he had found proper patrons, and a certain method of fastening his dependences, his narrative was considered, as a matter of the greatest importance; and, notwithstanding the infamy of his character and the inconsistency of his whole evidence, he was able to deprive many innocent persons of their lives and fortunes. Towards the close of the last century two execrable INFORMERS framed an accusation of high-treason against Dr SPRAT, the bishop of ROCHESTER, and some Lords of the privy council by ~~slipping~~^{slipping} a treasonable paper into a flower-pot in the chimney of the bishop's hall (and from this stratagem our RAG-PLOT seems to have been copied) to which place the state-messengers were directed to make the discovery. Although this villainy was soon detected, and the innocence of the noble persons, who had been accused, sufficiently cleared; yet the bishop
gave

gave himself the trouble to enquire so minutely concerning his accusers, and procured such intelligence of all their former transactions, that he was able to compile an exact history of their lives. In this account such a series of cheats and forgeries is produced, as, I believe, will scarce ever be equalled, unless by the MAKE-PLOTS and INFORMERS, who infest this place, and seem ambitious of excelling all their predecessors in the arts of a refined malice, and in the various methods of applying it. The reader may be assured, that I am not a little mortified to find myself obliged to contend with adversaries of this cast and complexion. The match is very unequal. I can rescue my character, but I can make no reprisals by gaining a victory over those, who by a constant habit and course of life are become insensible to shame and disgrace, and have no honour or reputation to lose. However, as our INFORMERS have objected to me several facts, inserted in an EVENING NEWS PAPER, (which only subsists by the scandal which it spreads) as likewise in a pamphlet called, a DEFENCE of the RECTOR and FELLOWS of EXETER COLLEGE, which hath been circulated with great industry not only by their *agents*, but also by their PATRONS; I think it incumbent on me to give an answer to those particular charges, lest I seem to confirm them by my silence, and furnish my ENEMIES with an opportunity of commenting triumphantly on their own forgeries.

BUT there is another reason for taking some notice of our INFORMERS at this juncture, which, indeed, ought principally to weigh with me. They have involved the UNIVERSITY in my pretended guilt: the applauses bestowed on me are imputed as high crimes: and the VICE-CHANCELLOR hath been reviled, because he was pleased to make me a compliment, when he entered upon the second year of his office. In truth, this excellent and learned MAGISTRATE hath been treated with such insolence and inhumanity, as have justly raised the indignation of all those worthy men, who have a deference for our constitution, and are sensible, that the peace and discipline of this place cannot be preserved, if we suffer our GOVERNOUR to be libelled with impunity. And, yet if we were to punish these LIBELLERS according to our statutes, they would immediately cry out, Persecution! And, as the times are, I am in some doubt, whether the marks of infamy, fixed on them here, might not be considered as marks of honour in another place. I have said before, that our INFORMERS have their auxiliaries, and know where to address themselves, when they want any countenance or support. We need not be told, that the ancient enemies of the UNIVERSITY, Dissenters of all denominations, and both the ancient and modern enemies of Christianity are their fast and faithful friends. But their chief refuge at present,

present, and the PATRONS, on whom they principally depend, are those worthies, who are distinguished by the appellation of DESERTERS: Who with regard to us strictly practise the *Italian* maxim, and never forgive those persons, whom they have injured. We are therefore the constant topics of their angry declamations: They preach vengeance against us in all places: and they denounce us, as seditious and disaffected, because we cannot fashion, and accommodate our morals to every new system of politics, which they think proper to take up. For, if their turn can be served, they are not ashamed to pursue the very same measures to day, which they condemned yesterday, and grossly flatter those great personages, whom very lately they as grossly abused. THESE are the MEN, who, having been true to no party, are, notwithstanding any accession of wealth, grandeur, or power, hated by all. And this public hatred, which they have thus drawn on themselves, imbitters all their new acquisitions, and hangs like the point of a sword just over their heads, during all their entertainments. By this means their temper becomes soured against every thing, that is good and laudable. Every man of probity and honour is their envy and aversion: And all communities, which are not to be influenced by their counsels, and are free from the general contagion, are the objects of their fury and revenge. THESE are the MEN, from whom our REVEREND INFORMERS are content

tent to receive their principles: whose passions they study, and adopt; whose commands they implicitly obey; and consequently are so abandoned, as to dishonour, and disturb the UNIVERSITY by every kind of outrage, which may serve the little purposes of their own ambition, or promote the cause of corruption. If I were to finish the character of THESE MEN, I should be obliged to instance many other particulars. But this would draw me too far out of my way. Therefore I return to what immediately concerns myself.

THE whole CHARGE brought against me by the SOCIETY of INFORMERS, after I have been at the pains to strip off the scurrilities, with which I found it very plentifully adorned, consists of the following particulars:

I. It is objected to me, *That I am an IRISHMAN.*

II. *That twenty years ago I received, FIFTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS or GUINEAS, as subscriptions for a book or books, which I have not yet published: And allowing 5 per Cent. for this sum, it is now doubled, and amounts in the whole to THREE THOUSAND GUINEAS; of which I have defrauded my subscribers.*

III. *That I write the LONDON EVENING POST.*

IV. *That*

IV. *That I wrote a book in QUEEN ANNE's reign, intituled, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, published in the year 1710, and dedicated to the Duke of BEAUFORT: In which book there is FALSE ENGLISH.*

V. *That I offered myself to sale both in ENGLAND and IRELAND; but was not found worth the purchase.*

VI. *That I am the author of a book published last winter called the DREAMER.*

All these ARTICLES are extracted from the SOCIETY'S EVENING NEWS PAPERS (of which their DIGNIFIED CHIEF hath the direction) and the two last ARTICLES are repeated in their pamphlet, called a DEFFENCE of the RECTOR and FELLOWS of EXETER COLLEGE, and enforced with great vehemence and in the usual style of their HOUSE. There is likewise contained in the same pamphlet a general charge, *That I have libelled all ranks and orders of men both in church and state, even from him, that sitteth on the throne, to the lowest of his people.* To these several ACCUSATIONS I will now make a distinct, and, I hope, a satisfactory answer.

THE FIRST ASSERTION of the INFORMERS, *That I am an IRISHMAN,* is a notorious FALSEHOOD. I was born in
MIDDLE-

MIDDLESEX of ENGLISH parents, and of as good a family, as any in that county. And what I value myself upon much more, than upon my family, I have hitherto preserved an invariable affection for the place of my birth, and have firmly and steadily adhered to our excellent constitution in church and state; notwithstanding all, that hath been affirmed to the contrary in the SOCIETY's libels.

BUT now give me leave to SUPPOSE I had been born and educated in IRELAND: Would any man of common humanity, or common sense impute this to me, as a crime? Or by what logic (except such as may probably be taught within the walls of our INFORMERS) could such a circumstance reflect on me the least disgrace? Perhaps, at this juncture, I should esteem it an honour to owe my birth to a country, where the spirit of liberty and the *amor patriæ* so visibly prevail against the force and power of corruption, and where patriotism is not to be put out of countenance by the sarcastical jests of a court-sycophant, or to be subdued by the iron-hand of a great minister. Besides I have lived long enough in the world to discern the folly and injustice of all national prejudices, and to be convinced, that virtues and vices are not the growth of any particular soil or climate. I have the pleasure to be acquainted with many IRISH Gentlemen (I beg the reader's patience and his pardon, if he should think this a digression)

who

who are well bred and elegant scholars ; and whose good nature, wit and good sense render their conversation very agreeable and instructive. And, indeed, as to the liberal arts and sciences the IRISH nation is in no respect inferior to ours, witness the immortal works of the late DEAN of St. PATRICK's, of whom Cardinal POLIGNAC, who was himself one of the politest scholars in EUROPE, said to me, IL A L'ESPRIT CREATEUR ; an elogy, in my judgment, preferable to all the monumental inscriptions in WESTMINSTER Abbey. Further: the IRISH Gentlemen are as eminent for their military, as for their civil accomplishments, and their courage hath never been disputed. 'Tis well known, that the Duke of MARLBOROUGH placed his chief confidence in the skill and intrepidity of his IRISH officers: And the IRISH Brigade, now in the service of FRANCE, is allowed by the FRENCH Generals to be the choicest body of their troops: a distinction, which they have well deserved on all public occasions. By the way I find myself at this instant so charitably disposed, as to advise the CHIEF DIRECTOR of the SOCIETY to avoid for the future all national reflections. The IRISH Gentlemen are very apt to resent injuries of this kind: And if any of them should happen to observe his CANONICAL REVERENCE, when he is in the height of his fury, and is throwing his scurrilities round about, without respect of place or persons, they may shew as little regard to the sacred

B

character,

character, which he hath *usurped, as he shews to it himself, and take the liberty of correcting him in the same manner, as they would correct an impudent and abusive chairman or porter. I could say much more to the advantage of the IRISH nation, if I were not unwilling, for the honour of my own Country, to afford an occasion to foreigners of making odious comparisons. I confess, there are many very bad men to be found among the common people of IRELAND: And the same thing may be objected to all the nations in EUROPE. The lower class of people in ENGLAND is eminently wicked: And I am sorry to say, that we abound at present with a species of criminals, unknown to our ancestors, and the better ages of the world, PARRICIDES and INFORMERS.

THE SECOND FACT charged upon me by the INFORMERS is, *That twenty years ago I received FIFTEEN HUNDRED GUINEAS, as subscriptions for a work, which I have not yet published:* And to shew themselves powerful advocates against me, and to strengthen their charge, they

* By what means did this man procure holy orders? He was refused (or would have been refused, if he had applied for it) a Testimonial or Certificate of his good behaviour by the Governors of the College, where he had been educated, and who were best acquainted with his life and conversation. May we not therefore be allowed to say, That he is one of those Shepherds, *Who entred not by the door into the Sheepfold, but climbed up some other way?*

have

have made the FIFTEEN HUNDRED GUINEAS *amount to* THREE THOUSAND *by adding twenty years interest*. And of this sum, according to their calculation, and as I stand accountable in the SOCIETY's books, I have wronged, or robbed my subscribers. But it happens to the confusion of my ENEMIES (if any thing can happen to their confusion) that this ACCUSATION is, like the former, a most base and impudent FALSEHOOD, and a singular proof both of their rancour and folly. The truth is this. Seven or eight years ago I advertised my friends, That I intended to publish my LATIN works in two volumes in *Quarto*, and desired, that those Gentlemen, who were inclined to purchase the books, would be pleased to leave, or send their names to the COCO TREE in PALL MALL. I fixed the price at two guineas, TO BE PAID WHEN THE BOOKS WERE DELIVERED. In a short time, with the names left at the COCO TREE, and others sent to me, I had about 450 subscribers, when I closed my subscription; having determined from the beginning to print no more, than 500 books in that form. According to my proposals I neither required, nor received any part of the subscription money from any one of my subscribers, tho' many of them were so kind, as to offer me the whole. Why I departed, on this occasion, from the usual method, and refused to take any money, until the books should be published, and delivered to the subscribers, the reason is obvious. I

would not oblige myself to fix a certain time for the publication, but be left to my own liberty and leifure. I might perhaps be of opinion, that one time might be more feasonable, than another. I might likewise imagine, that in the interim some new matter might be offered to my confideration, and claim a place in one of my volumes. This hath juft now happened. For the SOCIETY of INFORMERS lately erected here, efpecially, as I intimated before, if we confider their foreign connexions, their PATRONS and ASSOCIATES, is a very proper fubject for fatire; and deferves the animadverfion of every man, who is able to retaliate on fuch licentious fcriblers, and retains a regard for the place of his education.

BUT NOW SUPPOSING, I had received the fum, which the INFORMERS have charged to my account, as fubfcription money, had I done any thing more, than what hath often been praftifed in this country? And, if I were inclined to recriminate on this occafion, I could name fome perfons, for whom the SOCIETY profeffeth the greateft efteem, as guilty of the meafure (for I will not call it by a coarfer name) which is fo unjuftly imputed to me. In truth, as no body hath fuffered by the delay of publication, except the author, who hath been for fome years out of pocket in a large fum for paper, print, copper plates &c, fo nobody hath any right, or reason to complain.

plain. I have often considered with myself, what should induce my ADVERSARIES to publish this bold assertion, which could immediately have been disproved by more than 400 witnesses. I cannot otherwise account for it, than by concluding, they have studied with application the art of POLITICAL PSEUDOLOGY, since they seem to govern their judgment and conduct by the maxims laid down in that celebrated discourse: Wherein the author demonstrates, that a defamatory tale, if it be so discreetly invented, as to obtain a general belief only for one day, may be improved to a good use by a crafty INFORMER. But, how our REVEREND INFORMERS are able to reconcile the profession of PSEUDOLOGY with another profession, which they have been permitted to assume, and which plainly enjoins a very contrary practice, I must own myself incapable of explaining.

I COME now to the THIRD ARTICLE of my accusation (that I write the LONDON EVENING POST) wherein my ADVERSARIES, contrary to their intention, have assigned me a greater share of merit, than I can claim. For many essays, letters, and political paragraphs in that NEWS PAPER are the productions of an excellent wit, and full of good sense; and prove the author to be well skilled in all the branches of our trade and commerce, and to have acquired a perfect knowledge of the ENGLISH constitution.

And

And some of those papers are written with so much force, and with such a power of persuasion, that, notwithstanding the great want of public spirit, the general indolence and corrupt state of the country, they have suddenly roused the people to a sense of their duty and their danger, and have defeated many pernicious and destructive schemes. At the same time they have been of no small service to the ministers of state, who by this canal have frequently received a very seasonable intelligence, and, on many critical occasions, have been made acquainted with the sense of the nation, which perhaps they could not so immediately have discovered. For my part, considering the controversy, in which I am at present engaged, I return my hearty thanks to that ingenious person, who detected the correspondence between OATES and his SUCCESSOR, and printed their letters in this EVENING PAPER. And I am sure, the Inhabitants of WINDSOR ought particularly to make their acknowledgments to him, since he hath fully opened the wicked designs of that EVIL SPIRIT, who hath been suffered to come among them, and to put on the form and habit of a man of God. As I have not the vanity to arrogate the labours of another man's pen, I therefore think myself bound to declare, that I have no concern in the LONDON EVENING POST. And I do not remember, that any thing written by me hath, for some years past, been printed in that paper, except the following

ing

ing short Epigram, of which a friend having prevailed on me to give him a copy, thought proper to send it to the press.

From selling bad ale, which he found a poor trade,
 OATES the SECOND *Inform'd*, and a CANON was made.
 But to shew his new art, his Reverence now brags,
 He will pick out LAWN-SLEEVES from an heap of *old*
 RAGS.

This little piece of raillery, might surely be forgiven me even by the INFORMERS themselves, since it is the only method I have hitherto taken to revenge myself on their CHIEF, after having been libelled by him 2 or 3 times a week for six or seven months together, and loaded with all the scurrilities, which his own genius could suggest, or with which the assistance and conversation of the REVEREND EDITORS of the DEFENCE could supply him.

THE FOURTH CRIME, charged on me by the SOCIETY, seems rather designed to provoke my laughter, than to raise my spleen. And, indeed, I could make myself very merry with it, if I had not determined to be serious, and to keep my countenance thorough this whole discourse. The REVEREND INFORMERS, after various consultations, resolved to lessen the reputation, which I had acquired, as an author. They had inadvertently acknowledged, that
 I could

I could write *good Latin*. This was an imprudent confession. And therefore it was judged necessary to take off from it by a counterpoise, and by proving, that I could not write *good English*. This was an undertaking worthy of the GRAND INFORMER: Which, however, he accomplished without much difficulty. He had found, it seems, upon a stall in LONDON, a book, intituled, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, published in the year 1710, and dedicated to the Duke of BEAUFORT. The author of this book was one DOCTOR KING: And in this book there is *false English*: Therefore DOCTOR KING the present PRINCIPAL of *St. MARY HALL writes *false English*. Is there not some analogy between this argument and a new manner of reasoning, which my ADVERSARIES have lately introduced to prove themselves good Christians;

* The GRAND INFORMER generally distinguishes this place by the title of AULA LIBERTATIS, or, LIBERTY HALL. Whether this be his own, or the invention of some other Genius of the SOCIETY, he seems to be extremely pleased with it. And I frankly confess, I am as much delighted with it, as his Reverence. I esteem it a most glorious title, and I heartily wish, it were confirmed to us by a proper authority. If I might be allowed an option (I hope my Roman Catholic friends will excuse the freedom of the expression) I should be very willing to change one Saint for the other.

Under this title of AULÆ LIBERTATIS PRINCIPALIS the same INFORMER hath bespattered me in some doggrel verses; in which, according to his manner, there is not a line of truth, or sense. So that I can now honestly boast, that I have been libelled by the *worst*, and celebrated by the *best* poet in *England*. See the TRIUMPH of ISIS.

That

That once upon a time a certain man, who lived in the house, where some of our INFORMERS are now fed, wrote a treatise in defence of Christianity? I wonder, when the DIGNIFIED CHIEF went so far back as 44 years to convict me of this transgression, that he did not add 10 or 12 years more to the account, and step out of QUEEN ANNE's reign into KING WILLIAM's, when he would have found me at school, and might have truly affirmed, without a voucher in his hand to prove the charge, that I frequently wrote *false Latin*. This would be dealing more honestly with me, than to make me the author of a book, which I have never seen, nor ever heard of, till this INFORMER accused me of writing it. But false accusers are sometimes caught in their own traps, and an innocent man hath often been acquitted by the blunders of the evidence, which hath been produced to convict him. Thus, to prove me the author of the POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, the INFORMER hath mentioned a circumstance, which demonstrates, that I was *not* the author. For this book was published by a DOCTOR KING in the year 1710: But I was not a DOCTOR KING till five years after that date, as appears by the UNIVERSITY Register. I have dwelt the longer on this silly tale, because it serves to shew, as well as an heavier accusation, the stretch of this INFORMER's malice, who hath gone back near half a century in search of some little incident in my life, which

C

might

might furnish him with a pretence to reproach me, as an ignorant writer: And, when he could not find any thing for his purpose, he invented a very foolish and ridiculous charge; which, if it were true, would at this time little affect my character, and besides *he* would be the unfittest man living to make it. For in so many reams of slander, which he hath compiled during the last seven or eight months, in defiance of truth, conscience and common sense, it would be difficult to pick out a single page, that is not very defective in style and grammar: And the NEWS-PAPER, of which he hath the direction, is universally allowed to be the most wretched performance, that ever was printed in this country*.

I WILL here take an opportunity of acquainting my readers, that it hath been the custom of the SOCIETY to impute to me the works of other writers, such especially, as might afford any plausible reason for a scurrilous answer. Thus about two years since, during the warm canvass in OXFORDSHIRE, a poem was published, called THRENODIA &c. of which I neither writ a line, nor have I any knowledge of the author; for which, however, I was libelled

* What opinion must we entertain of the BOOKSELLERS concerned in this PAPER, who have made choice of a *public* INFORMER for their Author, and *personal slander* for the subject of their PAPER?

in JACKSON'S Journal: And some of the SOCIETY had the impudence publickly to affirm, that they knew me to be the author of this piece. I further declare, that, altho' in conformity to the principles, which I always professed, I most heartily wished success to the OLD INTEREST, yet I never employed my pen in favour of that cause, untill I had been provoked by the most opprobrious language and many infamous attempts of our INFORMERS, to animadvert on their behaviour. So that I have this advantage over my ADVERSARIES, that I can always plead in my justification: They have made the first attack; which, indeed, is generally the plea of virtue against vice, and truth against falsehood.

THE NEXT PRETENDED FACT, *That I offered myself to sale both in ENGLAND and IRELAND*, hath been urged against me with a particular malignity, and repeated so often in the SOCIETY'S EVENING-PAPER, and now at last inserted in the DEFENCE, that I am in some doubt, whether my ACCUSERS themselves do not believe it to be true. They are fruitful geniusses, and are often hurried so far by the fire and force of their imagination, that their memory may not always serve them to distinguish with that nicety, which is requisite, between the tales and calumnies, they have invented, and those, which they have heard from others. But without enquiring, whether this

part of the CHARGE against me is to be ascribed to an evil memory, or an evil conscience, It is as FALSE and SCANDALOUS, as any of the former articles, of which my ADVERSARIES have accused me. By *offering myself to sale both in ENGLAND and IRELAND*, I suppose, is to be understood an attempt, or endeavour to procure for myself a place, or pension, or some preferment either ecclesiastical, or civil. For by a new kind of logic, framed by the iniquity of the times, *to sell ones self*, or to be a *placeman*, or *pensioner* are become synonymous terms. This, at least, is the notion and practice of my ADVERSARIES ; and is certainly well exemplified in their CHIEF, who hath entitled himself to the dignity, which he possesses, by having advanced some paces beyond all the rest of the BAND. For he hath sold himself body and soul : To whom, tho' his contract, as it is a work of darkness, may not easily be proved, yet his acts, his libels, and above all his late correspondence, which are visible to all the world, sufficiently testify. But, more particularly to vindicate myself from this aspersions, I declare, That, at no time of my life, either in ENGLAND, or IRELAND, either from the present, or any former government, have I asked, or endeavoured by any means to obtain a place, pension, or employment of any kind. In the four last years of QUEEN ANNE'S reign, when I was a young man, and lived much in the world, and could not be wholly free from ambition ; when like-

wife

wise my family and my friends had an interest in the ministry, and offered me all their assistance, I absolutely declined it. There hath since happened another remarkable *era*, when some persons of distinction, to whom I had the honour to be well known, went into place and power. In this number was a noble Lord, one of the brightest ornaments of our country, who, by virtue of his high office, had many beneficial employments at his own disposal. As I had always been received by this excellent man with great marks of esteem, I have the vanity to believe, that if I had requested any thing from him, which was proper for me and suitable to my education, I should not have been refused a share in his favours. However, I never made any application to him on this account: Tho' I would rather be obliged to his generosity, than to the bounty and patronage of any other minister. For there is a peculiar politeness and humanity, which accompany all his actions; and his gifts are doubled by his manner of bestowing them. It may here perhaps be enquired, why I would neglect such fair opportunities, as seem to have been offered me, of rising a degree higher in the world. I could assign many reasons for my conduct: But one answer I have always ready. I inherited a patrimony, which I found sufficient to supply all my wants, and to leave me at liberty to pursue those liberal studies, which afforded me the most solid pleasures in my youth, and are the

the delight and enjoyment of my old age. Besides I always conceived a secret horror of a state of servility and dependence: And I never yet saw a place-man, or a courtier, whether in an higher, or a lower class, whether a priest, or a lay-man, who was his own master. To this observation let me add, what I intimated above, that whoever, and of what quality, or condition soever, whether a peer, or a commoner, a citizen, or a country gentleman, hath renounced his party and former connexions to obtain new honours, or a lucrative office, or employment, he hath ever afterwards, and in all places, been treated with distinguishing marks of contempt. So that his preferment hath seemed to me, and I believe hath been frequently thought by himself, the severest stroke, or misfortune of his life. This is an undeniable truth, and this consideration, if there had been no other impediment, would have deterred me from deserting my old principles and my old friends. It is certain, if I ever proposed to be a candidate for court-preferment, I was ill instructed in my first setting out, and neglected a very necessary preparative, *Ab Jove principium*: For, in the course of a long life, I never was *once* at court either in ENGLAND, or IRELAND: Altho' the road, which leads thither, is so beaten and so broad, that I could not mistake my way, or turn out of it, unless by design.

BUT

BUT SUPPOSING after all, that at some time of my life, I had indulged myself in these ambitious views, which the INFORMERS have imputed to me, as the highest crime; or, to use their own terms, that I *had offered myself to sale*; could not I justify my conduct by the example of my superiors, and by some among them, who are the professed PATRONS of my ADVERSARIES, and the Idols, which the worship? SUPPOSE likewise I had been rejected for want of merit, as in the DEFENCE is asserted (and 'tis most certain, I must have been rejected, if my merit and qualifications were to have been measured by the same standard, which hath recommended the SOCIETY to grace and favour) in that case should not I deserve rather to be pitied, than reproached, as being a sufferer in common with many other wretched mortals, who were likewise *found not worth the purchase*, and therefore, after a long and close attendance and a thousand promises, have been fatally disappointed? For it must be confessed, that even in this corrupt age, there are few SEEKERS, however they may be urged by their ambition, or their poverty, who can prevail on themselves to advance into the world, like common sharpers, with a resolution to play the *whole game*; and when all other stratagems fail, to practice the arts, and claim the merit and the pay of INFORMERS.

I PROCEED now to confider the laſt ARTICLE exhibited againſt me by the REVEREND INFORMERS. And this part of their CHARGE hath likewise been judged ſo important, that, altho' it hath frequently been mentioned in their NEWS-PAPER with all poſſible aggravations, yet they have now thought proper to transfer it, as well as the preceding ARTICLE, into the DEFENCE. The ACCUSATION is this. I am ſeverely reproached with having written a book, publiſhed laſt winter, intitled, the *DREAMER; altho' my ADVERSARIES have no certain knowledge of the matter, nor have any right to aſſign me, as the author of this work. But the reader is by this time perfectly well acquainted with their manner of treating me, and hath obſerved, how they cauſe me to be *born*, and bred in any country they pleaſe, and make me act, or write whatever they pleaſe, and whenſoever, laſt week, or laſt winter, or forty years ago; provided they may be able to infer ſomething, from their forgeries, which may leſſen and diſ-

* The GRAND INFORMER, in one of the SOCIETY'S Evening Papers, aſſures the public, that this Book is in very few hands, and that the Bookseller to puff it off hath printed a new title page, calling it the Second Edition. Enquiring of the Bookseller I find, that both theſe allegations are *false*. I mention them for no other reaſon, than to ſhew, that this man cannot perſuade himſelf to ſpeak *truth* in matters of no moment, and when the *truth* perhaps would better ſerve his purpoſe.

parage my morals, or my learning. Now, as to an open acknowledgment, whether I am, or am not the author of this book, I do not conceive, it is of any concernment to the reader, or of any consequence to my own vindication ; nor do I believe the equity and candor of the public will expect it from me. It will be sufficient, if I can free the DREAMER from all unjust and malicious imputations : And this, I think, may be effected in a small compass. For all the censures and sarcasms (as far as I have been able to collect them) which have hitherto been passed on this work, are formed by tacking some foul epithet, or appellation to the title ; as a FILTHY DREAMER, an OBSCENE DREAMER, an IMPUDENT DREAMER, a DREAMER of DREAMS &c, and then, by glancing a few dark *innuendos*, the whole is anathematized by the SOCIETY, and the sentence (after their SCRIBE hath embellished it with a portion of those flowers, of which he is never destitute) ordered to be inserted among the ACTA DELATORUM, and to be published in the DEFENCE, and in all other notable productions of their HOUSE. I shall not here examine, whether the DREAMER be a real satire against popery and the corruptions of the Court of *Rome*, as the key and explanatory remarks, printed at the end of the book, fully declare, to the entire satisfaction of many judicious readers, and good protestants : (And by the way I am much surprised, that our INFORMERS, who are continually declaim-

ing against popery and papists, should condemn a work of this nature, unless some MEMBERS of the SOCIETY are popish priests in disguise, which is not improbable) Neither will it be necessary to enter on a particular discussion of the various matters contained in this discourse. All I shall endeavour at present will be to give a general, but a very just, character of the performance by affirming, that there are not maintained in it any principles, which have not always been professed, and avowed by all men of truth, honour and integrity. The social virtues and the love of our country are every where inculcated, the study and patronage of the liberal arts strongly recommended, and the great advantages of temperance and sobriety demonstrated, and impressed on us. The abuses and quackery (for there are quacks in law and divinity, as well as in physic) which deform the liberal professions are railled, and exposed. But the satire afterwards becomes more general, and seems to be levelled against the reigning vices and corruptions of the age, bribery and infidelity, pride and cruelty, ambition and avarice. Let me add, that the whole work is written with decency and good manners; and there is not one sentiment, or expression, which can possibly give offence to any person, who is a friend to virtue and his country. This is a summary description of the DREAMER; and this, I am confident, will be assented to, and allowed by all men of taste and judgment, and
by

by every impartial and intelligent reader. 'Tis no wonder therefore, that our REVEREND INFORMERS should revile such an author. For it could not but provoke their dull malice to observe, how he hath distinguished betwixt truth and falsehood; how he hath condemned apostacy and oppression; how warmly he hath espoused the cause of liberty, and recommended peace and concord, and in times of danger, courage and constancy to every House of sound learning. Add to this the DREAMERS continued invective against *perfidy* and *corruption*, the two great principles, by which the SOCIETY expects to thrive. The persecution of this author by the BAND of INFORMERS puts me in mind of a remarkable passage in AMMIANUS MARCELLINUS; wherein he gives an account of a certain court-parasite, a *Persian*, called MERCURIUS, who lived in the reign of the Emperor CONSTANTIUS, and made it his whole business to *inform* against those, who related their DREAMS; to which he gave such a turn and malignant interpretation, as to make every DREAM he heard, a capital offence and a crime against the state. My ADVERSARIES, that they may not appear to be unacquainted with any branch of the INFORMER's trade, seem very well disposed to imitate the *Persian's* example. But, as they dare not falsify the DREAMER's text, and as it requires no ordinary skill in Mythology and the ancient Classics to explain the obscure part of his fable, they have discreetly resolved to answer

the book by abusing the author. There is one part, however, which they fully comprehend, and are therefore better able to expound, than more learned clerks; I mean the new system, which the DREAMER hath advanced in his account of the ONOCENTAURS; *That there are many human figures, which are animated by the souls of brutes.* For this system cannot by any philosophical deduction be so clearly evinced, and illustrated, as by the belluine language, the manners and the actions of SPIES and INFORMERS.

*Nec BELLUA tetrrior ulla,
Quam DELATORIS rabies in magna furentis
Nomina.*

BEFORE I finish my apology for this author, it will not be amiss to observe, that the EDITORS of the DEFENCE have thought fit, as a matter not unsuitable to their priestly office, to describe the DREAMER in the language of the Holy Scriptures. I will take the same liberty in my turn, and recommend to their serious consideration a *Text*, wherein mention is made of a very foul and abominable *Prostitution*, which if it were added to the other impurities and natural malice of a modern INFORMER, would compleat a character still more infamous, than any, which hath yet been produced, or perhaps is extant in the *Engl*
ish

glifh Annals. *My House ſhall be called the Houſe of prayer, but ye have made it a DEN of THIEVES.*

I HAVE now gone thro' all the particular matters, which have been charged on me ; and every reader can determine, what credit is to be given to the assertions of my ADVERSARIES. I have often wondered, ſince they were reſolved to defame me in ſuch a public manner, and were only guided by their own invention, that they did not invent ſome crimes of a very heinous nature. For the whole, which hath hitherto been objected, if it were true, would not be enough for their purpoſe. And even in that caſe, I ſhould think myſelf a better and an honeſter man, than the beſt and the greateſt of their friends and patrons. Indeed, towards the end of their work the INFORMERS themſelves ſeemed to be ſenſible of the defect and inſufficiency of all their particular forgeries ; and therefore, in the cloſe of the DEFENCE, they have thrown in a general accuſation with a terrible ſting in the middle of it, *That I have libelled all ranks and orders of men both in church and ſtate, even from him that ſitteth on the throne, to the loweſt of his people.* Such an horrid expreſſion no other perſons, except PUBLICK INFORMERS, would dare to uſe. And I am ſure no other perſons, except the moſt wicked of the SOCIETY, would impute to me, as I have before complained, ſuch books and pamphlets, as they think fit ;
and

and then expound them in such a manner, as to bring me to the very verge of high-treason ; in this instance nearly resembling those savage and inhuman robbers, who when they have stabbed a man in two or three places, and perceive, they have not killed him, resolve to make short and sure work, by shooting him thro' the head. And, indeed, if I had ever conversed with any MEMBERS of the SOCIETY (which disgrace and misfortune, I thank God, I have hitherto escaped) I am now convinced, they would have picked out of their *Magazine*, from whence the RAG-PLOT was produced, some of the blackest treasonable expressions, and have charged me with them : And I might probably have been born down, and crushed by the weight of their *evidence*. But now, as to this loose and general accusation, in which my ADVERSARIES have charged me with they don't know *what*, nor *when*, nor *where* ; I may be allowed to treat it with great contempt, and be assured, that no man of sense and candor will lay any stress upon it. However, that I may not be thought to leave any thing unanswered, I will take so much notice of this imputation, as to affirm, that it is of the same kind with all the rest, a malicious FALSEHOOD. I defy the most rancorous of the INFORMERS to prove, that I have ever made so near an approach to the manners of their SOCIETY, as, in any part of my writings, to have defamed, or insulted *one* worthy man. I have, indeed, sometimes used
the

the privilege of a free-born subject to animadvert with an honest zeal on the degeneracy of our morals, the debasement of the *English* spirit, and that universal venality and depravation, which are acknowledged by all parties. But, whenever I have mentioned the artifices and oppressions of a great minister, the avarice and hypocrisy of a great priest, or the ambition and apostacy of a pretended patriot, I have always introduced feigned names, or the names of persons long since dead, and have generally confined myself to some ancient piece of History or Poetical fable. So that 'tis apparent, my design hath been to inveigh rather against the *vices*, than the *men*.

IN some extraordinary fits of good nature, I have been inclined to attribute this part of the SOCIETY's accusation not altogether to their hatred and vindictive temper, but partly to another cause. I have generally wrote in *Latin*; and I have reason to doubt, whether my ADVERSARIES have such a competent skill in that language, as to be always able to comprehend my meaning, or to form a critical and exact judgment of any performance, which I have published either in prose, or verse. This cannot be thought an unjust censure, since they themselves have been modest enough to acknowledge in the DEFENCE, *that they could not carry off whole sentences of the VICE-CHANCELLOR's Speech, or give a minute account of it, because they*
were

were obliged to *represent it in a language different from what it was spoken in* : that is, that they could not represent it in *English*, because it was spoken in *Latin*. The Presentation-Speech, which I spoke in the Theatre on the last Commemoration, at which the INFORMERS pretend to take great offence, they have wholly misrepresented, and where they have ventured upon a quotation, have misquoted, as in the DEFENCE, *Imperio Vice-Cancellarii*, which is their *Latin*, and not mine. In the close of this Speech I made a compliment to the Ladies, who were present, which I concluded with the following address, or exhortation : *Addam tria verba, quæ vos, lectissimæ matronæ, vos, castissimæ puellæ, figite in mentibus, habete in annulis, acu pingite in vestibus* : QUICUNQUE SEIPSUM VENDIT, IS HERCLE CERTE HAUD DUBITABIT UXOREM, ET FILIAM VENDERE. This was received with a shout of applause ; of which I took the advantage, and proceeded in this manner : *Plausum hunc, Academici, accipio in omen bona prænuntians, saltem nos commonefaciens officii & virtutis nostræ, utque caveamus &c.* How do you think the INFORMERS interpreted this expression ? They said, that I was so indiscreet, *as to pronounce the applause, which was bestowed on me, to be a BAD OMEN*. They alledged further, *That from the beginning to the end of my Speech I abused EXETER COLLEGE*. This is notoriously *false* ; and may be added to the catalogue of their other *forgeries* ;
unless

unless we are charitable enough to impute this accusation likewise to their *incapacity*, or *want* of a quick *apprehension*. 'Tis true, two or three days after my Speech in the Theatre, when I presented some Gentlemen to their Degrees in the Convocation House, I said among other things, *We can never be disesteemed by the sound part of the Nation, or by any Body of unprejudiced and worthy men, unless we violate our statutes, and depart from those good rules and discipline, which we have hitherto maintained*: I added, *nisi nos facimus ædes nostras, ubi ingenuæ artes florere debent, AMBUBAIARUM & BACCHANTIUM collegia*. This is the only expression, with which I have ever heard myself charged, as an oblique reproach, or reflexion on the manners and behaviour of the FELLOWS of EXETER; with what propriety, the *Reverend* EDITORS of the DEFENCE can best tell.

BUT, altho' my ADVERSARIES are not great Clerks, yet they have had sagacity enough to discover, that I have sometimes complained with a little warmth (and this is the chief cause of their resentment, and of the torrent of *Billingsgate* poured out against me) of the encouragement given to INFORMERS; whom I have properly described, as the pest of society, and the disgrace of government: and as such they are represented in the histories of all ages and nations. TACITUS always mentions them, as a public nuisance,

fance, and with the utmost abhorrence and detestation : and in that character, which I have chosen for the *motto* of my title page, he pronounces *them, to be a race of people born for the destruction of mankind*. In truth, no virtue is a protection against these merciless detractors ; and if they happen to accuse one guilty man, they are sure to involve twenty innocent persons in his crimes, and in his ruin. I am convinced, that a Great Spirit would disdain to employ such instruments on any occasion : And I remember a Secretary of State, a Gentleman signal for his abilities in his office, and esteemed by all parties for his civil accomplishments, who would never suffer one of these fellows to come into his presence : Or, if any of the most impudent among them (such as the CHIEF of our INFORMERS, whom he would have thought a fitter person to fill a centry box, than a canons stall) got access to him by surprise, or by any false pretences, he turned from them with contempt and indignation, as soon as they began their tale. A pretended affection and zeal for the government would not have engaged his patronage, or attention : He knew, that *bad* men, especially BAD PRIESTS, can never be *good* subjects : And he would not have endured to hear an UPSTART boast of his loyalty, who had not one grain of truth, or honour in his composition. This Nobleness of Spirit, it must be confessed, is very rare : But, wherever it is found, whether in a Sovereign PRINCE, or in any of his ministers,

ministers, it forms the most amiable and most splendid part of their character. TRAJAN was particularly celebrated, and distinguished on this account by his excellent Panegyrist; who tells the Emperor, that amongst all the illustrious acts of his reign, there was not one more acceptable to the people, or more worthy of himself, than the punishment, to which he had sentenced INFORMERS. How well they deserved the punishment inflicted on them, we may learn, if we look into the government of *Rome* under TRAJAN's predecessors. What an havock and destruction was then made by this detestable band of Ruffians? Sometimes they were employed as public accusers, sometimes as secret poisoners, and frequently used for the same purpose, for which the modern ITALIANS hire their *Bravos*, without sufficiently reflecting on their own danger. For it is not in the nature of an INFORMER to be grateful, or faithful to any party, or any person, however liberally he may have been rewarded: The baseness of his heart is equal to the mean suppleness of his spirit; and for three pieces of silver, added to his ordinary pay, he would betray, or murder his protector. Observe the GRAND INFORMER, who roars so loudly in all places against JACOBITISM. Double his income: And I will venture all, but my soul, upon it, that you may, if you please, make him an advocate for the PRETENDER. Then let the same hand, which raised him first from the dirt, place him under a

Dean's canopy, he will make a second turn with great satisfaction, and consent to hang his JACOBITE Patron. The Snake, or Adder, which was found in the high-way perishing with cold and hunger, and was taken up, and warmed into life and vigour in the bosom of a compassionate traveller, against whom the ungrateful animal immediately employed his whole rage and venom, may be seen every day within the walls of the SOCIETY; and there is no man in *England* so proper, as their SCRIBE, to furnish a moral for this fable.

· TO CONCLUDE: It is a misfortune to be ever lamented, that such a PESTILENT TRIBE should have been able to nestle themselves into a settlement in this Seminary of learning: DIVINES who adjust their *Divinity* to the wicked measures of their Directors, and prostitute their pen to every purpose unbecoming their function. Who are not ashamed to load every Gentleman, even of the most distinguished rank, who is conspicuous for his virtue and abilities, with all the calumny they can invent. Thus, as soon as the EARL of WESTMORLAND was installed in his office of High Steward, they began to abuse him in their EVENING-PAPER, altho' one would not easily believe, that a Nobleman of his rare and excellent qualities, of the most perfect honour and unbiaſſed integrity, of a most sincere and benevolent heart, learned himself and a
lover

lover of learned men, and a steady assertor of the liberties of his country, could have one enemy in the world. Thus likewise they endeavoured to disparage the GENTLEMEN, who attended my LORD WESTMORLAND on this occasion, altho' they are all persons of figure, family and fortune, and many of them Members of the present Parliament. But they are patriots, friends to the UNIVERSITY and the *English* Constitution, and therefore they were to be slandered, and represented, as persons of no note, or name. But, to fill up the measure of their iniquity, and in open violation of our statutes, they attacked the VICE-CHANCELLOR, first in the same EVENING-PAPER for *no* reason, and then in the DEFENCE for *no other* reason, but because he gently reprimanded them for such excesses, as, I believe, were never committed before in any School of discipline and good manners. I refer the reader to a PROPER REPLY (to this virulent libel) lately published by our worthy GOVERNOR, wherein he hath sufficiently justified his conduct with that prudence, judgment, and dignity, which are suitable to his character. I must observe, before I quit this subject, that our INFORMERS by attacking the VICE-CHANCELLOR in this open manner, and particularly by insinuating his want of affection for the Government, have much increased my suspicion of their great deficiency in the *Latin* tongue. For would they have impeached his loyalty, if they had understood his language;

or,

or, to use their own terms, if they *could have represented to themselves in English* those dutiful expressions of his attachment to the KING and ROYAL FAMILY, which were noted by all others, who heard the Speech. If our INFORMERS insist, that they understood this part of the Speech, they must then acknowledge themselves guilty of a very base calumny in imputing the least disaffection to a MAGISTRATE, who just before, and in their presence, had made a full declaration of his loyalty, and whose actions had been always correspondent to the principles, which he professed. Upon the whole this Charge against the VICE-CHANCELLOR is evidently owing either to a *profound ignorance*, or an *extreme malice*. The REVEREND INFORMERS are at liberty to chuse which they please.

BUT we ought not to be surpris'd, that our INFORMERS have been so insolent, as to asperse one of our GREAT OFFICERS, our CHIEF MAGISTRATE, and others, the BEST FRIENDS of the UNIVERSITY, when they have been wicked enough to charge the WHOLE BODY with disaffection: and from a principle, which deserves the worst name, are daily inventing, and publishing such reports, as may give a colour to their accusations. Their late PRETENDED PLOT will ever be a memorable instance of the inveterate hatred, which they bear this place. And, altho' since our danger is over, we despise, and deride the authors

thors of this villainous scheme: yet, if their firebrands had not been happily broken over their own heads by their precipitate conduct, and the awkward management of their **female Agent*, or (which we rather ought to believe) by the kind hand of Providence, they would have lighted up a flame, which might not easily have been extinguished. This thought was as bloody, as that Imperial Tyrant's, who wished, the people of *Rome* had but one neck, that he might cut them all off at a blow. And this attempt is a sufficient answer to all those arguments, which the DIGNIFIED CHIEF hath made use of to distinguish betwixt the ancient and modern INFORMERS, with an intention to excuse, or palliate his own proceedings, and to persuade his readers, that he is not an INFORMER of the same size and magnitude with some others: Although he would be much puzzled to instance, any one of his order, who hath gone before him (I mean the order of INFORMERS) who was so very wicked, as to meditate the destruction of a flourishing Community, by whose favour and bounty he had been nurtured. It must be further remarked, that neither THIS MAN, nor his ASSOCIATES have hitherto shewn any remorse for engaging in such an horrible conspiracy. On the contrary, notwith-

* See the INFORMATIONS &c. relating to the TRASONABLE VERSES found at OXFORD.

standing the discovery and miscarriage of their GRAND DESIGN, they are every week devising some low and base trick, worthy of their genius, by which they may hope to create some public mischief and disorder, and expose us to the censure of our Superiors. Thus, very lately they employed one of their AGENTS to creep into particular companies, and slip the PRETENDER'S picture into the pockets of those persons, whom they had before marked out to encrease their fund of accusations. By such artifices, and by every kind of misrepresentation these WRETCHES endeavour to influence, and inflame all persons of condition, who are weak, or mean enough to listen to their insinuations, against the UNIVERSITY. Every little incident, which would be laughed at, and contemned in another place, is magnified here into a most enormous crime, and judged worthy the cognizance of the Government. Even a song, or tune, which had been sung five, or six years ago by a few idle boys, and begun perhaps by the INFORMERS themselves, is reported, as a transaction of yesterday, and charged upon the WHOLE BODY, as a signal mark of disaffection. Tales, as incredible, as any fictions in OVID, if they can be so applied, as to blacken any part of the UNIVERSITY, are greedily swallowed, and believed: And if a man in place and authority were to assert, that the

* See the ACCOUNT of the WATCH-PLOT.

stones, with which our streets are paved are apt to rise up, and speak treason, he would not want an Audience to credit his relation. In a word, every act of our INFORMERS manifestly discovers their savage and inhuman disposition: And we may be assured, if they were armed with sufficient powers, they would not only proscribe those virtuous and learned characters, which are the present ornaments of the UNIVERSITY, but would destroy even virtue and learning itself, if they could reap the diabolical satisfaction and advantage of rising upon the ruins.

I MAY here be asked, what honest means I can propose to secure, or defend our Community against the malevolence of *such* SPIRITS. I answer: Since they have separated themselves from the rest of the Body by a series of treachery, and a notorious breach of their oaths, let them ever hereafter be known, and distinguished in all places (like their CHIEF) by the badges and characteristics, which they have been pleased to assume: And let every person, who is tender of his own reputation, and hath a just regard for the honour, and welfare of our ALMA MATER, imitate the discretion of the Inhabitants of WINDSOR, or the caution of our * military Gentlemen, and decline all

* The Officers of the army, who are particularly jealous of their honour, are not to be influenced by any motive, not even by the command of their Superiors, to admit amongst them any of this *odious* TRIBE. P——r, who was an INFORMER and an EVIDENCE against Dr ATTERBURY, the late Bishop of ROCHESTER, was rewarded with

kind of commerce or connexion with every MEMBER of the SOCIETY, whether *dignified*, or *undignified*. By this method, if it be punctually observed, we may reasonably hope, in the course of a few years, to get rid of our dangerous inmates. For stanch and experienced INFORMERS are ever selfish and suspicious; and, as we may learn from the records of the OLD BAILY, when they are deprived of their usual entertainment, and want materials to carry on their trade, or proper objects, on which they may exercise their malice, will make no scruple to prey upon one another.

I WILL beg leave to offer another piece of advice to the Heads and Fellows of Colleges: To use great care and caution in admitting upon their respective foundations the Sons of *low* Mechanicks. For I have long remarked, that the fidelity of these men is not to be depended on. They bring with them hither the meanness of their father's house, and they generally retain it to the end of their lives. This quality disposes them to become the flatterers and sycophants of any person of interest, who, they imagine, can help to advance their fortune: And if their Patron be an enemy to this place, they readily join their mischievous efforts to his, and open louder, than any others, in the cry against us. It is not here my intention to reject, or

a troop of Dragoons. But none of the other Officers would eat, or drink, or do duty with him. So that he was obliged to quit the Regiment. I think, he had leave to sell his commission.

discourage

discourage young Students of great integrity and rare endowments, and these well cultivated with the liberal arts, because they may happen to be meanly descended. I have an equal deference for virtue and knowledge, in what place soever they are produced, or whether they proceed from a palace, or a cottage: And I have always thought it very ungenerous to reproach any man of worth and learning with the obscurity of his birth and family. But if the SON of a COBLER, who hath been educated here by charitable contributions, should presume, as soon as he has put on a Master's gown, to insult the GOVERNOR of the UNIVERSITY to his face, and afterwards revile him in a libel dispersed through the whole Kingdom: Would not such an indignity provoke the most dispassionate, and best tempered Spirit? And would not every impartial judge (I mean every judge of good manners) condemn such a WRETCH to be sent back to his fathers stall?

WITH regard to myself, it affords me a singular pleasure to consider; That I have no enemies in this place, except those only, who have declared themselves enemies to the UNIVERSITY and to the liberties of their Country, INFORMERS and their ASSOCIATES, or ABETTERS. And, altho' these creatures, like other poisonous animals, never want a supply of venom, which they are continually spitting out against me, yet, I hope, I shall at all times be able to provide myself with a proper antidote. For, if by

reason of my age, my hand should grow too feeble to write more than three letters, even those three letters (since I can now judge so clearly of my ADVERSARIES, as to be assured, they are not capable of uttering *any truths*) will furnish me with a *Monosyllable* sufficient to answer all their invectives. I know only one thing, by which they can possibly dishonour my *character*, which, God grant, I may never deserve, THEIR PRAISE ! If such a great misfortune were to befall me, I should suddenly lapse into the ancient superstition, and cry out with VIRGIL'S Shepherd :

Baccare frontem

Cingite, ne VATI noceat MALA LINGUA.

As to my *person*, indeed, I cannot be sure of defending it against all the force and secret machinations of a Set of INFORMERS, who will stick at no wickedness to compass their ends. They may form many designs, suit-

* I am in some doubt, whether I ought not to retract this *Parentthesis*. For I recollect, there is *one* CRIME, charged on me by the INFORMERS, which I must acknowledge to be true : tho' it will admit of some alleviation, as I could not prevent it, nor can I mend it. It is *my AGE*. I am an OLD SENSUALIST, an OLD TRUMPETER, or designed by some other elegant and severe Appellative, to which the Epithet, OLD, may be properly prefixed, to add a poignancy to the Satire. The Reader will easily believe, that I am not at present in a temper to bestow many good wishes on my ENEMIES : However, out of the sincere love, which I bear to the UNIVERSITY, and for the honour and benefit of my Country, I am willing on this occasion to return good for evil, and do most heartily wish, that *this* CRIME may never be imputed to any Member of the SOCIETY of INFORMERS.

able

able to their *occupation*, which may be out of my power either to foresee, or prevent. They may introduce me, as a chief criminal, into their next PRETENDED PLOT: Or, they may order one of their EMISSARIES to watch me into a crowd, and slip a treasonable *picture*, or *paper* into my pocket: Or, to make short work, they may surprize me, like other Assassins, in a dark night; and, I imagine, they would think this the most meritorious of all their schemes, as it would effectually restrain me for ever hereafter from **the use of pen, ink and paper*. But, whatever may be my fate, I live in no fear. For, although in the beginning of this Discourse, considering the public manners of *these*

* My ENEMIES, after having crammed into an *Octavo* page more dirty and scurrilous language, than I thought it could possibly contain, are pleased to add, *that it is the greatest reproach of the GOVERNMENT, that such an abandoned libeller, as I am, should be indulged in the use of pen, ink and paper*. Here they discover one of the wicked artifices of hardened INFORMERS; To accuse their innocent neighbour of the *very* crime they are guilty of themselves, and at the *very* instant they are committing it. But they seem to aim at something more by calling out for the interposition of the GOVERNMENT, and to require, that they may be at liberty to defame me, as they think fit, and as they have done for half a year past; but, that I may not be allowed to controll their invectives, or make any reply: Like the great School-boy, who after insulting, bullying, challenging, &c. refused to fight, unless his Antagonist had both his hands tied behind him. Before I conclude this note, it will be necessary to observe, that our INFORMERS are, upon all occasions, as familiar with the GOVERNMENT, as if they were the Guardians of it, tho' they never ought to be named *together*; especially as, I believe, what I intimated above, may easily be proved; that the zeal of the SOCIETY is a meer counterfeit, and that these boisterous declaimers have as little *loyalty*, as they have *truth* and *good manners*.

men,

men, I have expressed some apprehensions of their attempts; yet I designed this rather as a caution to my friends, than to intimate a suspicion of my own danger, or any anxiety, or concern for myself. For I could this moment behold the furious sallies of the whole BAND, with the DRAGON at their head, and hear their curses and their threats (although they were in possession of greater powers of revenge, than they are at present) with the same calmness and contempt, with which I would reject the offers of their PATRONS and the wages of corruption. This indifferent and philosophical temper may in some measure be attributed to my age and experience, but is chiefly owing to an happy constitution, and to that equality of mind and spirits, with which God hath been pleased to bless me.

*Libera si pretio quantôvis otia vendam,
Cui non insanus videar? Sed apertius audi :
Quæ juvenem, infirmumque animi captare nequibant,
Illa senem capiant? Aut quæ terrere pericla
Posse putes hominem, cui climaëtericus annus
Præsidio est omni majus? cui vita videtur
Haud equidem tanti esse, ut quid caveátve, petátve
A regni satrapis, ullâque sit anxius hora.
Si mihi non dextram tetigisse, aut limina regum
Contigit, & lare sub tenui mea camuit ætas :
Attamen æquo animo, non ullis rebus egenus,
Non inhonoratus vixi : Neque gratius usquam
Dii munus dederunt, cui se fuisse fatentur.*

F I N I S.

