

FRIEND at COURT:

OR, AN

APPEAL

FROM

The ALDERMEN to the COMMONS,  
FREEMEN and FREEHOLDERS of  
the City of DUBLIN.

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*Qui didicit patriæ quid debeat, & quid amicis :  
Quo sit amore parens, quo frater amandus & hospes ;  
Quod sit conscripti, quod Judicis officium.*

H O R.

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D U B L I N :

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Houses of the Oireachtas





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**A**N eminent Author hath observed,  
that there is nothing more difficult  
than to give Advice; and we may  
add, that next to it there is nothing  
more difficult than to receive it. Some Pa-  
tients have obstinately chosen to submit them-  
selves to the Course of their Disorders rather  
than follow the Directions of their Physi-  
cians: and some Physicians while they have  
attempted



attempted to cure Madmen have been Fec'd with Blows.

For my Part, who retain a most profound Veneration for your Persons and Abilities both Civil and Political, I shall not take upon me to School you into any thing, but what your own Reason suggesteth to be meet and convenient ; and in this I shall beg leave to dissent from my Brethern of *Grub-street*, who from their abundant Zeal for the Good of this their dear Country, and the Consumption of home-brew'd Liquors, document you before all Elections under the sundry Shapes of *Queries, Remarks and Seasonable Advices*. In their Prefaces they Introduce you with the comely Titles of *Freemen, Freeholders, Citizens, and Gentlemen*: but, in the Series of their Worksthey turn and twist you according to their good Pleasure ; as a Puppetman once assembled the whole Court of *France* before me, and all for the Price of one poor Penny.

Now *Gentlemen, or Citizens, or Freemen, or Freeholders, or Tradesmen, or Tradingmen, or Countrymen, or Honestmen*, (for I take all Denominations to be summed up in this last Word) I shall neither suspect your Sincerity, nor doubt your Understanding, and therefore shall leave the Issue and Merits of the ensuing Election entirely to your own Candour and Good Conduct.

But with all Humility and Defference to  
the



the Old *Gentlewomen* who keep this fair City in Order, I beg I may be indulged to consider the Weight of those Objections made against Mr. *Bradstreet's* present Pretensions, which to some have appeared material, and to others doubtful: And in the prosecution of these Points, I shall endeavour to avoid all personal Reflections on the opposite Party, not thinking it necessary to build a new House from the Ruins of an old one; for, though I should, perhaps, chuse to live in a new one of my own modelling, yet I should be well enough pleased to let an ancient Pile stand, were it only to be Inhabited by Jackdaws and Owls.

First it is Objected, that Mr. *Bradstreet* is an Alien, and that any Native of the City is consequently better Entitled to Represent it than he. I shall not enlarge on the old Proverb, that *we often bring our worst Friends from home*; but I am sorry to say, that repeated Experience hath left us little room to think otherwise.

We have foreign Enemies enough to combat with, and it is a miserable thing, that we should be thus divided and distracted amongst ourselves, when the distance of a few Miles within the same Kingdom can create such Fews and Animosities, as if we were not all Members of one Body, and consequently not to be united in one common Interest: In short, I should think it were sufficient to settle



this Matter, that Mr. *Bradstreet* is an IRISH-MAN.

But if this Objection were in any measure Essential, what shall we think of the Proceedings of this Honourable City for many Years past in the choice of her Magistrates? Hath there been more respect paid to the Person of a Native in general, or of a born Citizen in particular, than to that of a *French*, or a *Dutch*, or a *Scotch*, or an *Englishman*? Hitherto we seem to have been very impartial in our Decisions, and to have quite rejected that antiquated Heathenish Custom of preferring our *Countrymen* to *Foreigners*, many of whom, though barren in their own, have been very fruitful when transplanted into our Soil, or rather ingrafted upon our Stock.

If Conclusions may be drawn from Matters of Fact, it had been more for Mr. *Bradstreet's* Interest to have been imported hither from any distant Quarter of the World, than to have sprung up amongst us; and verily were the places of his Nativity and Education not so well known, I should advise him to change his Dialect and personate the Foreigner; for then we should be most agreeably imposed upon, and he wou'd pass upon us, as *Irish* Cloths do for *English* through the honest Fraud of the Woollen Drapier. It is not to be doubted but if Apes, Baboons and Monkeys were the natural Productions of this Island, that we should entertain a just ab-



abhorrence, and contempt of such Animals, whereas they are at present Cabinet Companions of the Fair and Polite; and really I think *Egypt* was not quite so Extravagant a Nation as this is, since it only worshipped Monsters of its own Growth.

But if it should be urged, that Necessity is a stronger tie than Nature, and that Foreigners having Possessions, Estates, or Employment here, through the very Principle of Self-Interest, are obliged to act with us in concert for the common Welfare of the Kingdom, and are for this Reason equally and promiscuously Entitled to all the Rights, Liberties, and Immunities that *Natives* are, why should not the same Rule hold good with Respect to Mr. *Bradstreet*, who is already a *Native*, and hath a considerable Stake in the City; where, if he had even no Property or Possessions, his very Vocation would oblige him to spend no small Portion of his Time and Fortune.

In the next Place it is objected, that Mr. *Bradstreet's* chief View in being elected Member of Parliament for this City, is, but to serve his own Ends, which Words if properly construed, I take to be strictly true, viz. that in serving his *Country*, he would serve his own Ends to all Intents and Purposes.

To a true Lover of his Country, the secret Pleasure arising from the Consciousness of do-



ing a meritorious Action, together with the Approbation of Good Men, is a sufficient Motive and Gratification. This single Consideration, I say, is enough to Influence a Man of ingenuous and liberal Education, whose Resolution is at least as far from, as his Fortune is above the Necessity of violating his Trust.

And it is to this Consideration indeed, that the World hath been indebted for the greatest Men Ancient and Modern, many of whom, instead of Enriching their private Families at the Expence of the Publick, have not scrupled to venture, nay, to sacrifice their Fortunes, and even their Lives for the Good of their Country.

The Desire of Fame, and Popularity is more or less implanted in every Breast, that is not quite lost to a Sense of Virtue and this makes yet deeper Impressions on a Mind cultivated with Letters. I shall beg leave to translate a Passage from a *Roman* Author\*, who in his own Example strongly confirmed the Truth of this Observation: “ Had  
 “ I not, says he, persuaded myself from my  
 “ Youth by the Precepts of many, and vast  
 “ Reading, that there was nothing in Life  
 “ greatly to be desired, except Praise and  
 “ Honesty, but that in the pursuit of this  
 “ all Torments of Body, all Peril of Death

\* *Cicero in erat. pro Archia.*



“ and Banishment were to be little regarded;  
 “ I had not expos’d myself for your Safety  
 “ to so many, and so great Hazards, and to  
 “ these daily Outrages of profligate Men.”

The precious Value of a good Name may be rated from the Sacred Oracles of Religion; and we may add, that the Love of it is a Passion as Natural to a great Spirit, as a sweet Scent is to some Blossoms, and is the fair Forerunner of worthy Actions, as Blossoms are of Fruit, unless it be nipped and blasted in its Progress.

But still it is urged, that as Mr. *Bradstreet* is a Lawyer, his Design of being returned Member for this City is, that first by becoming Popular and Espousing the *Country Party* he may be bribed and bought off by the C——t to change Sides: And this is a most invidious and partial Manner of begging the Question. Hath Mr. *Bradstreet* not been fair and honest in his Dealings, Faithful and Upright in his Practice? and have we not more Reason to believe, that he will persevere in that Integrity, which hath hitherto accompanied him, than that he will prostitute it to any base or infamous Purposes? Are there not several Eminent Lawyers in the House of Commons at this Time, who preserve their Probity and Publick Spirit? and may not the Baits of Preferment fall into their Road, as well as his? Or is the Stomach of an A——n so Squeamish that he would not swallow one? so Right-



teous and Sanctify'd as he, that I do not suppose he would give his Monosyllable for a Civil Employment.

I know not whether we are become more Wise and Politick than we used to be, or not; but it would make one Smile to hear some of those Cautious and Conscientious Sages Descant upon the dangerous Consequences of Electing a Lawyer, who not many Years ago were the Principal Advocates for Mr. *Howard*. We cannot forget with what Universal Joy he was chosen, nor was the Joy, which attended him into the *House of Commons* more Universal than the Grief, which attended him to the Grave.

During the short Time he held his Seat it is confessed, that he was mainly Instrumental in Discovering and Correcting several Abuses, long and successfully Practised by a Worshipful Set of Men, who Retailled Justice, as Monopolizers do Corn in the times of Famine.

Thus lived and died this Gentleman, with the Character of a Friend to his *Country*, and surely it were Ungrateful and Inhumane in us to say, that had Providence prolonged his Life, he would have forfeited that good Opinion which we had so justly conceived of him, and that merely because he was a Lawyer; and it is to be hoped, that the same Justice, which is done to the Memory of the Dead



Dead, will reach the Person of the Living, and that Mr. *Bradstreet's* having been hitherto a Man of unquestionable Honour, is no Omen that he will not be so for the time to come.

Were his Views Mercenary and Selfish, we know (and I hope it is no breach of Pr——ge to say it) that there are other Methods, by which he might have obtained a certain Place in P—— without the least Opposition, for half the Expence that an Uncertainty will cost him; and I would fain learn, what it availeth in the Business of Speeching or Voting, whether a Man should represent a City, or be returned for the poorest Borough in the Nation; as I do not apprehend, that saying Nothing or Nodding for this City in the S——te House will make a Man one Jot more Worshipful than if he had peaceably slept at home in his Elbow Chair.

Let us suppose however the worst, that Mr. *Bradstreet* were Elected and Employed under the Crown; will it hence follow, that he must commence an Enemy to his Country? I am persuaded it will be readily granted, that there are several in that Station, whose Services to the Publick, have never been over ballanced by their Attachment to the Court. Is it possible to prevent the King's Lawyers from being made Members of Parliament? Are they not all constantly such? so that upon the vulgar Snpposition, they are  
to



to Vote according to their Places, there can be no Inconvenience in Electing a Lawyer since upon the bare Maxims of Policy he will at least Vote for the *Country*, until the C——t comes up to his Price, which he could only do from the Principles of Virtue and Conscience, in Case he was returned a Member after his Preferment.

But, by what I can learn, Mr. *Bradstreet's* Practice at the Bar is such, that it would in Fact prove a Disadvantage to him, to be raised to the Bench, not to mention any inferior Degree previous to it: And I hope he hath Sense enough to think the Title of Patriot, at least as Honourable as that of J——ge.

The only Point remaining to be cleared up, is, that a Person proper to Represent this City, should be well acquainted with Trade. There is an old Remark, that many though Simple in their own, are Wise in other People's Affairs. But at present I am much afraid, that some Folk are not quite so Simple at home, nor quite so Wise in a certain Place, as we could wish them to be.

I may safely affirm, that a Man of good Understanding, though bred up in a different Profession, will be able to speak of Trade, as far as it concerns the Publick, more to the Purpose than a Man sometimes,

who



who hath gained Forty or Fifty Thousand Pounds by it; and in Truth, I have often seriously wondered, what could induce or tempt some of these sedate Personages to bustle for a Seat in P——t, unless it be that having made their Fortunes, they want a Place of Rest from their Labours.

The Case of Al——n *French* is Trumpet up on this Occasion, but I Wish, for the Honour of this well regulated City, it may not be further insisted upon, until such another shall drop from the Clouds.

If any Man be born to follow his Steps, the present *Lord Mayor* seems likeliest; large is the Field before him, and much is indeed not only hoped, but expected from him.

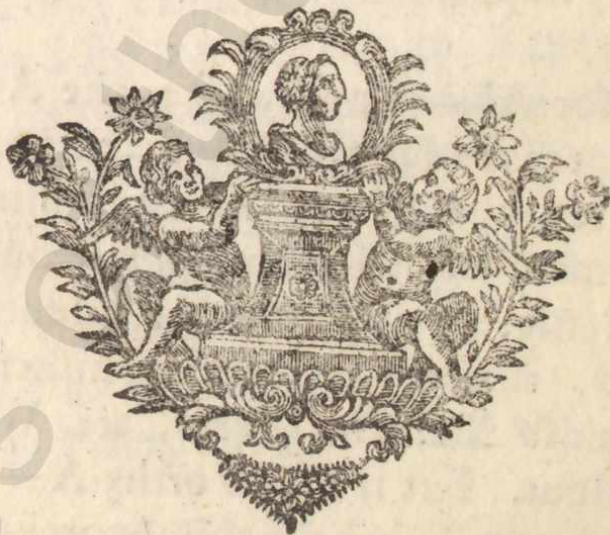
As for Al——n *Pearson*, the Author of this Paper is so far from Reflecting upon his Character, that he really judges him to be a Gentleman of strict Honesty, Honour and good Sense, having no other Intention than to shew, that the Objections hitherto offered against Mr. *Bradstreet*, are Weak and Ridiculous. But if the Worthy A——n hath suffered any Thing on this Score, I can only say, that his Case is like that of *Æsop's Jackdaw among the Crows*.

I should have concluded here, but that as I foresee some of my Friends from *Grubstreet* will take it into their Hands to Answer this  
small



small Pamphlet ; I must forewarn them, that unless they produce some Spelling, Concord and Common Sense, they are to expect no Reply from their humble Reader, and daily Sufferer.

F I N I S.





Houses of the Oireachtas



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