



THE
CASE
OF
Edward Loftus Esq;



Houses of the Oireachtas

THE
C A S E
OF

Edward Loftus Esq;

SUBMITTED
TO THE PUBLIC.

OBSCURA PROMENS.

HORAT.

D U B L I N :


Printed in the Year M D C C L X V I I I .

Houses of the Oireachtas



T H E
C A S E
O F

Edward Loftus Esq;

AINFUL as the task must be, to trouble the Public with dissentions of a private nature, I find myself under the disagreeable necessity either of so doing, or of lying under an imputation, of all others the most grating to a gentleman. My sole view in this is to assert my own honour; and, fortunate should I esteem myself, could I gain this important point,

point, without, at the same time, exposing the unhappy misbehaviour of a person with whom I ever wished to live well, and to fix whose friendship has been my constant invariable endeavour.

The following facts will, I hope, convince the Public of the propriety of my conduct, and demonstrate the black ingratitude which has been returned to a constant and uniform series of the most friendly and affectionate actions.

Upon the death of the late Lord Viscount *Loftus*, my brother *Nicholas Loftus* and I became entitled, under his will, to a charge of 2000*l.* upon the estate of the Hon. *H-n-y L-ft-s*, which we voluntarily, and without any consideration whatever, remitted him, and accordingly signed and perfected a deed to that purpose; hoping thereby to give him the most substantial and convincing proofs of our desire to continue upon the best footing of friendship with him: Further, I added to the 2000*l.* such
part

part of the family plate left to me by the said will, as he chose.

Actuated by the same motives, I employed my interest effectually to return a member to Parliament of his chusing, though in opposition to Lord *Ely*.— And, during this period of services, a most friendly intercourse subsisted between us : He, *H-n-y*, in his frequent visits, making the warmest acknowledgments, and giving the strongest assurances of a suitable return.

H-n-y, having a difference with a person in power, invited such of his relations and friends as were in Parliament, to dinner : Being met, they were severally asked, Whether they would support him against said Person ? Two only promised ; I was one.

The day following I met him in the House of Commons, where, after expressing, in the strongest terms, a most grateful sense of my steady friendship for him, he assured me, that whenever
a dis-

a dissolution of Parliament should take place, he would return me for a seat in one of the family boroughs : This promise was severally repeated to my wife, both by himself and Mrs. L-ft-s.

My brother and I, being burgesſes of the corporations of *Feathard* and *Clonmines*, immediately declared in his favour ; though we had repeated aſſurances from Lord *Ely* (through his Law-agent, Mr. *Hatton*, and others of the family) that, if we would ſerve his Lordſhip in thoſe corporations, he would withdraw a caveat he had entered, to prevent adminiſtration being granted us of the will of Lord Viſcount *Loftus* ; and would further do every thing in his power to ſerve us. We abſolutely reſuſed entering into any engagement, and, on that account, our ſuit in the prerogative court was prolonged near two years, until we obtained letters teſtamentary by due courſe of law, by which delay we ſuſtained a very conſiderable loſs.

Upon

Upon Lord *Ely*'s being called up to the House of Peers, a vacancy ensued in *Feathard*; I, at the instance of *H-n-y*, (in letters which can be produced) moved for the writ, and went down to the election: though in so doing, I acted in direct opposition to Lord *Ely*'s recommendation.

When Lord *Ely* came to town after his father, Lord *Loftus*'s death, I had many interviews with him, at which every advantageous offer was made that might induce me to declare in support of his Lordship; but as affection led me to support *H-n-y*, I refused complying with these proposals, and even avoided any further conference, lest he should entertain the smallest doubt or jealousy of my sincere attachment to him.

Thus far my zeal was answered by a false shew of gratitude and esteem, when the advancement of his fortune, by the death of Lord *Ely*, immediately deprived him of all memory of his
best

best friends, at least of me. He then openly threw off the mask, and at once renounced an acquaintance with me, tho' I solemnly affirm, I am not conscious of ever having given the slightest cause for so doing, and in the summer following, *H-n-y* went to the county of *Wexford*; and as it has since appeared, (tho' utterly unknown to me for a considerable time after) posted up notices in the boroughs of *Clonmines* and *Feathard* (for each of which I had been, for a considerable time, a Burgefs) that the said corporation would, on a certain day, proceed to elect a Burgefs in each corporation in my room; he having thought proper, previous to this, to have me disfranchised by his influence in the corporations for high crimes and misdemeanors, as he alledged; and proceeded at the same time to disfranchise my brother *Nicholas*, who was a Burgefs of *Clonmines*, assigning the same cause. Thus adding the most arbitrary and illegal actions to his ingratitude.

Thus

Thus matters continued from Lord Ely's death in *October* 1766, till an event happened, which occasioned my writing him the following letter.

L E T T E R I.

S I R,

DUBLIN, Feb. 16. 1768

“ **N**OTWITHSTANDING you have
 “ been pleased for some time
 “ past, to behave to me with the ut-
 “ most distance and neglect, I cannot
 “ avoid doing myself the justice of cal-
 “ ling upon you to fulfil an engage-
 “ ment you voluntarily entered into the
 “ last session, that whenever there was
 “ a dissolution of this present parlia-
 “ ment, you would return me for a
 “ seat in one of the family boroughs ;
 “ this you promised me unsolicited in
 “ the House of Commons, and as I
 “ have taken every opportunity of pur-
 “ chasing

“ chafing your friendship and regard,
 “ and am not conscious of having, in
 “ any fingle instance, fail’d of having
 “ acted uniformly for your advantage
 “ and interest; and as a tie of honour
 “ is the most binding obligation upon
 “ a gentleman, I expect you will per-
 “ form your promise, as there is nothing
 “ I more ardently wish for, than that
 “ your conduct towards me may be
 “ such, as to allow me to continue my
 “ good wishes for you, and am,

S I R,

To the Honourable
 Henry Loftus, Esq;
 St. James’s Coffee-
 House, London.

Your very obedient,

humble servant,

Edward Loftus.”

This not being answered, I repeated
 the Charge ; as follows.

L E T T E R

* LETTER II.

To the Hon. H-N-Y L-FT-S, Esq;

Sackville-Street, 20th March, 1768.

S I R,

“ UPON the bill’s passing for li-
 “ miting the duration of Parlia-
 “ ments, I took the earliest opportuni-
 “ ty of applying to you, by a letter di-
 “ rected to St. James’s Coffee-House,
 “ which I am inclined to believe hath
 “ miscarried ; otherwise I might have
 “ hoped for an answer, before this.—It
 “ was to remind you of an engagement
 “ you voluntarily entered into, the last
 “ Session, that, whenever there was a
 “ dissolution of the present Parliament,
 “ you would return me for a seat for
 “ one of the family boroughs : This
 “ you promised me, *unsolicited*, in the
 “ House

* This was written upon his landing in Ireland.

“ House of Commons : And, as I have
 “ taken every opportunity of purchasing
 “ your friendship and regard, and am
 “ not conscious that I have, in any sin-
 “ gle instance, failed of having acted
 “ uniformly for your advantage and
 “ interest, I hope, you’ll favour me
 “ with an answer ;—and am,

S I R,

Your very obedient

humble servant,

Edward Loftus.

An answer was sent for, *March* the
 23d, at eight o’clock in the morning.
 Mr. *L-ft-s* was in the country.

Sent the 24th. Got for answer : Mr.
L-ft-s not at leisure since he received
 the letter ; when he was, would send
 one.

Sent

Sent the 25th. Answer. Mr. L-ft-s was in the country.

Sent the 28th, at seven in the evening. Mr. L-ft-s was busy, and had company. My servant desired to know when he should call for an answer. The same was returned ; that he was busy, and had company.

It may be readily granted, that he would not have practised those poor subterfuges and affected delays, had he not been sensible of a preceding promise.

At last I received the following answer.

B 2 L E T-

LETTER III.

For Mr. EDWARD LOFTUS.

S I R,

“ I HAVE received your letter of
 “ the 20th of this month ; but did
 “ not receive that, you say you wrote to
 “ me to *London*. I am quite a stran-
 “ ger to your having acted in the way
 “ you mention ; as I know not how
 “ you have acted for the purchasing my
 “ friendship, or where you have acted
 “ uniformly for my advantage or inte-
 “ rest. You likewise charge me with
 “ a promise, I could never have had a
 “ thought of making to you, of bring-
 “ ing you in for a seat in Parliament for
 “ one of the family boroughs : This
 “ was a point I refused complying with
 “ in the life-time of my father ; as I
 “ thought

“ thought it would have been *shameful*
 “ to have been represented by you ;
 “ and, what I refused to him, I never
 “ could think of granting to you. Any
 “ influence I may have, centers in one
 “ borough. — I hope Lord *Ely* has in-
 “ fluence in some others : But I shall
 “ not think of recommending you to his
 “ lordship : If you think that he is un-
 “ der any obligations to you, for any
 “ support you may have given to him,
 “ you are at liberty to apply to him.

Cavendish,
 March 29. 1768.

I am,

Your humble servant,

H-n-y L-ft-s.”

The candid reader will observe in
 the singular stile of this elaborate epi-
 stle, a degree of insolence and rudeness,

B 3

utterly

utterly inconsistent with the character of a gentleman, and such as my behaviour towards Mr. *L-ft-s*, in no wise merited ; nor is it surprizing, that his *Fears*, naturally arising from a consciousness of what treatment he deserved at my hands, should lead him to interpret the following letter as a challenge.

LETTER IV.

To the Hon. H-N-Y L-FT-S, Esq ;

S I R,

“ **I** RECEIVED, late last night, your
 “ letter ; and shall not, at present
 “ animadvert on the extraordinary
 “ treatment you have given me ; as
 “ I hope you’ll recollect yourself by
 “ twelve o’clock next *Thursday* ; at
 “ which

which time, I hope and expect to hear from you.

I am,

Sackville-Street,
Tuesday, 2 o'clock,
March 29. 1768.

S I R,

Your humble servant,

Edward Loftus."

On *Thursday* morning, *March* the 31st, between the hours of eleven and twelve, Mr. Sheriff *Boyd* came to my house, and informed me, in the presence of Major *Waring* (who happened accidentally to be with me upon a visit) that the Lord-Mayor did, by him, bind me over to the peace, having received a letter from a person of distinction, acquainting his Lordship, that the above lines contained a challenge. This letter the Sheriff refused to produce; but I have since been informed, that Mr. *H-n-y L-ft-s* shewed this tremendous billet to a gentleman, who procured

procured the arrest ; which produced the following letter.

L E T T E R V.

Sackville-Street, April the 1st, 1768.

S I R,

“ I CANNOT express my surprize
 “ at being put yesterday morning
 “ under an arrest, by the Sheriff of
 “ *Dublin*, upon the presumption that
 “ I had called you to account, and that
 “ an affair was to be determined im-
 “ mediately between us; however I
 “ might be justified for so doing, it was
 “ not fact, and nothing but your own
 “ F E A R S could have interpreted my
 “ last letter in that way ; but I am
 “ equally bound up now, as if it was.

“ I am therefore under the necessity
 “ of taking this only method left in my
 “ power of expostulating upon the
 “ very singular letter I received.

“ You

“ You say you know of no obliga-
 “ tions you lie under to me : Did I
 “ not remit you a Sum of 2000*l.* im-
 “ mediately after my father’s death, to
 “ the prejudice of my family, and gra-
 “ tify you in every wish you could ex-
 “ press, in my power. I call upon you
 “ to declare, if you did not promise
 “ me in the House of Commons, to
 “ bring me in for a seat for one of the
 “ Family Boroughs, whenever the bill
 “ should pass for limiting the duration
 “ of Parliaments ; and be assured, Sir,
 “ that if that promise be not immedi-
 “ ately fulfilled, I shall lay before the
 “ Public the whole transactions that
 “ have passed between us ; nor shall I
 “ ever acquiesce under the wrongs I
 “ have sustained : I have felt them ;
 “ they are unparralelled ; and I shall
 “ never cease to do myself that justice
 “ my conduct has entitled me to.

I am,

To the Honourable S I R,
 H-n-y L-ft-s, Esq;

Your humble servant,

Edward Loftus.

It now remains to apologize to the Public for troubling them with this narrative. It was necessary indeed for my own vindication ; my honour, which I must ever hold dear, is concerned ; and, I flatter myself, that the above indisputable facts will have their due weight with the impartial ; to whose consideration they are submitted, by

Their obedient

humble servant,

Edward Loftus.

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