# A LETTER

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

## Earl of HALIFAX, &c.

ON THE

# PEACE.

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Εν τῳδε γαρ καμνουσιν αι πολλαι πολλεις,
Οταν τις εσθλος και προθυμος ων ανηρ,
Μηδεν φερηται των κακιονων πλεον.

EURIPID. Hecub.

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## Earl of HALIFAX, &c.

MY LORD,

NOW that your more important affairs are in a meaſure ſettled, and a moment perhaps may be allowed from public attachments; permit me to approach your Lordſhip with my ſincereſt congratulations, not only on the happineſs of peace reſtored to our country, but on the uniform greatneſs of character which your Lordſhip has maintained, in all the high offices which you have ſo reſpectably filled.

There is, I know not what of envy and malevolence in vulgar minds, which will

not ſuffer them to hear the praiſes of great and noble perſonages, eſpecially while living *, how juſt ſoever thoſe praiſes may be, without taxing the ſpeaker with flattery, or ſuſpecting him of ſelf-intereſted deſigns. But, certainly there are generous ſpirits, who can ſee, admire, and applaud true merit, without any private views; and I think, my Lord, I have met with one exception at leaſt from the general Practice; for your countrymen are unanimous in their commendations of your Lordſhip: we ſpeak of you from the heart; are heard with ſatisfaction, and no man harbours the leaſt ſuſpicion of adulation: an inſtance the more extraordinary, when we conſider the nice and critical ſtate of things, and the important buſineſs in which your Lordſhip has been engaged. Now to what happy cauſe ſhall we aſſign it, my Lord, that, in the

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* *Horace* remarks,

—— *Diram qui contudit hydram,*
*Notaque fatali portenta labore ſubegit,*
*Comperit invidiam ſupremo fine domari.*
*Urit enim fulgore ſuo, qui prægravat artes*
*Infra ſe poſitas;* extinctus *amabitur idem.*

Epiſt. lib. ii.

moſt

moſt exalted ſtations, you have thus ſhone forth the darling of your countrymen, as well as the diſtinguiſhed favourite of your prince; that, amidſt the wildeſt popular factions, you have ſteered clear of all public calumny, and been univerſally eſteemed and approved?—Certainly, my Lord, an event ſo uncommon can no otherwiſe be accounted for, than by a reference to its juſt cauſes; to your Lordſhip's ſingular good ſenſe, enlarged underſtanding, quick diſcernment, and admirable addreſs; to your ſteady attachment to the beſt principles, and your uniform zeal for the good of your country.

I muſt confeſs myſelf, my Lord, not one of thoſe gloomy malecontents, who, always beholding the dark ſide of things, have of late ſo puzzled themſelves and others, with fearful and dangerous conſequences, from bad miniſters and bad meaſures. And one reaſon I have always urged, which hath generally proved ſufficient to the ſilencing theſe murmurers, if not to the convincing them; (ſome men, my Lord, are reſolved never to be convinced) one reaſon why I reſted myſelf eaſy; and this hath been — Your Lordſhip's high office in the ſtate, and known attachment to the great Miniſter

who

who hath been the object of so much popular prejudice; or perhaps I might say, with more truth, whose favour with his Prince hath been so much the object of envy with *some*, who have been busy to diffuse their poison amongst the commonalty, and to make them clamorous, in order to serve and avail themselves. — For my own part, I could never help smiling at one of their devices,—at the strange and ridiculous attempt, which factious men have made to cast the imputation of *Tory*, nay, and stranger still, of *Jacobite* principles, as well as on his Majesty, as on his Minister — when I considered in what a degree of confidence and honour Lord *Halifax* is held by both, whose illustrious house, as well as himself, have always been distinguished by the noblest principles of *Whiggism*, that is, of true and constitutional *Liberty*:—Of attempts upon which surely nothing was ever so absurd as to impugn a King, who hath shewn himself so particularly the guardian of freedom, and who hath been so ready to place his chief honour in the love of his people.

And not less absurd is the imputation upon him; *they* call his M—r, a friend to liberty, and a nephew of those dukes of *Argyle*, whose

principles

principles of liberty no man ever called in question.——And ſhall a proper diſtribution of his favours amongſt all his ſubjects,— ſhall endeavours to promote the ſtricteſt union, at a time, when the old factions of Whig and Tory are fairly worn out;—— ſhall theſe be taxed with the charge of a dangerous attempt on the conſtitution! *Oh rem vere ridiculam!* the laſt effort of dying diſcontented faction!—— Look through the great offices, and ſee what foundation there is for this cenſure —Are the ſecretaries of ſtate Tories? Are the lords commiſſioners of the Treaſury Tories? Are the lords of the Admiralty Tories? Is it a Tory Cabinet? Look thro' the whole Adminiſtration, and be at once convinced of the falſhood and folly of this inſinuation:—No, bleſſed be God, the *Engliſh* conſtitution is firm; nor would it be an eaſy matter to ſubvert or deſtroy it at any time; though never, I am perſuaded, was it more ſafe and ſecure, more likely to grow and flouriſh, than under the preſent Monarch, and under the preſent adminiſtration.

But, what is there ſo abſurd which diſappointed ambition, faction and malevolence will not advance? Otherwiſe, how could we

have

have conceived it possible, that *some* men (of whom we might say with *Cæsar*, *Et tu Brute!*) should have taken such steps; should have pursued such invidious and inflammatory methods, to alienate the affections of the most united and loyal people from the best and most amiable of princes!

Indulge me, my Lord, in the pleasing review — it is a review which I know you delight to take, of the happy prospects before us, blest as our kingdom is beyond the lot of most others, if we know our own felicity, and are wise enough to improve and enjoy it. — For I appeal to the sober and impartial reflection of every thinking person, whether, upon a fair comparison of all the kingdoms upon the earth with our own, any one can be produced, in a state so flourishing, glorious, and desirable, as *Great Britain*; and so likely to continue thus glorious and flourishing.

In a Monarch, we have all that a wise and great people could wish: — Consider we the conquerors, the tyrants, the destroyers of mankind *, who have at various times

* The Laureat, in his last Ode, has some good lines on this head:

We

times been ſent by God to ſcourge a ſinful world, and we ſhall rejoice in the felicity of having ſuch a Prince. — Born and bred amongſt us, and educated in the beſt principles of religion and liberty, he has manifeſted from his earlieſt youth, not only the ſteadieſt attachment to the improvement of his mind in knowledge and ſcience, but the ſtricteſt regard to ſobriety and virtue; and by the beſt attention to the moral duties of his private ſtation, as a ſubject, gave large hopes of equal attention to the more important duties of his Royal One. Nor have we hitherto been diſappointed. Indeed, my Lord, I have heard it often ob-

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We ask not kings of hero kind,
The ſtorms and earthquakes of their age,
To us be nobler bleſſings given:
Oh teach us, delegates of Heaven,
What mightier bliſs from union ſprings!
Future ſubjects, future kings,
Shall bleſs the fair example ſhown,
And from our character tranſcribe their own,
A people zealous to obey,
A Monarch, whoſe paternal ſway
Deſpiſes regal art;
His ſhield, the laws which guard the land,
His ſword, each *Briton*'s eager hand,
His throne, each *Briton*'s heart.

ſerved by others, and found it confirmed by my own experience, that a good ſon rarely proves a bad man in any other relation: on the contrary, it is generally ſeen, that the moſt amiable virtues are connected with that of the filial. And how much our worthy Monarch excels in this virtue, is well known; in the midſt of royalty; as well as in his private ſtation; the moſt dutiful of ſons to his affectionate parent! — More dutiful, attentive, and obſervant, I doubt not, from the humane conſideration of his royal mother's widowed ſtate, and her deprivation of the ſplendors of a crown by the death of his Father. —— And is there a heart which doth not feel an affection for our Monarch in this view? Is there a parent, a child, who doth not venerate him for this tender diſpoſition! Heaven will crown his life with bleſſings for it; for honour to parents rarely paſſes unrewarded, even upon earth. It ſhould not paſs without the reward of his ſubjects love — It will not want that reward, ſpite of the malevolent attempts of thoſe, whom every good man muſt contemn, who would diminiſh their Sovereign's merit, even for his excelling in one of the moſt ſhining virtues!

Your

Your Lordſhip well knows that the character of our Monarch is uniform: He is not to be informed, that eminence in one virtue cannot atone for deficiency in another. Thoſe, whoſe employments about his perſon have given them the honour to approach him frequently, and who conſequently muſt know him beſt as a man; have almoſt adored him, and can never ſpeak of him in terms which they think high enough.

You remember, my Lord, that he was the beſt, moſt loyal, and obedient of ſubjects under his royal Grandfather's empire; neither forming cabals, nor encouraging parties to the moleſtation of the quiet of his Sovereign, to the diſturbance of his miniſters, and to the ſubverſion of the union of the people.

You remember, my Lord, in the tumultuous moment of tranſition from ſubject to King, with what remarkable eaſe he behaved, with what calmneſs and full poſſeſſion of himſelf. — You know and remember, when he made that generous, noble, and conſtitutional declaration, which gave ſuch heart-felt pleaſure to all his ſubjects. And, to do thoſe ſubjects juſtice, never, I believe, did King aſcend a throne more univerſally beloved: — The ſilent tear of joy,

which filled almoſt every eye, ſpoke far beyond all other acclamations!

Attentive to his domeſtics, immediately on his acceſſion, the goodneſs of his heart led him to diſpel all their apprehenſions; while he either perſonally aſſured, or by meſſages declared to all his ſervants, That he would ſtill continue to them his favour; and that *his* advancement ſhould be *their's*. While, at the ſame time, with a benignity peculiar to himſelf, he retained many of his Grandfather's old ſervants in their employments, or gave them penſions equivalent to their poſts, which the conjuncture would not permit them to hold longer.

Let it be known, that no *ſuch* ſervants have been diſmiſſed by him, as would concur in the great buſineſs of their Maſter, without arrogance and preſumption — who would be content to fulfil with propriety the duties of their poſts; who would be content to aſſiſt, not to dictate his counſels; who would be content to be ſervants, and not Sovereigns.

Free from every appearance of avarice, deſirous not to oppreſs but relieve his ſubjects, and depending on their affection, he voluntarily ſurrendered the hereditary re-

venue

venue of his crown to the disposition of parliament, for a limited annual income; an income probably much less than would have been chearfully given to him, had he demanded a recompence for what he intended as a grace. —— Doth this look like the action of a Prince willing to make himself independent on his people? Compare it with the actions of a *James*, or a *Charles*. — Can there be an action imagined more entirely agreeable to the principles and wishes of true Whigs? Or one, which could more tend to "adorn and strengthen the constitution?" —— Certainly none, except it be *that*, which doth equal honour, to his love of justice and his people. His making the *judges* absolutely independent on the crown, both of the successor, as well as of the reigning Prince*? An action, which alone,

* Since I wrote this, I happened to take up a sermon by the Rev. Mr. *Rotheram*, in which there are many excellent things, but where the following passage more especially struck me: "That the liberties of his [present Majesty's] people are dear to him we had an early proof. It was almost the first act of his reign to put forth his hand to strengthen a weak part of our constitution; and that not some disputed point of the royal prerogative, but a part in which the rights and liberties of the subject were deeply concerned, and where

alone, in ſome ſtates, and at ſome ſeaſons, would have procured almoſt adoration to a Prince: eſpecially, when to this we add,

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where they lay moſt expoſed to the attacks of ſome future tyrant. This he did, by placing the guardians of the laws, as much as poſſible, above the reach even of royal influence. An act, which ſhewed at once that he underſtood, and loved, the conſtitution of his country; and, conſiſtently with this beginning, we ſee him ſteadily carrying on the operations of government on the ſame free and generous principles, which ſhed ſo bright a luſtre round the ſetting ſun of his royal anceſtor: no longer ruling by a party, no longer ſupporting his adminiſtration by the force of corruption, but contented to recommend his meaſures to his ſubjects by their uprightneſs and integrity alone.

His love of learning cannot be called in queſtion, ſince he himſelf is known to have a taſte for letters, and to have made a conſiderable progreſs in them. — To this we may add, that his care for the advancement of learning, hath been extended to ſome infant colonies of learning in a far diſtant part of his dominions *.

Of his regard for virtue and religion his whole life is one proof. Far from yielding to thoſe uncommon temptations, with which a monarch, a youthful monarch, is always ſurrounded; far from thinking, that his elevated ſtation can give a ſanction to liberties which would be condemned in an inferior ſtation, we ſee him ambitious only of leading the way in duty:--Already hath he ſeverely diſcountenanced that criminal love of play, which hath involved ſo many fortunes, and ſo many characters in ruin, and which was come to that

* *Alluding to the royal bounty of* 600 l. *which accompanied the letters-patent, authoriſing a public collection for the benefit of the colleges of* New York *and* Philedelphia.

daring

add, his declared averſion to all ſorts of parliamentary corruption — too notoriouſly and openly avowed in former reigns — All corruption, both within and without the Houſe. To which declaration he adhered inviolably; inſomuch that we well know, nothing of this kind was practiſed on the miniſtry's behalf throughout the kingdom in the late general election.— If his ſubjects would not copy the example of their Sovereign, with them alone remains the blame: And if, in theſe dregs of *Romulus*, it be well nigh impoſſible for uncorrupted Virtue to keep her ſeat; even the beſt of men have found themſelves obliged to yield to the torrent of depravity; to the effects of encreaſing com-

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daring height of impiety, as to have thrown off all ſenſe of decency, all awe of religion; ſo as to be reſtrained by no force of laws, no regard to ſeaſons ſet apart for the moſt ſacred purpoſes. Already hath he nobly attempted, at leaſt, to bring religion again into credit amongſt the great and faſhionable part of the nation, by his own conſtant attendance on the public worſhip of God, and his exemplary behaviour there; by the influence of religion ſhining thro' every relation of life; by manifeſting a conſtant ſenſe of his dependance on the King of Kings; and thus ſhewing that he hath made a juſt eſtimate of all human greatneſs. May the work of reformation proſper in his hands; and may virtue, deſcending from the throne, ſpread itſelf amongſt every rank of the people!"

merce;

merce, of overgrown fortunes, and profuſe extravagance! — *David* may reſolve that a liar ſhall not dwell in his houſe, but, if all mankind are liars, vain will be his reſolution.

While ſollicitous thus to ſtem the tide of corruption, our good King hath ſhewn himſelf no leſs anxious to throwdown the partition-walls which faction had raiſed, and to encourage the freeſt acceſs of all ſubjects to his preſence and favour. A circumſtance which ſpread univerſal ſatisfaction, as it ſeemed, through his realms; for no man, who judges right, and who hath not the miſt of prejudice before his ſight, can help diſcerning the propriety and juſtneſs of ſuch a proceeding. — But men uſed long to rule, and grown old in the poſt of dominion, do not like to reſign the reins; do not love to relinquiſh the power, which gives ſo much figure and ſignificance to themſelves.

Studious to prevent corruption; to baniſh faction; to give juſtice the faireſt independence; to ſave his people's property: He hath alſo ſet them an example of the ſtricteſt œconomy; wiſely correcting in his houſhold, many of thoſe groſs, expenſive, and ſcandalous abuſes, which had long been

been obſerved, and complained of in vain. Giving, in his own perſon, a pattern of the ſtricteſt temperance; a proper check, if duly regarded, to the ſpirit of profuſe voluptuouſneſs, which at preſent too much infects all orders of men. While at the ſame time, he hath diſcovered a moſt princely and munificent diſpoſition, not only by large preſents and liberal gifts, to particular perſons and charities *, but by annual allowances to many, who have employed their time, labour, and whole endeavours to excel, and who do excel, in ſcience and literature: —more of whom have been provided for, during the ſhort period ſince *George* the Third aſcended the throne, than during half a century preceding.—— Muſt not all who have been thus diſtinguiſhed by the royal bounty, unite to felicitate themſelves and good letters, on the attainment of that

* Doth not the munificence of our Monarch to the *militia* deſerve particular remembrance here, as well as particular eſteem from all his people? of his own private bounty and goodneſs, he not only hath ſupplied the poor fellows, who were to be diſbanded, with ſeveral days pay, but ordered them the cloaths, which muſt otherwiſe have been taken from them. An inſtance of more paternal regard in a Sovereign to his people cannot eaſily be produced.

which hath been ſo long wiſhed for — a Prince of *Auguſtan* or *Mediccan* taſte, who will take the arts under his patronage, and give to learning, and conſequently to the arts and ſciences, a ſupport and dignity?

You, my Lord, who excel ſo much in a fine taſte; you, whoſe compoſitions have abundantly teſtified an Attic genius; you muſt have felt, with every friend of the Muſes, a ſtrong indignation at the illiberal ſarcaſms of factious writers, who, through the ſides of his miniſters, would calumniate their Prince for diſtinguiſhing men of learning! For diſtinguiſhing *ſome*, whoſe abilities are univerſally allowed to be of the firſt rate, and with whoſe honourable diſtinction every friend of ſcience ought to expreſs his ſatisfaction.

But, while I am thus briefly reviewing that character, which I always contemplate with pleaſure; and touching upon ſome points of thoſe excellencies which muſt endear his Majeſty to us all: Let me not forget, my Lord, to ſpeak of that fountain from which all thoſe excellencies flow —— I mean his Majeſty's undiſſembled religion; which, from his earlieſt days, hath diſcovered itſelf in all his practice, " animating his

his well regulated piety, directing his uniform and exemplary devotion, and preserving his morals pure and untouched amidst the flames of youth." *We* have seen him, my Lord — his subjects see — his reverent and attentive deportment in the presence of the King of Kings, with heart-felt delight; and grow warm with piety from the example. We have heard, my Lord, of his private duties*; and, would every noble family through the kingdom copy after the royal Exemplar, virtue and religion, no doubt, would again rear up their heads, and triumph; every thing would be done to discountenance vice and profaneness in all its shapes. Good men would be encouraged, and distinguished by the marks of the royal favour: And, without question, to do this is the interest of every wise prince; for, truly good and conscientious men must always be good and faithful subjects. Rational and sincere Christians know it to be a part of their duty to obey their rulers; to reverence them in all their constitutional

* Two of his Majesty's domestic chaplains attend every day at *five* in the afternoon, when his Majesty, the Queen, &c. attend prayers in their private apartments.

commands and appointments: Enthusiasts and infidels only dare be rebellious, disobedient, and factious to undoubtedly good princes.

After what I have advanced, it may seem unnecessary almost to observe, that our Monarch is no less eminent for his conjugal, than his filial and royal virtues: his subjects see it, and admire him for it: happy will they be who most diligently imitate him, in this, as well as in his other princely excellencies; which are such, as faction itself must confess amiable, and which the worst prejudice cannot deny to our King. His conduct hitherto, I will venture to assert, hath been uniform, and such as claims the highest veneration from his people. Since his accession to the throne, no one weak or unbecoming action can be imputed to him; but a thousand good and exemplary ones, we all know, have been done by him! And what more would we have? What more can we wish? —— Oh, my Lord, in this view, how base, how mean, how ungrateful do they appear, who endeavour to molest the repose, to asperse the character, and to prevent the execution of the good designs and worthy plans of such a Sovereign!

But,

But, leaving these men to the scorn they deserve, and will assuredly find from every well-wisher to our country, let me rejoice with you, my Lord, in the hope of the felicity which our realms will enjoy under so excellent a Prince, exerting all the beneficent arts of peace amidst a wealthy, glorious, and renowned people!

Methinks, in this view, a *Briton* might thus felicitate his countrymen:—had he your Lordship's elocution, he would do it with singular success.

"At length, my friends and countrymen, we have obtained, what has long been the ardent wish of every humane heart, and every true friend of *Great Britain*. At length an end is put to the desolations of a war, which hath made cruel havoc with our fellow-creatures, and filled with anxiety and sorrow numberless bosoms; while it hath exhausted the treasures, and so heavily augmented the taxes of our nation, as to have been severely felt by almost every individual amongst us. Peace, ever desirable in itself, but more peculiarly desirable to a commercial state, is once more restored to us: the end is obtained for which the war commenced;

menced; and, much more than that end --- great and important conquests are secured to us, and such an addition made to our territories, as cannot fail to augment our riches, and increase our glory *.

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* The *Duke de Sully*, (in his Memoirs, tom. 2. p. 194. 4to edit.) says, — and his opinion on this head may well be taken; for he was a man of affairs, brought up to war from his youth, and as great a general as a politician — "I assert, says he, that peace is the great and general interest of *Europe*. Its weaker princes ought continually to be employed in assisting the more powerful by the most pacific methods; and the most powerful should force the weaker, if that becomes necessary, to remain in peace, by taking part with the weak and oppressed. I admire, that *Europe*, which is composed of people so civilized, should nevertheless conduct itself by such vile and savage principles. What do we see, that profound policy, which they value themselves so much upon, end in, but their own continual misery? All have recourse to war: They neither know or imagine any other means of unravelling difficulties. It is the only remedy of the least sovereign, as well as the greatest. The principal difference between them is, that the former makes the less noise, and acts as a second; and the latter with mighty preparations, and often singly the more to shew his power.——Why, alas! should we impose the necessity on ourselves of always obtaining peace by means of war? For peace is the end of all war; and it is a certain proof that we recur to war, only for want of a better expedient. Nevertheless, we so confound truth, that it seems on the contrary, as if we made peace merely for the sake of going to war."

Such were the rational and pacific opinions of a great warrior. But a still greater than he, even the most warlike prince

When we reflect upon the manner in which this war hath been carried on, so peculiarly glorious to our country, whose military fame every quarter of the globe hath abundant cause to confess; it must inspire us with pleasing exultation. Our arms by sea and land have carried terror and victory with them wherever they have advanced; and stricter unanimity, cooler and more prudent counsels, bolder and more intrepid valour hath never been shewn by *Britons* — may I not add, without any partiality, hath never been shewn, by men!

Happy in officers, of the greatest experience and distinction, we may rest easy and fearless of any future hostile attempts; and enjoy with them —— who have given up

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prince of his time, *Henry* the Fourth of *France*, not only entertained the same peaceful sentiments, but, as the said *Duke de Sully*, his prime minister, assures us, formed a project of putting them in practice, by preventing war from being ever undertaken by any of the *European* princes*. And had he not been unhappily cut off by the hands of a bigotted and most wicked assassin, he might very probably have executed this glorious design: a design which more justly intitles him to the appellation of Great, than all the victories he gained, or ever could have obtained.

* *Vide Sully's Memoirs, tom.* 3. *p.* 374, *et seq.*

for

for our protection so many domestic comforts, and have hazarded so many perils, — with them enjoy the blessings of that *Peace*, which (under God) we owe to their intrepidity:—The blessings of that peace, which our beloved Sovereign hath been anxious to secure for us, and which, from his virtues, we are satisfied he will be no less anxious to improve. We have all the means to improve it; for, tho' great indeed have been the expences of the late war to our nation, and though our debt is high, yet, as a nation, we are wealthy, we abound in riches: individuals have been happily successful; and we have seen the treasure of our enemies pass through our streets.

Great then, in glory,——in commanders, —— in wealth, —— our territories largely augmented — our commerce wide and encreasing,—— what do we want to render us a truly happy and illustrious people? Nothing, surely, but *unanimity*, and a heart to pursue all those maxims of œconomy, wisdom, and virtue, which our Sovereign's example recommends, and his influence will encourage and promote!

And

And we will ſay it in the ears of prejudice; we will urge it in ſpite of the obſtreperous clamours of diſappointed faction — a properer perſon, in the preſent conjuncture, to aſſiſt his Majeſty's good endeavours, for theſe great purpoſes, could not be found, than *the nobleman*, upon whoſe ſingular merit with his Sovereign, too many have caſt invidious eyes *; and in whoſe capacity, for the diſcharge of the moſt arduous affairs, we ſhall find ſufficient cauſe to felicitate ourſelves, when a due power and proper ſeaſon of exerting it ſhall be allowed him. Too long accuſtomed to a profuſe and prodigal waſte of the public money, it is no wonder that ſome men have opened their mouths againſt *him*, who ſeem to think, that there is as much reaſon to be juſt and œconomic in the diſtribution and management of public finances as of private patri-

* Mr. *Courtenay*, in his verſes in the laſt *Oxford* collection, well obſerves:

For ſtill on envied greatneſs ſhall await
Hard Tryal, while full of th'unbridled tongue
Of rude licentiouſneſs his ear aſſails;
And oft, when unſuſpecting virtue forms
The meditated plan of public good,
Inſidious malice wreſts th'inverted deed
To ſelfiſh purpoſe of baſe intereſt.

mony. And, let me ask any impartial person, whether, in the present state of the national affairs, a director is not most ardently to be wished for, who will use every wise and prudent method to alleviate the heavy load of taxes under which the people labour, and to save that money, which some have thought they could never too lavishly expend? And is it no merit, doth it claim no praise, that this noble Lord has already saved eleven hundred thousand pounds to the public within twelve months *? Shall the silent, invidious

* In a sensible and well written pamphlet, entitled the "*Sentiments of an impartial Member of Parliament*," I find the following passage, which I the rather subjoin, as it agrees with what I have written, and is the language of candour and truth:— "I am not here pleading the cause of L. *B*——, or of any other particular person, whom his M——y may delight to honour; but I am pleading the cause of my king and country; the cause of unanimity and concord; the cause of these high personages [the D. of *N*——, the E. of *H*——, and Mr. *P*——] themselves, whose respectable names we hear so often abused by their ambitious friends, under the notion of their being discontented at the public measures, which shall be concluded by the present servants of the crown.

"Justice, however, commands us to add, that *hitherto* the noble person, who seems to be the envied object of public clamour, and public calumny, has certainly done nothing which

invidious whispers of some, the weak and prejudiced clamours of others, and the wicked insinuations of more, deprive us of a man,

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which can render him unworthy the high post which he holds in the government. *Hitherto* we know nothing certain concerning this obnoxious person, but that he is universally allowed to be, a good husband, a good father, a good œconomist, and a punctual payer of his debts. *Hitherto* we know nothing certain concerning him, but that he is born a *Scotsman*; and that his Majesty thinks himself oblig'd to him for his long and inviolable attachment to his person; and particularly for the important services which he received from him the four years immediately preceding his coming to the crown. *Hitherto* we know nothing certain concerning him, but that during the short time, wherein his Majesty has been supposed to hearken to his advice, preferably to that of others, more scholars as such, more men of science and polite literature, have had provisions made for them, than have been made for persons of this class, the whole fifty preceding years. *Hitherto* we know nothing certain of him, but that he began his administration by saving the nation 500,000 l. in the vote of credit for the current year; chose not to give his assent to remit another 670,000 l. to the king of *Prussia*, and is charged with having too high principles of heroism! *Hitherto* we know nothing certain of this obnoxious person, but that in obedience to the universal voice of the people, concurring with his own sentiments, he has endeavoured to put an honourable end to the immensely expensive war in *Germany*; has conquered the *Havannah*; has destroyed a fourth part of the navy of *Spain*; has recovered *Newfoundland*; left, perhaps, in too defenceless a condition by his predecessors in the ministry; and has been indefatigable in

man, so likely to do us service, a man whose life hath been uniform and excellent, who hath been an honour to the domestic and

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his labours to give his country the so ardently to be wished-for blessings of a good peace.

"But, from the moment wherein it shall appear from facts, that he is a man of inferior abilities, and incapable of supporting the weight of the high post to which his royal Master has advanced him; that he gives bad advice to the crown; that he suffers himself to be misled by wrong maxims; that he understands not the true interest of the kingdom, with regard to its commercial and foreign connections; and that he aims at undermining its internal constitution — Let him be called to immediate account; let him answer for his weakness, wickedness, and folly, as the constitution directs he should at the tribunal of parliament. His Majesty has too great a love for, and too great a regard for the happiness of his people, not to give him up, in that case, to the justice of the nation; and, if the voice of rumour may be hearkened to, he himself neither asks, nor desires any thing from his country but the *strictest justice*. But, if the mere place of birth, if suspicion of incapacity, if whispers of want of ability, in contradiction to well known facts, must be made matter of accusation, and be used as engines to destroy the servants of the crown: What wise or honest Man is there but must wish for times, when such factious dispositions will do less mischief than at present? And ought not *Great Britain* to be desirous of a peace with her *foreign* enemies, whenever the cries of seditious clamour, prejudice, defamation, and discontent, raise *themselves* above the still voice of sober truth, shake off every appeal of reason, and threaten us with all the dire effects of discord and disunion?

private

private ſtation — a good huſband — a good father — a good œconomiſt — a punctual pay-maſter — a friend to learning, and a patriot, in his principles. And wou'd you wiſh, my countrymen, to rob your ſovereign of a friend, thus worthy and able, who hath been the faithful guide of his youth, his honeſt inſtructor, his moſt conſtant and devoted ſervant? with whoſe value and ſuperior worth, he has been long well acquainted, and therefore honors him with his friendſhip and confidence? ſhall your king be deprived of one of the higheſt earthly ſatisfactions; the comforts of a true friend? ſhall he be deprived the liberty which the meaneſt amongſt you enjoy, of filling the places in his houſhold, with ſuch ſervants, as beſt approve themſelves to him, and conſequently muſt be chief in his eſteem.

As to the illiberal reflections thrown on this great perſonage *; let us leave them where only

* I was much pleaſed with a ſhort letter, which I read the other day in one of the public papers: I ſubjoin it for the reader's amuſement —— "Sir, coming to town lately, after a very long abſence, my ears were dinned on all ſides with a noiſe and clamour about the conduct of a certain great

only they are fit to be found, amongst the lowest of the vulgar; while, with a justice which surely becomes *Britons*, which becomes every gentleman, we readily allow the noble lord an opportunity to manifest himself to us, and then, but then only, begin to object, and to clamour, when he shews himself dangerously weak, or imprudently *partial*. — But to what should

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great man. Novice as I was in state affairs, I at first thought he must have been guilty of some high crimes and misdemeanors: but on a strict enquiry, I cannot find that he stands impeached of any crimes but these; namely, that he is a *Scotchman*, born at *St. James's*, and educated in *England*. *Item*, he has been instrumental in putting a stop to the effusion of a deluge of blood, and in delivering from the calamities of a long and consuming war, his own country, and great part of *Europe*, *Asia*, and *America*. A heavy charge, indeed! — For which, however, at some times, and in some countries, he would have been thought to deserve a *civic crown*, or an *honorary statue*. For these crimes the bellowing mob have been turned loose against him, by some intriguing rivals, who have no enmity to his person, and mean only to get his places.

*A headstrong, murmuring, moody race*, &c.

I had like to have forgot another charge against him; he is so singular as to cherish and patronise those neglected old maids, the *Muses*, who, as *Buchanan* observes, must always continue *maids*, because they are *unendow'd*. I am, &c."

he

he be partial? — to *Scotland*? to *Scotland* in preference to *England* — But why? because his property lies in *Scotland*? That is absurd! Has not he, and his family ten times more property in *England* than in *Scotland*?

However, waving this, though it should be supposed that this noble personage does not possess all *that* very superior merit, which those who best know him allow him to possess — yet, breathes there a man in these kingdoms, who would not wish rather to see him at the head of the Treasury, than that noble D— who has so long presided at that board, and who now, at last, hath acted a part, which hath destroyed all the value of his past conduct? For is it not enough for him, that he has for so many years received a vast, a stupendous revenue — many thousands a year from the crown, while he has enjoyed the plenitude of power, and received for himself, his family, and his friends, more lucrative emoluments and honours than perhaps ever man received? We enumerate them not; any one who will think it worth his while, may easily do so, by reviewing the list of his relations and

professed

professed dependants. And could he reasonably expect always to sit at the helm; to lead and direct the Sovereign, and to be the alone source of honours and preferments? Surely, he ought to be satisfied, as well as the noble *Earl*, who hath reaped so many advantages from the present establishment; who, from an inferior rank, has been raised to nobility by it; has acquired, perhaps, half a million in its service, and whose whole family are distinguished and enriched under its smiles.— We wish not to derogate from their abilities or worth; we readily allow these to Lord *H*——*k* and his sons: but should any cause influence a personage of this kind, thus honoured, and thus obliged to oppose his Sovereign's measures? except where he sees those measures tending directly to the public prejudice, and the discredit of his country — Patriot reasons only should influence such a person; but how different is patriotism, from faction, prejudice, party, or wrong notions of friendship! However, perhaps we may, in some measure, excuse L— *H*—— from motives of gratitude and affection to the noble D—e; but for *him*, upon what foundation, examine my country-

men,

men, with the moſt impartial candour, upon what foundation could he expect always to be the fountain of power? — Allowing him to have been faithful and ſteady to the illuſtrious houſe which fills the throne; And ſurely never was it more any man's intereſt to be ſo. Yet, what further can be allowed him? Has he ever wanted an ample reward for ſuch fidelity? Did he ever diſcover, has he ever been famed for ſuperior wiſdom, ſteadineſs, prudence, courage, or abilities of any kind? — You remember the time, when *Heſſians* and *Hanoverians* were called over by a puſillanimous m——y; and you remember in what a light this great man was then ſeen by us all. Whence is it then, or why, that he is grown up into a degree of public favour? What hath he ſince done to dignify or diſtinguiſh himſelf? — He is not grown up into public favour: prejudice has prevailed a ſhort ſeaſon; but its miſt, we hope, is at length removed. We ſee the ſprings of his paſt actions, even his beſt; and he muſt ſink into that contempt which he has ſo juſtly merited, for endeavouring to clog the wheels of government: for aiming at oppoſition, at ſo critical a

 juncture

juncture — an oppoſition, weak and ignominious to himſelf; which abundantly teſtifies the ſenſe of judicious men, and muſt render the cloſe of a life deſpicable, which might have been reſpectable, had the noble perſonage retired with due reverence to his Sovereign — with proper gratitude for the innumerable favours conferred upon him by his M——y's grandfather and great grandfather — Favours nobly offered even at the concluſion; and, had he ſought a virtuous retirement, all men would have thought, as nobly refuſed on his part.

Leaving him then, and thoſe connected with him, whoſe departments, without the leaſt reflection on their characters, are, and can always be filled, we are aſſured, with men of equal honour, influence, and integrity *; let us, my countrymen, endeavour to do all we can, to ſtrengthen the hands of our amiable Sovereign, and of his preſent

* This puts me in mind of a *bon mot* of a certain noble peer, diſtinguiſhed for his wit and ſenſe, who, upon ſome late reſignations, ſaid, "Never let his M——y concern himſelf on that account: I will undertake to find him a Duke for a Duke, an Earl for an Earl, a Lord for a Lord, and — a *Fool* for a *Fool*."

ſervants,

ſervants. Let us duly underſtand ourſelves, and the ſubordination neceſſary to the well-being of every ſtate. — Convinced, that the happineſs and proſperity of our nation depends upon domeſtic union, let us do nothing which may break the glorious bond; while we preſume not to judge of men and meaſures beyond our ſphere; and hold in juſt deteſtation thoſe, whoſe malevolence, or ſelf-intereſt, leads them to decry and calumniate perſons who are therefore obnoxious, becauſe they are in place and power.

Nor let us doubt, but that every proper method will be purſued, to introduce œconomy into national concerns, — to promote virtue, religion, and learning, and to render the preſent peace, ſtable, permanent, glorious, and productive of all deſirable bleſſings. Be it our's to concur all we may for the attainment of theſe great ends; to throw in all the aid we can, to ſtrengthen the good purpoſes of the government, and to extend the felicities we wiſh for, over our land: While, above all things, we are careful, every man amongſt us, ſeriouſly and attentively to apply himſelf to the buſineſs of his own ſtation, and to fulfil that buſi-

neſs with induſtry and integrity; introducing, at the ſame time, into our houſes and families, that œconomy, which modern diſſipation hath rendered ſo neceſſary, and being eſpecially careful to recommend virtue by our own practice, and true religion, by our own conſcientious and domeſtic regard to it.

And, with humble and thankful hearts, let us unite to adore the Sovereign Ruler of all events, who hath ſhewn ſuch ſingular mercies towards this land, by lives of the beſt gratitude to him, the Father of Heaven, let us endeavour to ſecure his protection to us, and our poſterity, in the lateſt generations.

Thus, my countrymen, ſhall we beſt approve ourſelves to the good King, whom God hath ſet over us; thus ſhall we not diſappoint *His* gracious mercies toward us, but ſhall live, and continue to live and flouriſh, a great, a glorious, and a happy people."

Thus, my Lord, I conceive, a friend to the true intereſts of this kingdom might addreſs his countrymen. — Much more might eaſily be added; but my purpoſe was not to

be

be tedious: meaning only to throw in though it be but a mite, towards the conciliating the affections of men to their Sovereign, and to each other; and willing to ſpeak, what my heart ſincerely believes; and what, if there were occaſion, it is ready to avow in the face of the world. — Yet, amongſt the motives of this addreſs, I muſt not deny, that one was, the deſire of expreſſing my great Opinion of your Lordſhip, and the high reſpect wherewith I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt devoted,

And ſincere Servant.

POST-

# POSTSCRIPT.

TO what I have ſaid of his Majeſty's bounty and charity, I muſt add, with ſingular pleaſure, his late donation of one thouſand pounds to the poor, by the hands of the Biſhop of *London*; a gift which teſtifies his humanity, muſt endear him to his ſubjects, and ſecure to him the affection of every good and feeling Heart.

FINIS.