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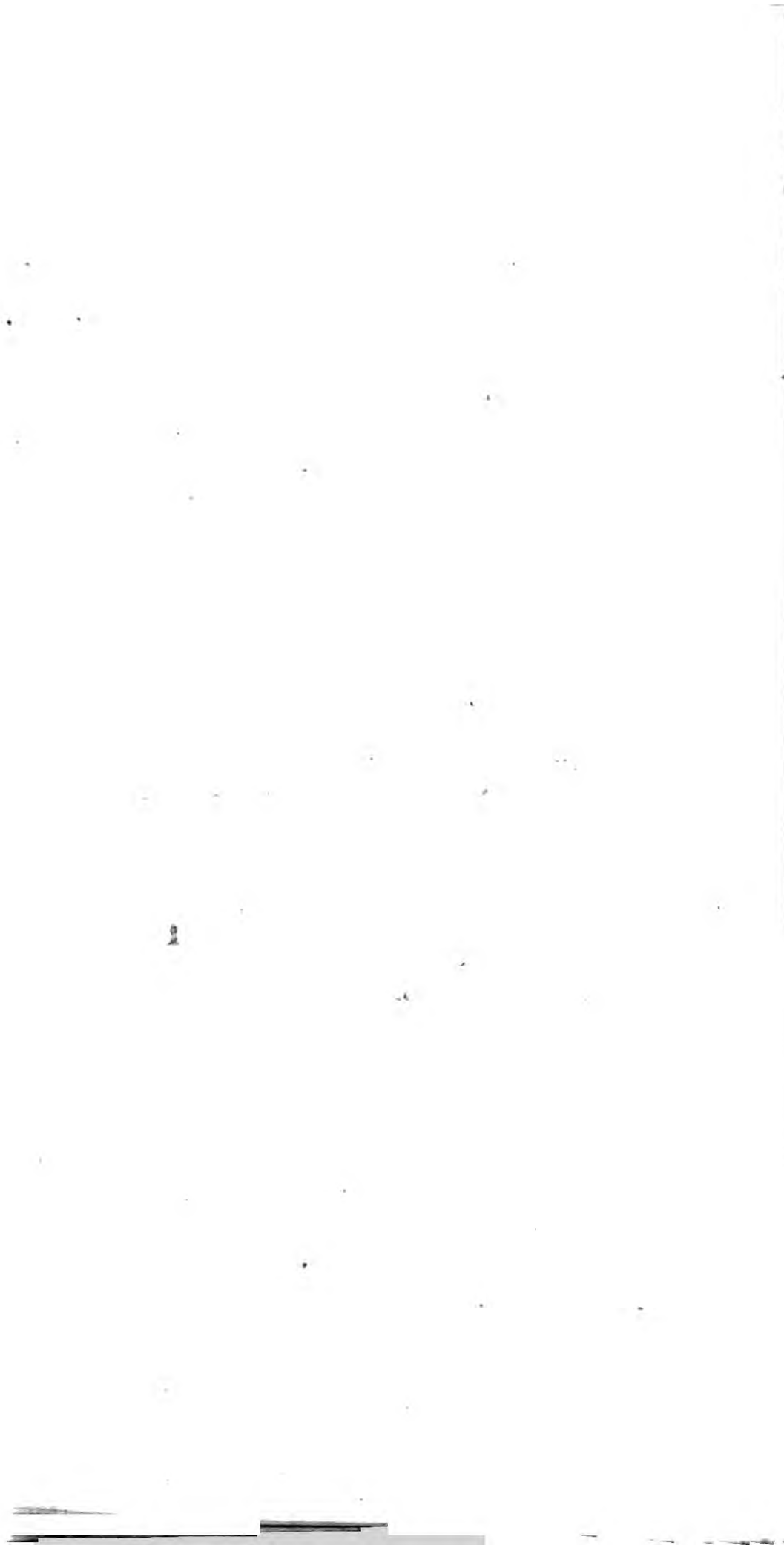


A  
**DEFENCE**  
OF THE  
RECTOR and FELLOWS  
OF  
*EXETER* COLLEGE,  
FROM THE  
**ACCUSATIONS**

Brought against them by

The Reverend Dr. *Huddesford*,  
Vice-Chancellor of OXFORD.





A  
D E F E N C E  
O F T H E  
R E C T O R and F E L L O W S  
O F  
*E X E T E R* C O L L E G E,  
F R O M T H E  
A C C U S A T I O N S

Brought against them by

The Reverend Dr. *Huddesford*,  
Vice-Chancellor of OXFORD;

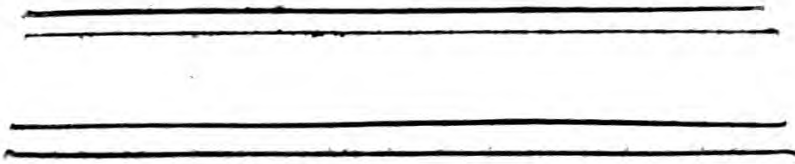
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His Speech to the Convocation, *October* 8,  
1754, on Account of the CONDUCT of  
the said COLLEGE, at the Time of the late  
ELECTION for the County.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. BOUQUET, in *Pater-noster-Row*, 1754.





A

## DEFENCE, &c.

**T**HE Rector and Fellows of *Ex-eter* College having been treated in a very extraordinary Manner, by the Rev. Dr. *Huddesford*, Vice-Chancellor of *Oxford*, in his late Speech to the Convocation, on Account of their Conduct at the late County Election, the World may expect to hear some Particulars of this Matter, and whether any Thing can be said in Defence of the College : And such an Expectation is very proper to be gratified.

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tified.

fied. For though Calumny thrown out by low insignificant Persons, such for the most Part as have hitherto abused them, may be despised; yet, when the same Course shall be taken by a Person of Rank and high Office in the University, it then becomes too serious to be neglected, as it not only excites the Attention of the Public, but demands that of the College. A Vice-Chancellor may be thought to speak with some Authority. By the Rules of the University, he cannot be contradicted in the Convocation-House; a Defence, therefore, against injurious Charges from that Quarter, must be a publick Defence. The College must be defended this Way, if it can be defended at all.

LET it not be imagined that any Thing to be said by the Author of this Defence is levelled against the University, for which he professes the greatest Reverence, and to whose real Interests he is most affectionately attached. The Vice-Chancellor, though the Head, must yet be distinguished from the Body over which he presides; he may mistake the true Interests and Credit of the  
Place,

Place ; he may act directly contrary to both. He may himself violate the very Statutes he ought to guard, and oppress the Persons he is bound to protect. How far this Reflection may be applied to the present Vice-Chancellor, will appear in what is to follow.

BEFORE we enter into the Merits of the Vice-Chancellor's Charge against *Exeter* College, it may be proper just to remark, that this is not the first Attack he has been pleased to make upon that Society in the same Way. For he began the same injurious Reflections upon the College at the last Commemoration of the University Benefactors, by the Mouth of his Agent, who declared he spoke *Imperio Vice-Cancellarii* ; and what he then said has been since approved of by his Constituent, who has publicly acknowledged him to be *Orator Laudatissimus*. How justly the said Agent is entitled to this Epithet, may be noted hereafter ; in the mean while one cannot help remarking, that the Orations of *July* and *October*, are so very similar, both in the Stile and Spirit, that you are almost



tempted to pronounce them the Productions of the same Pen.

WE now come to give a short Detail of the Vice-Chancellor's Charge against *Exeter* College, the Substance of which, as far as was then recollected, was briefly this,—that “ although during the Tumult  
 “ in the Town (occasioned by the County  
 “ Election) the young Gentlemen behaved  
 “ with great Temper and Decency, and  
 “ the Univerfity in general was remarka-  
 “ bly regular, yet he was forry he was  
 “ obliged to except *one particular College*,  
 “ againft the back Gate of which the  
 “ Booths had been unfortunately erected,  
 “ whether accidentally, or by the Design  
 “ of wicked Men \*, he would not deter-  
 “ mine. That the Behaviour of the Col-  
 “ lege upon the Occafion, had been fuch  
 “ as had brought heavy Reflections upon  
 “ it

\* It is obfervable, the Booths were erected within the City of *Oxford*, and in this very Part of the Town, at the Inftance of the Gentlemen of the *Old Intereft*. Thofe on the other Side were defirous that the Poll might be taken in *St. Gyles's Field*, as had been done at the former contefted Election. But this was not approved

“ it, had given great Offence, and was a  
 “ Reproach and Scandal to the Univerfity;  
 “ that they had opened one of their Gates  
 “ to receive the Countrymen, and had let  
 “ them out through the other to poll;  
 “ that thefe People, (*viz.* the Body of the  
 “ *New Intereft* Freeholders) fo received  
 “ and entertained with Meat and Drink,  
 “ were the *vulgus profanum, famelicum,*  
 “ *monftrum horrendum, informe, cui Lumen*  
 “ *ademptum.* That not only the Hall and  
 “ Courts of the College had been confpur-  
 “ cated and defiled with Filth and Naf-  
 “ tines, Drunkennefs, and Gluttony; but  
 “ even the very Bed-chambers likewise,  
 “ made the Scenes of Riot and De-  
 “ bauchery; that he was fenfible he was  
 “ treading on flippery Ground, but was  
 “ obliged to censure the College now, that  
 “ it never might be guilty of the like Of-  
 “ fence for the future.”

proved of. One might be tempted to think the *Old Intereft* themfelves had a Defign in this. It was probably, that the Election might be made *under the Infpection of the Mufes.* If Matters have turned out otherwife than was expected, this is all owing to themfelves.

THE Reader will of course suppose, he can have here but an imperfect Sketch of the Charge laid against the College, no more being meant in this Place than to give him a very general Account of it, from what was recollected of it immediately after 'twas delivered. The Speech itself, which was very long, consisted in a great Measure of Accusations against *Exeter* College; it could be no easy Matter, therefore, to carry off whole Sentences by Memory, with a sufficient Degree of Accuracy, or to note every Expression minutely, and in its proper Place; especially when representing it in a Language different from what it was spoken in. But I am confident, no one who heard it will say it is here represented with Aggravations, or in too strong Colours, but rather in too faint ones for the Original, and in too cursory a Manner. It would have been more for the Satisfaction of the Reader, as well as of the Writer, could the Party accused have been favoured with a Copy of that Part of the Speech which contained the Accusations, in order to obtain which,

THE Day after this Speech was deliver'd, the Rector with some of the Fellows waited on the Vice-Chancellor and requested a Copy of that Part of his Speech which reflected on the College; alledging, that as he had been pleased to pass some very heavy Censures upon it, they hoped he would do them the Justice to give them a Copy of what he had said, that they might know the full Extent of the Charge brought against them, in order for their Vindication; that it was impossible to recollect one half of it with sufficient Exactness, as it made so considerable a Part of the Speech, and that they were very desirous of being exact; that there might be no room to complain of Misrepresentation afterwards, &c.—The Vice-Chancellor answer'd, that he had reflected on nobody of the College, had spoke handsomely of the Rector and the Tutors, and had only lamented the unhappy Situation the College was in by the Admission of such Kind of People, &c.—With regard to the granting a Copy of the Part of his Speech as requested, he said it was not usual to demand a Copy of the Vice-Chancellor's Speech; you heard what was said, and will be able to recollect it, &c.

OTHER Parts of the Conversation that pass'd between the Vice-Chancellor and the Gentlemen of *Exeter*-College, I make no mention of in this Place. At present I only remark upon two Things, as being of a very singular Nature, *viz.* the Vice-Chancellor's affirming that he had reflected on no one of the College; and his Refusal of a Copy of his Speech so far as related to the College.—

COULD the Vice-Chancellor say, and be serious in saying it, that he had reflected on no one of the College? On whom then, or on what did he reflect? On the Walls of the College? The poor Walls were not to be blamed; no, not even had they contained as much Corruption and Defilement as he has represented them. Neither were the Gates of the College in Fault; not even the worst of the Gates, the *Ψευδόθυρον*, the *Back-Gate* itself, was any way criminal. For it was not a self-opening Gate, but turn'd on its Hinges at the Direction of those who have the sole Right of commanding its Motions. Give me leave to say without Offence, that so evasive, and at the same time so unmeaning a Reply of Mr. Vice-

Vice-Chancellor's, cannot be treated otherwise than in a ludicrous Manner; and yet ridiculous as this Plea was, he scrupled not to repeat it several Times in the Conversation above-mentioned.

As to the Vice-Chancellor's Refusal of a Copy of his Speech so far as related to *Exeter-College*, the Remark to be made is of a more serious Kind, being founded on the Principles of common Justice, *viz.* that Persons against whom a Charge is made, especially of so public a Nature as this, have a Right to know minutely and precisely what the Charge contains. It seems unreasonable, it seems highly oppressive, to send a Prisoner, and not, withal to signify particularly the Crimes laid against him. Upon his saying it was not usual to *demand* a Copy of a Vice-Chancellor's Speech, it was replied, that such a Copy was not *demand*ed, but *request*ed only, as a Matter of Equity, that the College might be enabled to enter into an Examination of each Particular charged upon it, in order for its Disculpation. To which was added, that tho' no *Demand* of such a Copy was made, yet if a Proctor of the University had said  
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the same Things in his Speech, the College would certainly have applied to him (the Vice-Chancellor) to *demand* a Copy of what the Proctor had so said.—To which it was coolly answered, “ He believ’d he should not have demanded such a Copy, had the same Things been spoken by a Proctor, in so general a Manner ; that what he had said was no more than a Representation of Facts, which he thought fell properly under his Notice, &c.”

THAT the Vice-Chancellor should be induced to refuse the College this Piece of Justice can be accounted for no other Way one can think of, but by the Hint suggested by himself in his publick *Latin* Speech ; in which, speaking on the Subject we are upon, he trembling said, *he found himself treading upon slippery Ground*, which looked as if he meant in other Words, that he found himself saying some Things which he could not justify ; but upon desiring an Explanation of these Words, he gave them somewhat of another Turn, saying that what he meant by *slippery Ground* was, that he thought he might give Offence to some Persons, and he found he was not mistaken.

mistaken. I make no other Remark on this Explanation than, that if he did not reflect on any Person, as he declares he did not, why should he be afraid of giving Offence to any Person ?

OF the Candor and Equity of this Proceeding of Mr. Vice-Chancellor's, the World will judge.—But tho' the College could not obtain what they so earnestly requested, a Copy of the Charge against them; yet they have been supply'd, in some Measure, by another Way. For,

WITHIN two Days after the above-mentioned Conference, a farther Account of the Vice-Chancellor's Speech, having been sent to *London*, was printed and came down in the *London-Evening-Post*, and was afterwards repeated in *Jackson's Oxford-Journal* of *October* the 12th; the Article was this ;

*We bear from Oxford, that on Tuesday last the Reverend Dr. Huddesford, President of Trinity-College, entered on the second Year of his Office of Vice-Chancellor ; having been nominated thereto by the Right Hon. the Earl of Arran,*



*Arran, Chancellor to that University. In his Speech on this Occasion, wherein he recapitulated the Events of the preceding Year, he took the Opportunity of complimenting the younger People, and the University in general, on the good Behaviour of its Members during a long and protracted Poll and Scrutiny, at the County Election. This led him naturally to animadvert with a becoming Zeal and Severity, on the infamous Behaviour of ONE COLLEGE, which in Despight of all Decency, opened its Gates, and its Cellars, to the Refuse of Mankind, and prostituted itself, during the whole Poll, to be the Shop of CORRUPTION, and the Factory of PERJURY.*

I MAKE no Apology for supposing the Vice-Chancellor to be the Author of this Article ; that is, that he either sent it himself to the *London-Evening-Post*, or gave Directions to others to do it. At least he stands accountable for it, as a Consequence of the Abuses he had thrown out in his Speech, in which it is evident he was understood by his Hearers as saying so much, and that he has ever since acquiesced in the Imputation, or otherwise he could not fail to have contradicted it, and to have re-

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monstrated against this injurious Article, especially when republished in the *Oxford Paper*.

LET us now proceed to enquire what *Exeter-College* has really done to draw upon it these bitter Invectives from the Vice-Chancellor ; and here some Account of the Behaviour of the College, during the Poll, becomes necessary. In order to which we will recite the Vice-Chancellor's Programma at large, that it may be seen what Respect was paid to it by the Rector and all his Society. The Programma was as follows ;

“ WHEREAS there is great Reason to apprehend that the intermixing of Gownmen in the great Concourse expected in this City at the County Election, on *Wednesday* next, cannot but be attended with manifest Danger of Mischief and Insult to their Persons.—

“ THE Vice-Chancellor thinks it necessary to desire of every Governor of each College and Hall, that they will cause their Gates to be shut during each Day  
“ of

“ of the Poll : and that no one be suffer'd  
“ to go out but by their Permission in  
“ Writing, and upon giving satisfactory  
“ Reason for so doing.

“ I DO likewise hereby strictly forbid  
“ every Scholar (except the Proctors, their  
“ Deputies, and such as have legal Votes  
“ in the Election aforesaid) to come near  
“ the Place of Polling ; or to intrude into  
“ or mingle in any Croud : and more espe-  
“ cially I do forbid all and each of them  
“ to appear abroad without their respective  
“ Academical Habits ; or bearing Clubs,  
“ Sticks, or any other Weapon whatsoever  
“ during the Days of the Poll : and this  
“ under the Penalty of having their Names  
“ put in the black Register, and being far-  
“ ther proceeded against with the utmost  
“ Severity.

“ AND for the more secure Protection of  
“ Scholars from Broils and Indignities, and  
“ the more effectual Preservation of Peace  
“ and good Order, I do except out of the  
“ aforesaid Prohibition, and appoint the  
“ under-named Gentlemen to have the  
“ Power and Authority of Proctors during  
“ the

“ the Days of the said Election : and do  
“ entrust them to use their utmost Dili-  
“ gence to detect, and bring to Punish-  
“ ment every Offender against this my Pro-  
“ gramma, &c.

“ *Geo. Huddesford, V. Chr.*

“ *Trinity-Coll. Oxford,*

“ *April 15, 1754.*”

No Remark need be made on the Accuracy of this Composition ; it is before the Publick, and the Publick will judge of it. *Exeter-College* was not disposed to quarrel with the Letter of it : It was their Inclination as well as their Duty to attend to the Spirit and Design of it. They did so. The Vice-Chancellor himself has acknowledged he had no one Objection against the Behaviour of the young Gentlemen of the College. Indeed there was no room for any Complaint against them, either within or without the Walls. They behaved with great Modesty and Decorum during the whole Time, which is the more to be taken notice of, as they must undoubtedly have been subject to some Inconveniencies, from the Entertainment of so large a Family in the College, for the greater Part of the  
Day-

Day-time. The College-Gates were kept shut so far as to answer the full Intention of the Programma. They were not open to the Members of the College, but to those only who had Business to go out. The former submitted to their Confinement with great Prudence and Moderation, and for a longer Time than the Members of most, if not of every other College were obliged to; they having been permitted to go out of their several Colleges, especially those of the Vice-Chancellor's own College, much earlier in the Poll than those of *Exeter*. This is not mentioned here for the Sake of making Comparisons, but purely to shew what strict Regard was paid to the Vice-Chancellor's Programma, by the Rector and whole Society of *Exeter-College*.

WHAT is it then that has given Mr. Vice-Chancellor so much Offence?—Why, the Freeholders, the *New Interest* Freeholders were received into *Exeter-College* and permitted to pass thro' to poll. *Hinc illæ lacrymæ.*—

THE Truth of the Case needs no Disguise nor Varnish, the Reader is welcome to

to

to it in its native Drefs ; and it is this.—The Rector was requested by some very considerable Persons in the New Interest to admit their Voters into the College, in order to be protected against the Insults they were expos'd to without. This Request was readily complied with, as well from a Principle of Humanity and Justice, as from a hearty Good-Will to the Cause itself. And afterwards, when it was found that the Avenues to the Place of Poll were closely shut up by the Crouds of the Old Interest Mob, these New-Interest Freeholders were then permitted to pass thro' *Exeter* Back-Gate to vote. And by this Means the New-Interest were enabled to maintain their Ground ; and this is the sole Occasion of the Violence and Rage of the Old-Interest against the College. As for the more scandalous Part of the Vice-Chancellor's Charge, it will appear, as we go on, to be absolutely groundless. It is Time now to examine it particularly.

THE Charges of the Vice-Chancellor against *Exeter*-College, as contained in his *Speech* and his *News-Paper*, may be reduced to the following Heads ;

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I. THAT

1. THAT during the late Poll for Members of Parliament, the College had open'd their Gates, and admitted Freeholders ; Persons, who were the Refuse and Scandal of Mankind.

2. THAT they had permitted them to pass thro' their Back-gate, to poll at the Election.

3. THAT they entertain'd them with Meat and Drink, in the College.

4. THAT the College, by the Intemperance of these Men, was a Scene of Drunkenness and Debauchery ; that it was cover'd over with Filth and Nastiness, and its very Bed-chambers defiled.

5. THAT it was likewise the Shop of Corruption, and the Factory of Perjury.

Now in Answer to all this, I observe in the *first* Place, that, notwithstanding these Charges, the Vice-Chancellor himself has acknowledged, that neither Rector nor Fellows, had violated any one of the University

fity Statutes, on this Occasion. From whence,

I OBSERVE in the *second* Place, that the Vice-Chancellor had no Right at all to interpose in this Affair. He has no Right to interpose in any Affair transacted within the Walls of a College; but under the Limitations mentioned in the Statute *de Judiciis*, § 13. (to which the Reader is refer'd,) and he might as well make the Conduct of the Head and Fellows of a College in *Cambridge* the Subject of a reproachful Speech, as do so by the Head and Fellows of a College in *Oxford*.

BUT the Vice-Chancellor told the Rector, in the Conversation that passed between them, that the Behaviour of the College at this Juncture fell properly within his Province to animadvert upon, in his anniversary Oration, amongst the Occurrences of the preceding Year. That the Condition the College was in at the Time of the Poll was a Matter of common Talk, and *as such* became a Vice-Chancellor to take notice of, as it gave general Offence.—Offence to whom, Mr. Vice-Chancellor? It could



give offence but to the Well-Wishers of *one* Side at most.—Yes, every one he had conversed with had complain'd of it, and many, who were Persons of Candor, and who did not speak, he believed, out of Party-Zeal.—Sir, if you had conversed alike with Gentlemen of all Sides, you would have heard the Part *Exeter*-College had taken as highly commended by one Set of Gentlemen, as discommended by another. Persons of the first Distinction, and of unblemished Honour and Integrity, have applauded the Conduct of the College in the highest Terms. Therefore the Offence, Sir, was not *general*.

HAD you thought fit, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, to employ your Animadversions where you had a Right to animadvert, you would have taken notice of the Riots and Drunkenness that passed amongst the Freeholders about the Town. This would have properly fallen under your Cognizance, as a Magistrate in the City. But *Exeter*-College you had nothing to do with; what passes within those Walls, falls not within your Jurisdiction. The College is  
 answer-

answerable to the Visitor only upon any Departure from its private Statutes ; and as to any Violation of the Statutes of the University, that, Sir, you do not charge it with. —Why, as to the Inns and Publick-Houses about Town, they were taken up, and he did not think to concern himself about them ; but if any other Colleges had been in the same Situation as *Exeter*, He would have made the same Reflections upon them, *Baliol* for Instance, or *Magdalen*, or *St. John's*.—Mr. Vice-Chancellor, you made no Reflections upon *one* other College, who entertained Freeholders of one Side in their common Hall, as well as *Exeter-College* those of the other.—He had never heard of any such Thing ; but if they did entertain them one Day at Dinner, that was very different from keeping them in College many Days together.

WE now return to answer particularly to the several Charges above mentioned, under their several Heads respectively. The Matters charged in the above Articles are, some laudable, some defensible, and others

false in Fact. And this will appear by considering the several Articles distinctly.

1. THE first Article charges, that the College opened their Gates to Freeholders ; and that these Freeholders were the Refuse and Scandal of Mankind. The former Part of the Charge is true, but laudable ; the latter is false, and deserves no Thanks from the Freeholders. I must take the Liberty to call it an Insult upon the essential Rights of a College, for the Vice-Chancellor to prescribe What Persons shall be admitted within its Walls. The present Gentleman is the first of his Station who ever assumed that Prerogative. The Freeholders were not admitted without sufficient reason. It was requested, as was before mentioned, by Persons of great Honour and Distinction. The End of doing it was, that the Freeholders might be protected from Insults abroad ; from Insults even from the Scholars ; several of this Kind having been already born with Patience. By this Means the Peace was preserv'd during the Poll, and by this Means too, Mr. Vice-Chancellor had an Opportunity of complimenting the young  
Gen-

Gentlemen upon their peaceable Behaviour, in his Speech. The admitting the Freeholders, under these Circumstances, was a Matter of common Justice and Humanity. It is the Duty of every Man to succour a Person distressed, and to afford him a refuge when pursued by an enraged Adversary.

BUT the Vice-Chancellor affects to talk in his candid Manner, that in his Speech he had only lamented the unhappy *Necessity* the College was under of admitting these People, on account of the bad Consequences of it.—What bad Consequences, Mr. Vice-Chancellor? The College knows of none; except this only, that they have been publicly stigmatized by you, Sir, in your Speech. But they are not sensible of having done wrong in the Affair, and would act the same Part again, were a like Occasion to offer. *You* perhaps may reckon it another bad Consequence, that by this Means the New-Interest Freeholders had Access to the Booths.

As to the *Necessity* the Vice-Chancellor speaks of, which the College lay under of

admitting these People, &c, this is to be explained by something that passed in a former Conference betwixt himself and the Rector, who waited upon him some few Days after the Poll for Redress against the Window-Breakers. 'Twas in this Discourse the Vice-Chancellor remark'd upon the unfortunate Situation of *Exeter-College*, and that he himself would not have admitted such Sort of People into his College. To which the Rector reply'd, that the Measures he had taken could not be avoided, that he was not only desired so to do by those he was willing to oblige, but that it seem'd to him to be but just that the Freeholders should have a Passage to the Booths, which otherwise they would not have had; and moreover, that this Measure had contributed most effectually to preserve the Peace, by keeping the two Parties separate from each other as much as possible. As to this last Part the Vice-Chancellor was candid enough to think there might be something in it; but the two former Motives did not go down with him so easily. However, after this friendly Discourse, little did the poor Rector expect to hear himself  
and

and his College so solemnly arraign'd and condemn'd, *ex Cathedrâ*, before the University.

THE Vice-Chancellor's Character of the Freeholders in the New Interest, *viz.* that of *vulgus profanum, famelicum, monstrum horrendum, informe,—cui lumen ademptum*, was declared by him to be spoken in *general*, and that his Epithets were only descriptive of what appear'd of those Kind of People, —But were not the Freeholders of the New Interest as considerable Persons as those of the Old? If they were, this Description must be extended to the Gross Body of the Freeholders of the County. But this, 'tis presumed was not intended by him. It remains therefore, that he designed it for the Description of the New Interest only. With what Justice he has fixt upon them this infamous Character, must be left to himself to explain. He might at least have vouchsafed to except some of the principal Gentlemen of the County, in that Interest, who made *Exeter-College* in a great Measure the Place of their Residence at the Time; Persons as distingable for their  
Honour

Honour and Integrity, as reputable for their Rank and Fortunes.

2. I COME now to say something to the second Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Charge, *viz.* that the College permitted the Freeholders to pass thro' their Back-Gate to poll at the Election.—This was not only defensible, but commendable. It preserved that Liberty of Voting which is the Right of every Freeholder. All other Passages to the Place of Polling had been possessed by the Old-Interest-Men, who prevented those of the New from Access these Ways. But when this Scheme was frustrated by the Society of *Exeter*, a dreadful Outcry was raised upon it. Sir *J. Dashwood* came and demanded of the Rector that he would shut up his Back-gate. The Rector answer'd, that if he should be requested to do so by all the Candidates, he would readily comply; but that Sir *James* himself could not think it reasonable to do this, at the request of one Candidate only. You will find, faith Sir *James*, all the Gentlemen are for it. But the Rector, upon going to the Booths, found the contrary.  
How-

However, it was agreed at last that the Back-gate should be shut, if Sir *James* would undertake to clear the Way, and keep it open, for the New-Interest to approach by the common Passages. Sir *James*, or some of his Friends try'd, or pretended to try, and nothing came of it. The Gate therefore was still kept open, and the Freeholders continued to pass thro' it to the Poll.

— FROM this simple Narrative of Fact I have but one Remark to offer, which is, that the Vice-Chancellor, before he took the Freedom of censuring the College on this Head, and thereby justifying the most notorious Violation of *English Liberty*, should have been sure that what he was doing would be approv'd of elsewhere. For possibly he may not meet with the Thanks from that Quarter he may think he deserves. After all, one cannot imagine any Gentleman to be in earnest, when he affects to talk of the *Unfairness* of coming to a Poll thro' a Back-way. For in the Name of common Sense, of what consequence is it, which Way soever a Man comes to the  
Poll,



Poll, provided he has a Right to poll at all? Whether it be thro' a Back-Door, or Fore-Door, or no Door at all, which ever Way gives him the easiest and safest Access, that he has a Right to make use of, if he can.—A very worthy Person, of great Distinction in the University, though voting on the Vice-Chancellor's Side of the Question, made use of this Right: and passed to the Place of Poll thro' the Rector's own Lodgings.—Now, I would ask, Did these Voters create any Disturbance? Did they obstruct others from voting? Did they vote clandestinely? Or in any Respect infringe the Freedom of Election? Where then could be the Crime of obtaining Access to the Poll this Way, which otherwise was inaccessible?

3. THE Vice-Chancellor's third Charge is, that the Freeholders were entertained with Meat and Drink in *Exeter* College.—And why might not this be done at *Exeter*, as well as *New* College? If this were unlawful or unfit to be done six Days together, it must be proportionably so, to be done one Day. And yet *New* College has  
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never

never been blamed, either by the Vice-Chancellor or any one else, as far as I have heard, for entertaining what Guests they thought proper: they themselves were the best Judges whom to entertain, and had no Occasion to ask the Vice-Chancellor's Leave. The same Right is claimed by *Exeter*. The same Arguments which have been urged in Defence of the College for admitting the Freeholders into it, and permitting them to go to poll through the back Gate, will hold here likewise. There were great and unavoidable Delays in the Polling, during which the Waiters must either be refreshed or starved. See how reasonable the Vice-Chancellor is!—The Freeholders ought not to be admitted into the College even for the sake of Protection: Or, if admitted, they ought not to be allowed a Passage through the back Gate: Or, if this should be allowed, he would have them starve before they could make any Use of this Privilege.—That the Freeholders in general were content with moderate Provisions, is well known to those who conducted that Affair.—It would be well if the Vice-Chancellor would employ that  
Time

Time in managing his own College, which he throws away about another, with which he has no Concern.

4. WE proceed now to the more scandalous Parts of the Vice-Chancellor's Charge; such as that under the fourth Head, that by the Intemperance of the Freeholders the College was a Scene of Drunkenness and Debauchery; that it was covered with Filth and Nastiness, and its very Bed-chambers defiled. This Charge is absolutely denied; the Modesty and good Order of the Freeholders entertained was in the general remarkable. They, many of them, attended the Chapel at the Hours of Prayer, where they behaved with Decency and Devotion. Though it has been said by some (I think, this is no Part of the Vice-Chancellor's Charge) that the Chapel was turned into a Stable for the Freeholders Horses.—That there was not any the least Degree of Intemperance observable amongst them for so long a Time, who will take upon him to assert? And if asserted, who will think it credible, or even possible, considering the Numbers  
3 that

that were together, and the Occasion that brought them thither? The Author of these Pages was a frequent Spectator of what passed among them, and as frequent a Commender of their moderate and respectful Behaviour.

BUT pray, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, were you yourself a Witness of any Thing amiss in the College at this Time? Or do you know the Truth of the Facts you have charged it with? Those Scenes of Gluttony, Drunkenness, and all Kinds of Defilements even in the very Bed-chambers, which you have imputed to it in your Speech, Have you any Proof, Sir, for these Accusations, besides the Report of Persons, who wished ill to the College, on account of the Part they espoused in the Election? — Why, it seems, every one you met with complained of it.—But should you not consider how sparingly such Complaints are to be listened to, especially at Election Times, where Men are too apt to invent the Reports they spread, for the sake of blackening and defaming? And should you not have had a better Foundation than mere Election-

Election-Calumny, before you ventured to build upon it so heavy a Charge?

BUT Mr. Vice-Chancellor seems to be pleased with thinking, he hath furnished himself with one Proof, at least, in Support of his *general* Charge. And this Instance consists of a *particular* Charge against one of the Fellows ; through whose Side the College is to be wounded. It is this, that Mr. B——, lodged in his own, or in some Gentleman Commoner's Bed, one of the vilest Fellows about the Country. And of this, it seems, an Affidavit had been made before him. The Vice-Chancellor was desired to name the Person who made the Affidavit : he declined it, saying, you best know, Mr. B——, what Truth there is in it. Mr. B—— declared, upon his Honour and Conscience, that as far as he understood it, without a Sight of the Deposition, it was absolutely false, (not what the Vice-Chancellor had said, but what the Man had sworn to, that perhaps the Deposition had been improperly taken by him, as was known to have been a Case that had happened more than once. That there were  
Ways

Ways of taking Affidavits, that did not always bring Truth to Light; that if the Vice-Chancellor had acquainted him with this Affidavit before, that he might have had an Opportunity of clearing himself, it would have been kinder than reserving it for the Lamentation of a publick Speech; but he hoped the Vice-Chancellor would still enable him to do himself Justice, by giving him a Sight of the Affidavit. The Vice-Chancellor refused.

MARK now the Justice and Candor of this Proceeding! Who is this vile Fellow? He doth not say. Who made this Affidavit? He will not discover. He will not give the very Person he accuses so much as a Sight of it. On this Footing, how is it possible that any innocent accused Man can clear himself? In short, no good Reason can be given for his refusing to produce this Affidavit, but that he is afraid it has been taken improperly. *If so*, he is wise in refusing, but was he wise, in officiously taking an Affidavit, in a Matter not cognisable by a publick Magistrate? I have

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no

no more to say to this Article, but go on to the next ; which is

5. THE fifth and last Charge, *viz.* That *Exeter* College, during the Election, was the Shop of Corruption, and the Factory of Perjury.

It must look strange to the Eye of every Reader, that a Society of Scholars, Persons of Character, of a liberal Education, and entrusted with the Education of others, should find themselves under the Necessity of answering to a Charge of so heinous and criminal a Nature. Men of Sense and Temper will rather think such Charges are to be despised ; to be looked upon as no other than the usual Concomitants of an Election, after the Zeal of the Parties is sufficiently heated against each other : In short, that no one will believe these Charges, and therefore no one need be at the Pains of answering them. I confess I am of the same Opinion ; and whilst this Sort of Scandal has been confined to vulgar Mouths, and the Scriblers of the Day ; to prostitute Declaimers, and *London-Evening*

*Evening-Posts*, it has been indeed very harmless, and treated accordingly with proper Disdain. But when the Slander is once adopted by Persons in Authority, and becomes dignified by the Speaker; when it issues from the Chair of the Magistrate, and is retailed out again in the common News-Papers uncontradicted, the accused Party is then properly called upon to make its Defence. Silence, in this Case, would be next to a Confession of Guilt; at least it would betray something bad in the Tempers of the Persons accused, who could sit down quietly under *authorised* Reproaches, regardless of their own Characters, as well as the Credit of the Society to which they belong.

THE Charge we are upon consists properly of two Parts, which, for Method's sake, shall be considered distinctly.

THE first Part is, that the College was *the Shop of Corruption*.—By Corruption, I suppose, must in this Place be understood, a tampering with Persons by unlawful Means to procure their Votes. If this be



what is meant, the Vice-Chancellor is challenged to produce his Proofs of this shameful Charge. It is absolutely denied; and that is the only Answer which can be given or expected, till he produces his Instances and his Proofs. Yet, though not oblig'd to it, we will give him one very strong presumptive Proof against his general Accusation; which is, that the College could have no Temptation towards tampering with the Freeholders within their Walls, because they who were receiv'd there, were already determined how to vote before they came in; and the Complaints made against the College for receiving the Freeholders were partly grounded upon this, that the *Old Interest* Gentlemen, (the more violent of them I mean) were hereby in a great measure deprived of the Opportunity of tampering with them abroad. And yet the College Walls were not a sufficient Guard against every Thing of this Kind: For some of the *Old Interest* Zealots frequently forced themselves into it, and there attempted what they have charged on the College, and which the College would have been ashamed to practise.

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THE other Part of the Charge is still worse, *viz.* That *Exeter* College prostituted itself, during the whole Poll, to be *the Factory of Perjury*.—This is a Charge the most infamous that can possibly be brought; and therefore, the making such a Charge against innocent Men, is a Crime inexpiable. The Vice-Chancellor is again call'd upon to produce his Proofs. The Proof of any one Instance of *Subornation of Perjury* is enough to sink for ever the Person guilty of it,—much more the being a *Factory of Perjury*. This is too serious a Matter to be trifled with, or to be laughed off with a Sneer. It has been given out, as coming from the Vice-Chancellor himself, that when the Rector, with certain of the Fellows, waited on him to discourse seriously about his extraordinary Conduct, he only sneer'd them.—If this be true, he must have harden'd himself wonderfully, in a very short Time; for the very Thought of what he was doing, when he uttered these Slanders, made him tremble; and he ought to be told, he forgets what is owing to the Dignity of a Vice-Chancellor, as well as to the Character of the Persons he was discoursing with. *As a mad Man who casteth Firebrands,*

*Arrows, and Death ; so is the Man that deceitfully slandereth his Neighbour, and saith, am not I in Sport ?*

BUT what is meant by the Factory of Perjury? Not surely the Factory of every Kind of Perjury? Such a Factory, I presume, never yet existed. Or, is it to be understood only, of Perjury in matters relating to the Election? Let him say, to what Instances he would have this Charge applied. Let him say, whether the College, or any one Person of the College ever persuaded any one to swear he was possessed of a Freehold he was not possessed of,—or, that it was of the Value of forty Shillings *per Annum*, when it was under that Value; or, advised the *erasing and forging Dates* in Title Deeds, to stretch the Time of Possession; or, to vote in any other Respect without a legal Qualification. Or, does he mean (which may possibly be the Case) that the College, or some Members of it, persuaded those to swear they had Freeholds, who were possessed only of what have been called *customary Freeholds*? If so, let him first prove that the College, or any Member of it, had any  
Hand

Hand in an Affair of this Nature ; and if they had, that the Charge itself carries with it any Matter of Blame. The Vice-Chancellor is no Judge of this Point. It is a Matter of Law, with which he is no more acquainted than he seems to be with his own Statutes. The Freeholders had receiv'd such Satisfaction on this Head, from the Judgment of able Lawyers, as did fully justify them in their Proceedings. Let him remember, that his own Side satisfied themselves with the Opinion of one Lawyer only, in a Point much less clear, and ventur'd the Consciences of their own Voters on that Opinion.—Or, does he, by his Charge of Perjury, intend to charge all those who voted on the *New Interest* Side, as perjured on *that* Account, and mean, that the College, by encouraging such Voters, made themselves the Factory of Perjury? Probably this might be his Intention ; for this seems to be the right Construction by the Character he has given of the *New Interest* Freeholders, the *vulgus PROFANUM*, &c. And this will appear still more strongly, from the Compliments he hath paid the young Gentlemen, in his

Speech, on their honest Indignation against Perjury.—What Perjury? Why, the Perjury of voting for the *New Interest*. For this Indignation was frequently expressed by them in the early Time of the Poll,—before any customary Freeholders had offered themselves,—before the Freeholders so charged had so much as appeared at the Poll,—and purely on seeing the Party-Badge of Distinction in their Hats. Here then, if he shall think it any Advantage to himself or his Cause, the College will be ready to make this Confession, that not only those Members of it, who had a Right of voting, did give their Votes on the *New Interest* Side, but that all the rest (those resident at least) would have done the same, had they enjoy'd a like Right of Voting: And what they did, or would have done themselves, they recommended, as far as they honestly could, to others.—This Concession Mr. Vice-Chancellor is welcome to make the most of. The College has much less Reason to be ashamed of their Behaviour, than he has of his.

It is acknowledged, and ought to be so, that as Perjury is a Crime of the very worst Kind, so an Indignation against those who are guilty of it, is commendable both in him, and his applauded young Gentlemen. But let not this Indignation be misplaced. Let it not be directed against those who detest Perjury as much as himself,—I was going to say, more so. To scatter about such horrid Charges, is a Crime next to the being guilty of Perjury itself.

INDEED *Exeter* College is no Stranger to this Sort of Charges upon it, but, as was before observ'd, they have been hitherto disregarded, as coming from Persons of no Character or Consequence. Yet in one Instance an Exception must be made, which being a Charge of something like *Subornation of Perjury*, and seeming to gain Credit at the Time, 'twas judg'd proper by the Society to disperse abroad the following *Advertisement*.

*Oxford, May 1754.*

“ THE Cook of *Exeter College* hav-  
 “ ing thought fit, at the late Coun-  
 “ ty Election, to offer himself to poll, re-  
 “ fusing

“ fusing at the fame Time to take the  
“ Freeholder’s Oath: Occasion from thence  
“ has been taken to raife a Report, that  
“ the faid Cook had been preffed by that  
“ Society to vote as a Freeholder, though  
“ he was not poffeffed of any Freehold,  
“ nor could in Confcience take the above-  
“ faid Oath. As equitable Perfons may be  
“ defirous to know whether there could be  
“ any Grounds for fo wicked an Afperſion,  
“ to fuch the following Particulars will  
“ be fatisfactory, *viz.*

“ That the faid Cook, by his own re-  
“ peated Confefſion before Witneffes, was  
“ never defired by any Perſon whatſoever,  
“ of *Exeter College*, to vote without having  
“ a legal Qualification.

“ That he was never threatened with  
“ loſing his Place, or the like, if he did  
“ not vote.

“ That he himſelf had given out at di-  
“ vers Times before the Election, that he  
“ had bought a Freehold, and ſhould vote  
“ for the *New Intereſt*.

“ That

“ THAT in particular he came voluntarily to one of the Society above a Twelve-month before the Election, and acquainted him that he had bought a Freehold, and intended to vote for the *New Interest*.

“ THAT not above three Weeks before the Election, he laid a Wager, that he was then actually possessed of a Freehold, and had a good Vote.

“ THAT he was not, at the Time of Polling, or at any other Time whatsoever, put upon voting by any Member of the College, but upon the Presumption of his being, what he pretended to be, legally possessed of such a Freehold, as would qualify him to take the Oath of a Freeholder.

“ THE Truth of what is here alledged (besides the repeated Acknowledgements of the Cook himself) is ready to be deposed upon Oath, were that necessary, for the Satisfaction of reasonable and candid Enquirers; for, as to the unreasonable and uncandid, the Society abovementioned is little concerned whether such Persons are pleased to be satisfied or not.”



THIS soon obviated all ill Impressions with reasonable Men, nor has the Affair been, or is likely to be, attended with any other Consequence, than the Dismission of the Cook from the Society for his Knavery and Folly.

BUT to return to the Vice-Chancellor, one might be apt to wonder what could provoke this Gentleman to work himself up to such a Pitch of Rage against a Society, who had done nothing to offend him, unless he reckoned it an Offence, that they had, some or other of them, demanded Justice from him in Cases, where he was disposed not to grant it. Some of these Cases were important, others so in a less Degree. In none did he do full Justice, in some none at all.—That he may not complain of a Charge brought against him without producing Instances to support it,

LET him remember, in how tender a Manner he treated one Offender, who was accused by the Rector and some of the Fellows, and had it fully proved on him, that he several Times cry'd out, within the Walls of *Exeter* College, *King James for ever*. He condemned him to beg Pardon  
in

in the Convocation House, with which Sentence the Rector expressed himself very well satisfied, weakly imagining the Punishment was to be publick and exemplary. But so was it contrived, that this should be done in the most private Manner, in an ordinary Congregation, at Ten in the Morning. Nor had the Rector himself any Notice given him of the Time, till after the Bell was down, and the Congregation ready to sit; when the young Man was sent to him with a bit of Paper in his Hand, containing some *Latin* Words he was to pronounce, by Way of Acknowledgment of his Levity.—And thus had the poor Rector the Mortification to find himself, in the modern Phrase, *bumbugg'd*, that is, if I understand the Word, trick'd and made a Jest of. And he was rightly serv'd for his Officioufness.—Indeed it should not be omitted, that as an Addition to this Punishment, the young Man was order'd by the Vice-Chancellor to ask Pardon of the Rector and Fellows, but this Compliment was declined by the Society, as the Offence was not properly against them, but HIS MAJESTY.

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LET him remember, with what Regard to Justice he treated a Complaint brought against two of his own College, who were charged with breaking the Windows of *Exeter* College,—were seen (one of them at least) to have done it,—were pursued Home, and let into College. One of the Offenders slipt out of Town, and the other deny'd that he did it ; though they had both wandered about Town together, and came home together late at Night, and therefore ought to have been considered as Companions in Guilt; yet did this Magistrate determine in a most arbitrary Manner, that nothing at all could be done in the Affair. He who does not restrain such Violences, when he is empower'd and oblig'd to do so, must be understood to encourage them.

LET him remember, how perfectly he relieved one of the senior Fellows of the College, upon a Complaint made to him against a young Scholar, who had, within the Walls of *Exeter* College, affronted him in the grossest Terms. He would have the young Man beg Pardon, indeed,  
by

by way of Satisfaction to the offended Person, but refused to punish him at all in the Way of Example, as the Statute *De contumeliis compefcendis*, requir'd.

LET him remember once more, in what Manner he behaved, when a Complaint was brought to him againft the Common-Room-Man of his own College. An infamous, obscene Paper, reflecting on *Exeter* College, and on one of the Fellows in particular, as likewise on the two honourable Candidates of the *New Interest*, had been ftuck up at *Exeter* College-Gate by this Common-Room Man and one Person more. The Vice-Chancellor was defir'd to take the Evidence of this on Oath, but absolutely refused to do it; and then, to evade the taking farther Cognifance of this Infult, pretended, that the Servant did not belong to him, but to the Common-Room: As if a Vice-Chancellor of *Oxford*, and Governor of a College, had no Authority but over his own Domesticks! As to himfelf, perhaps it were to be wifh'd, by fome Persons at leaft, that this Doctrin could be juftified. *When the Righteous are*  
*in*

*Authority, the People rejoice : But when the  
beareth Rule, the People mourn.*

WHAT has been said in the foregoing Pages, is sufficient, 'tis presumed, to clear the College from the heavy Charges brought against it by the Vice-Chancellor in his Speech.

IT may be proper, however, to say something to the more candid Reader, upon the Conduct of the College, considered in another Light. For though the Vice-Chancellor has acquitted it of any Violation of the University Statutes ; yet probably others, as well as himself, may have reflected upon it, as acting in an *unacademical* Manner.—Let it be granted that this Charge is not wholly groundless.—The Word *academical* is a vague Term, being not strictly defined by its Relation to the University Statutes, but extends farther to the Customs and Usages, the Manners and Appearances of Things in a collegiate View. It may be said that Colleges were not design'd to be Intermeddlers in County-Elections, and much less to receive and entertain

entertain a Multitude of Freeholders upon a contested Election, and that so far at least *Exeter*-College has acted a Part unacademical. Be it so. Colleges were not instituted for the Purpose of Elections, nor to entertain Freeholders, but is it therefore absolutely inconsistent with the Design of Colleges to contribute their Assistance upon an extraordinary Emergency? Is it absolutely incompatible with their Institution, that they should offer their Services to the Publick in any other, than a literary Way? Are the Muses wholly uninterested in the Affairs of their Country, or too coy to step abroad out of their native Solitude? But neither were Colleges originally design'd for the Entertainment of Friends, or Hospitality to Strangers, but surely not every Thing that is *beside* the Intention of these Foundations, is therefore to be pronounc'd *contrary* to it. Academics, whilst they have Connexions with the World, and Obligations to Friends and Patrons abroad, cannot avoid acting sometimes in a Character not properly academical. Where is the College, or the single Man in the University that will undertake to have maintain'd the Character of strict

*Academicalness*, if you will call it so, throughout ? How many Instances of the contrary do we see among us every Day, every Hour of the Day, but which are never complain'd of, at least whilst these Instances are harmless ? These Seats of Learning which were antiently more secluded from the rest of Mankind, are now, by the Condition and Fashion of the Times, become more open. A freer Intercourse is had and encouraged betwixt Academicks and Men of the World. Nor will the World about us suffer us to be so retired as our original Institutions design'd we should be. We do not make the Times, but the Times us. What was once suitable to them, may now, by an unavoidable Necessity, be most disconsonant and absurd. Our Elegancies, our Ornaments, our sumptuous Edifices, our magnificent Domes, I had almost said, our very Improvements are unacademical, so far as they are Departures from the Simplicity of our first Founders ; and yet in every other View they are the Honour and Pride of the Age. And do not our Superiors, our Friends, our Benefactors think in the same Way ? else, why those Enlargements which of late

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Years

Years have been making in our Methods of Education? Why, in particular, by a late design'd Benefaction of one of the best Well-Wishers † to the Univerfity it ever had, are fome of the politer and more fashionable Arts and Exercifes attempted to be introduced? Not furely in Conformity to the rigid Notions of an academical Education, but in Corformity to the Demands of the World. Not to bring the World to the Univerfity, which would be too hardy an Undertaking, but the Univerfity to it; that is, to comply as far as poffible with the one, for the Intereft and Profperity of the other.

BUT neither perhaps were we in former Times always fo ftrictly academical, as fome may be apt to imagine.

REMEMBER, in the Time of K. *Charles I.* Colleges were made Boarding-Houfes for Officers and Strangers, as may be feen from moft of the College-Books of that Time; and the very Members of the Univerfity then refident turn'd Soldiers, and form'd a Regiment. Thefe Inftances were never objected againft as unacademical, in

† Lord *Hyde.*



a faulty Sense. The extraordinary Circumstances of the Times justified them.—It will be said indeed, that these were Occasions of the utmost Exigency and Importance to the Kingdom, which cannot be pleaded in the present Case. Be it allowed. Yet the Occasion we are now speaking of, was of some Importance at least, of *great* Importance in the Estimation of those, whom the Objection concerns. It has a Right then to be consider'd with a proportionable degree of Allowance.—Not every Thing therefore, which is *unacademical*, is for that Reason *blamable*.

A REMARK or two more must be made upon the Vice-Chancellor's Conduct, before we conclude.

THE Vice Chancellor has thought fit, both in his Programma of *July* 2d, as well as in the Speech we have been considering, to compliment the younger Part of the University on their good Behaviour at the Time of the Election.—I have no Objection to make at present against their Behaviour: but with what consistency the Vice-Chan-

Chancellor, of all Men, could pay them these Compliments may require some Explanation. For observe, by the Programma of the 15th of *April*, “ *every Scholar is strictly forbid (except the Proctors, &c. &c.) to come near the Place of Polling; or to intrude into or mingle in any Croud, &c.—and this under the Penalty of having their Names put in the black Register, and being farther proceeded against with the utmost Severity.*” And yet after all this, does he produce himself as a Witness of their Modesty and good Behaviour at the Booths.—What! was He himself a Witness of their Modesty in violating his own peremptory Injunction, “ not to appear at the Booths, nor to mingle with the Freeholders in the Streets?” Had they incurred “ the Penalty of being put into the Black Book, and being proceeded against with the utmost Severity;” and yet complimented at the same Time by the very Magistrate, whose Orders they had despis’d? And did he not know farther, that these his Orders had been disregarded, even from the Messages that had been sent to him more than once, by a Person of Authority, to desire his Assistance; an Answer

to one of which Messages was, as reported, that *he might make use of his own Constables?* He best knows, what Truth there is in it.—But what can this mean?—Did he issue out these Orders by way of Parade, and merely for the sake of making an Appearance of Discipline, but with a secret Intention that no Notice should be taken of them? Did he design to compliment his Scholars at all Events, whether they obey'd or disobey'd? Ill surely does it become a Magistrate to court popular Favour, at the Expence of his Dignity, his Discipline, his Veracity.

I AM willing to allow the young Gentlemen as much Merit as they deserve, but not more. To say, there was no room for Complaint against them, is not true. There was room for Complaint. Some Misbehaviour from Scholars of other Colleges coming into *Exeter*, and treating not only the Freeholders, but the Rector himself with great Rudeness, might be here mentioned; but we want not to revive Grievances against any, much less to charge all with the Indiscretions of some; whom indeed it might be thought a little hard to censure  
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at this Time of Day, since their Betters, I mean the Vice-Chancellor, has shewn his Approbation of their Behaviour towards the College, by so publickly insulting it himself.

ANOTHER like Instance of Mr. Vice-Chancellor's consistent Behaviour, tho' already noted, may deserve a Reflection or two more. In answer to the Complaints of *Exeter-College* against his hard Usage of their Society, he defends himself to this Purpose, " That he had said nothing particularly against the Rector or Fellows, on the contrary, had distinctly commended them in his Speech ; that he only spoke in general Terms, censuring the College, against whom the Complaints were general, and as became a Vice-Chancellor to do in a Speech, which was to recite the Occurrences of the past Year : that he had treated them even with Tenderness, &c.—*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*. But can he reckon this a Defence, and not rather a fresh Insult ? Let it be resolv'd into its several Principles, and the Analysis will be this : that,

To compliment a Man in one Part of a Speech (if such a Compliment were not intended as a Banter) is a Proof, that the Person so complimented neither is, nor can be abused in another Part of it.

AN Abuse in general Terms (tho' well understood by every one that hears it) is no Abuse at all.

ABUSES grounded on common Fame, at the Time of a publick Election, when mad Zealots think Lying lawful, are no Abuses.

LASTLY, A Vice-Chancellor hath a Right to abuse whom he pleases in a publick Speech, when he is to give an Account of the Occurrences of the past Year, which have happen'd during his Magistracy.

Now, does he not think such a Defence wants another Defence, impossible to be made for it.

To crown all, this humane Magistrate, after having treated the College in the Manner before set forth, claims even their Thanks: He hath used them with Tenderness,

dernefs.—Such tender Mercies—are Cruelties.

LET us at laft appeal to the generous Reader, whether, after perufing thefe Sheets, he will not allow *Exeter-College* to expoftulate with the Vice-Chancellor in fome fuch Manner as follows.

MR. Vice-Chancellor, you are the Governor of the Univerfity, and, as fuch, the Protector of its Honour and Fame. Every Member of the Univerfity, much more every Society in it, is under your Protection. The Peace and Credit of all and each is moft wifely provided for in the Statutes by the ftricteft Prohibitions againft Calumny and Defamation. Thefe Statutes, Sir, you are Guardian of, and have fworn to obferve : and yet you feem to think you are the only Perfon that have a Right to break them. You have taken upon you to reprobate a Body of Men, a whole Society at once, in the moft public Manner, in the Face of the whole Univerfity, in the groffeft and moft aggravating Terms. You have laid Charges againft them of Crimes of the deepeft Dye. This you have done without

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the least Proof, without even the Appearance of a Proof of such Accusations, as ought to be supported by the strongest. You have stoop'd even to the lowest degree of Scandal and Abuse, unworthy the Mouth even of the most Vulgar, and which none but the most licentious has ever utter'd.—

How much below the Dignity of the Chair do you descend to the bitterest Invectives against an incorporated Society, a no inconsiderable Branch, of your *Alma Mater*? A Proceeding, for which you have no Example amongst your Predecessors in that venerable Office!—for which you have no Example from any Person of Station in the University; after *one* Man at least is excepted, whose prostituted Character is too well known to need Reprehension, or even Notice. One, who having offer'd himself to Sale both in *E——d* and *I——d*, and being found not worth the Purchase, has been ever since employing his Pen and his Tongue in seditious Pamphlets and factious Harangues; libelling 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.

People. The Effects of disappointed Ambition and a malignant Heart ! a *Dreamer*, in his own Account ! in the Account of the Apostle, one of those *filthy Dreamers*, whose Character it is, *to despise Dominion, and speak evil of Dignities !* a Defamer of that Government, whose greatest Reproach it is, that such abandon'd Libellers are indulg'd the Use of Pen, Ink, and Paper !

AND yet, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, have you been licking the Footsteps of this gloomy Incendiary, and applauding his Performances, as if the Welfare of the University depended upon his Smiles and Patronage !

*Non tali auxilio—non Defensoribus istis  
Tempus eget.—*

*Through the Prudence of them which are in Authority, the City shall be inhabited.---*  
Was it prudent in you, Sir, to set your Mark upon a whole Society under your Government, that every one that passeth by might hiss at it ? A Society, which till now has never been accounted a Dishonour to its *Alma Mater !* whether you consider its Reputation



putation for Discipline, for Learning, for its Services to the Public both civil and religious, for the Resort of Youth to it for Education, for Men of Eminence and Abilities who have been educated in it both formerly and latterly, more especially for its constant Regards to academical Institutions; in all these Respects, it will not surely be too ostentatious to say, that *Exeter-College*, in Proportion to the Size of its Foundation and the Extent of its Influence, has contributed its Share towards raising and maintaining the Fame of this celebrated Seat of Learning. — What then is their Crime? No Matter. Whatever it be — *delenda est Carthago*. No Quarter from me! — I am offended: — let them take it for their Pains. — Are you offended, Sir, that they lie under the Suspicion of too much Loyalty? — of too great an Affection for that Establishment, to which you, as well as they, have subscribed your Allegiance and Fidelity? Have any Members of the University been suspected of Want of Affection to the Government, and Reports thereupon been raised to the Disadvantage of the University in general? Have *Exeter-College* been the

Au-

Authors of these Reports? you will not say it. Why then have you proscrib'd it as an Enemy to the University? — Have you now taken the proper Methods to wipe off these Aspersions.

HAD I had the Honour of being your Privy-Councillor, you should have follow'd another Course. You should not have joined the Mob-Clamour against the College, for using the Privilege, which every *Englishman* claims, of engaging themselves and their Services on the Side they like best, tho' contrary to your own. So far from countenancing, you should have discouraged such Clamors in others. You should not have dipped your Pen in Gall, when you were composing your anniversary Oration, in order to expose the College to public Reproach, even had they been as blamable upon this Occasion, as you have represented them. In this, Sir, you have been no Friend to the University, nor to yourself. For what can this naturally tend to, but to confirm those Suspicions of Disaffection, which you would seem so anxious to remove? Such violent Outrage upon a  
Body

Body of Men, for shewing their Zeal in this Cause,—an Over-zeal let us for once suppose it, what else can it be thought of abroad, but that in reality you are as zealous in *another* Cause, which you dare not own? Candid Men, indeed, may distinguish, and conclude, as they ought, that the Univerfity is not affected by fuch a Reflection, but the Magiftrate only who gives the Occafion for it: 'Tis well if they ftop at this Conclufion.—Had I been your Advifer, you fould have taken the moderate Part at leaft, and have fpared your Cenfures upon the little Appearances of Unacademicalnefs in the College, confidering the Exigency of the Cafe, the laudable Motives they acted from, the Juftice they thought due to the Interests of the Cause they espoufed, and their Humanity in giving Shelter and Affiftance to the honeft Freeholders. Inftead of this, you have represented the Freeholders themfelves of that Side, as a Company of Savages, and their Encouragers a Nef of Profligates and Outcafts.—I fould in particular have advifed, to avoid flattering the Buffoonery of an Orator, who for thirty Years paf, by his intemperate Zeal,