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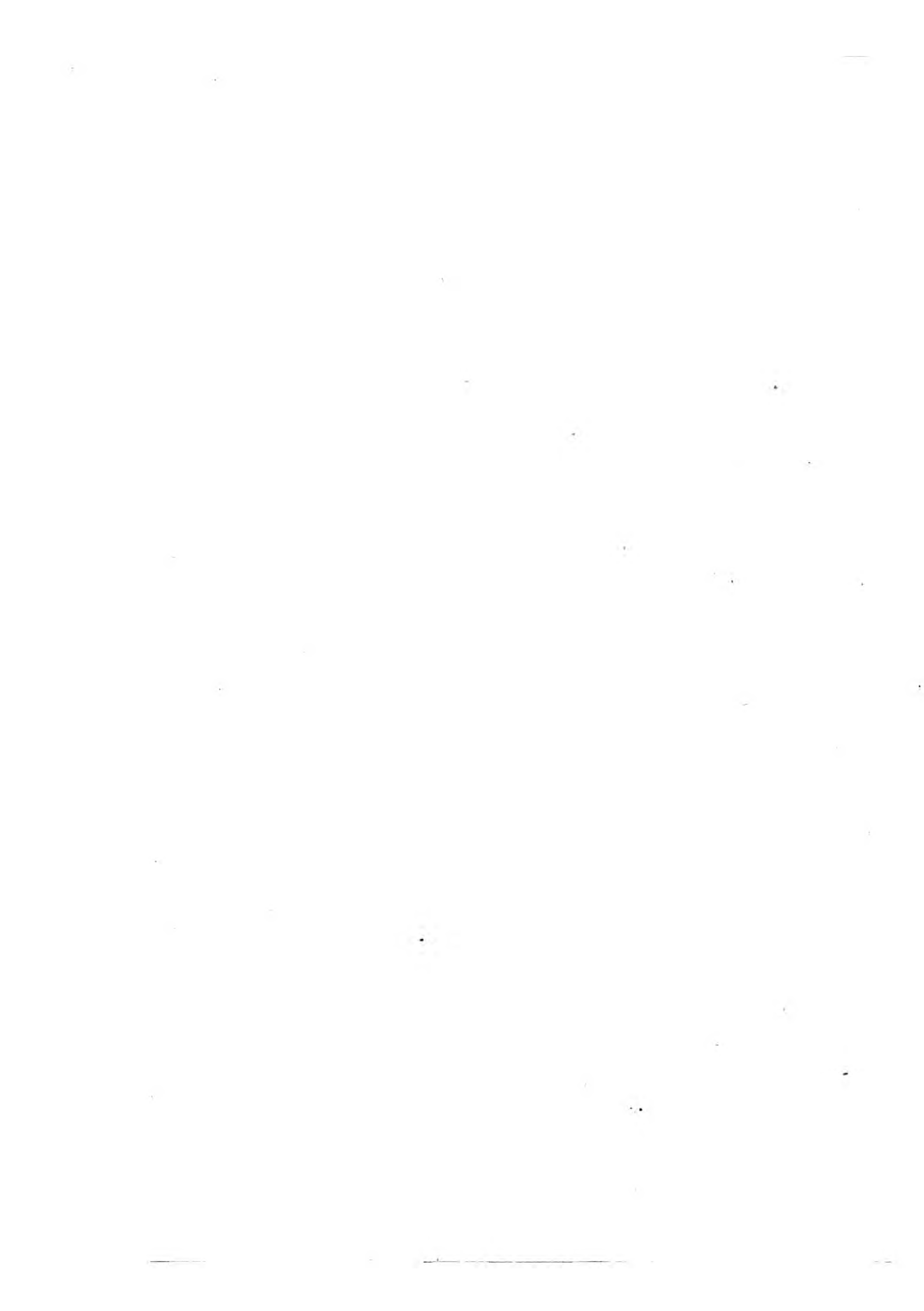
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A FULL and IMPARTIAL
A C C O U N T
 Of all the late
P R O C E E D I N G S
 IN THE
Univerfity of CAMBRIDGE
 A G A I N S T
Dr. B E N T L E Y.

Nunc animis opus, Ænea, nunc pectore firmo.

VIRG.

*Hæ tibi erunt artes; —————
 Parcere subjectis, & debellare superbos.*

VIRG.

————— *Quæ bellua ruptis,
 Cum semel effugit, reddit se prava catenis?*

HOR.

L O N D O N, MDCCXIX.



N. B. *Wherever the word Statute or Statutes is mentioned in the following Account ; it means only those of the University or College spoken of.*

A FULL and IMPARTIAL

A C C O U N T

Of all the late

P R O C E E D I N G S, &c.

THE late proceedings against Dr. *Bentley* having made a good deal of noise in the world ; and having given occasion to the enemies of the University, and the few friends of that Gentleman, to represent them both in print and conversation, as violent and unjustifiable, as the effects of a power falsely usurped or scandalously abused, as influenced by the malice of a party, disaffected to the Government ; it was necessary to publish a true and impartial account of the whole case, (of which I have been a witness and exact observer from the beginning to the end) to obviate the prejudices and mistakes about it, which are every where so industriously propagated.

This is a duty, which, though but a private member, I owe to the University, whose honour and privileges I have sworn to defend.

It is a piece of justice and gratitude due to our Vice-Chancellor, whose conduct will be found as just and necessary, as it is popular and agreeable ; whose concern for the interest and reputation of the University, has prevailed with him to sustain the certain envy and fatigue of a second year's magistracy ; whose experienced abilities, virtue and integrity, have convinced us, that we can no

Account of the Proceedings

where repose ourselves so safely at this time as in his hands. It is a piece of gratitude, I say, we all owe him, for the benefits of his excellent administration; to vindicate his character from the scandalous aspersions of such as are malicious enough to attempt, or weak enough to imagine that they can fully it.

I was besides the rather inclined to give myself this trouble, for the occasion it might possibly be of some good to *Trinity College*; for which I shall always have the last respect: It will be a strong presumption of the reasonableness and necessity of their complaints, that they are governed by a master so insolent, unjust and obstinate, as theirs will appear to be, before I have done with him.

This great ferment amongst us, which has raised the curiosity, and drawn the eyes of the nation upon us, had its rise from the trifling occasion of a fee claimed by *Dr. Bentley*, from those Doctors in Divinity who lately received their Degrees by virtue of the King's nomination: As this claim gave the beginning to the whole quarrel against him, and was the foundation of the censures that have since fallen upon him, I shall beg leave to be very particular and full in the account of it, as well to shew the temper and genius of him we have to deal with; as to justify the conduct of *Dr. Middleton*, who by the action he had commenced for the recovery of his money, gave the first motion to this famous Proceeding.

In *October 1717*, the day after his Majesty's gracious visit to the University, when several Doctors in Divinity, named by mandate, were attending in our Senate-house to receive the creation to their Degrees, *Dr. Bentley* made a new and extraordinary demand of four Guineas from each of them, on pretence of a fee due to him as Professor, over and above a broad piece which had by custom been allowed as a present on this occasion; he absolutely refused to create any Doctor till this fee, as he called it, was paid him. A demand so unexpected occasioned a long and
warm

warm dispute, till at last many of the Doctors, and Dr. *Middleton* among the rest, consented to pay the fee in question, upon this condition, publicly made and frequently repeated to them, that he would restore the money, if it were not afterwards determined to be his right.

In the next congregation all those who had satisfied his demand received their creation from him; but upon his refusal to create some others who would not comply with it, Dr. *Grigge*, then Vice-Chancellor, and the Heads who were present, looking upon this as a violent and bare-faced extortion, gave orders, that any other Doctor of Divinity should perform the ceremony instead of him; and accordingly Dr. *Fisher*, the Master of *Sidney College*, created several for the usual gratuity of a broad piece. They sent at the same time a state of the case to the Duke of *Somerset*, our Chancellor, then at *Newmarket*, whose answer was, That if the Professor continued in this manner to interrupt the business of the University, he would himself come over on purpose to make him know the power of a Chancellor.

Dr. *Bentley* however still insisted upon his claim, but condescended so far, that, instead of the money which he had received of the first, he was content with a note from the rest promising the payment of it, if it should be determined for him by the King, or any authority delegated from him. But finding what scandal he had every where given by this conduct; that his best friends, even Dr. *Davis* and Dr. *Laughton*, condemned him in it, and that he could procure no determination from Court in his favour, he submitted to create one of the King's Doctors who came last, and some others who commenced afterwards, without this pretended fee, or any note given in lieu of it. This was certainly giving up all right and title to it; and yet after such a notorious and public piece of injustice, after his word solemnly given in the face of the University, to restore the money if he could not make good his title to it; he had the assurance to tell the Vice-Chancellor, *That*
he

he would end the dispute as the Germans and Turks had done, with an Uti possidetis.

This fee of four Guineas had never once been demanded before from Degrees taken without exercise : Dr. *Beaumont*, the last Professor but one, had first introduced a fee of two Guineas for his trouble in opposing a Doctor in the Schools, when an act was kept for the Degree; the ground for it was, that by virtue of this opposition he saved to the responding Doctor the forfeiture of the same sum elsewhere. Dr. *James*, his Successor, endeavoured to extend this something farther, and claimed the same fee from some Doctors who had commenced without keeping their act; but he was over-ruled in this by Dr. *Fisher*, then Vice-Chancellor, and obliged to restore the only two Guineas he had ever demanded. But to make himself amends for the disappointment, he raised the fee of his opposition to four Guineas, pretending that as it was in his choice to perform that exercise or not, he might set what price he pleased upon his own labour; but it has been justly thought a reflection upon us, that this encroachment of his was not censured and superseded.

As then the sole pretence to this fee is grounded on exercise kept in the Schools, and on the trouble and fatigue sustained there by the Professor, and even then not warranted by any Statute or Equity : What reason or plea can there be for it in such Degrees as by the nature of them are excused from all exercise, and exempted from the penalties of not performing it? The only thing that is said for it with any shew of reason is, that the other Professors of Law and Physick have their full fees on this occasion, as if all exercise had been regularly performed : And why then should not the Professor of Divinity be allowed the same?

But their case will be found very different from his : for in the first place they have custom and prescription for their practice, which he does not so much as pretend to : And besides in the institution

stitution of all Universities, where an Ecclesiastical Benefice, or a sufficient stipend is settled upon the Professor of Divinity, it is made infamous, and at least a *turpe lucrum*, to take fees for the discharge of his duty: The Civil Law [a], which does not allow a Philosopher to be mercenary, will bear much stronger against a Professor of Divinity; the [b] Canon Law is particularly severe on this head, and treats it as simoniacal to take money for conferring the honours and degrees of this Faculty: And by a constitution of the [c] Council of *Lateran* (which, according to the [d] present Bishop of *Lincoln*, is said to be as forcible in *England* as an Act of Parliament) a Professor is made liable to deprivation for this practice. The famous *Bucer*, one of our first Professors in this chair, would not accept his degree of Doctor in Divinity, but on condition of paying no fees for it, which he condemned as unlawful in a speech made to the University, out of which I have subjoined [e] two memorable citations.

But besides all this, there is a clear and apparent equity in the case of the other Professors which Dr. *Bentley's* cannot admit of: At the time of their foundation by *Henry VIII*, the same stipend of forty pounds *per Ann.* was settled upon each of them, a provision in that age ample and sufficient to maintain the dignity of a *Regius Professor*; the taking of fees would then have been scandalous in any of them. The Statute says [f], that the sufficiency

[a] Hoc primum profiteri eos oportet, mercenariam operam spernere. *Ulp.*

[b] *Cap.* Prohibeas de Magistris, & ne aliquid exigatur pro licentiâ docendi.

[c] *Cap.* Quoniam eod. tit.

[d] *Gibson's Codex Juris Eccles. p.* 945.

[e] Quam certè severiter veteres illi verè sapientissimi atque sanctissimi Patres, omnem pecuniæ præstationem hisce abesse judiciis & testimoniis censuerint, testantur satis qui sunt ab illis hac de re in frequentissimis atque religiosissimis

Conciliis constituti Canones. Denique ratio consilii mei approbanda, cur illud moderatorum hujus Scholæ beneficium admiserim, ut me in numerum Doctorum Theologorum cooptarent, omnino gratis, ut nemini quicquam hac de causâ sit à me numeratum vel numerandum. *Orat. Mart. Buceri.*

[f] *De Offic. trium Lector.* Quo quis ampliore mercede & stipendio donatus est, eò majorem laborem libenti animo capere debet.—

of the salary was to encourage the greater diligence in the discharge of their duty: but by the great change that has since happened in the value of money, their income is now become but a sixth part of its original value: This deficiency has been more than supplied to the Divinity Professorship, by the addition of a good benefice to it from the Crown; and, as Dr. *Bentley* himself has bragged, he can now make it worth to him six hundred pounds *per Ann.* This is about three times as much as it was at first designed to be, and is probably the noblest endowment of any Professorship in *Europe*. But the Professors of Law and Physick having had no augmentation of their original salaries, have no way left but that of fees to make themselves amends; without the allowance of these, their Professorships would fall very short of a competent maintenance; and with all they are allowed to claim, they cannot bring them to half the value of their first institution.

But to make an end of the history of this fee, it is very certain that our Professor had neither statute, precedent, nor equity to support his claim to it. The University, as far as their authority reached with him, over-ruled him in it upon the spot: His Grace our Chancellor had declared against it: the Court took no cognizance of it: but a great Minister of State to whom he had talked much of referring it, had, as I have heard, assured our Vice-Chancellor, that he would not meddle with it. So that Dr. *Middleton* thought he had sufficient reason to expect his money again, all law whatsoever giving him a just and equitable action for the recovery of it. He accordingly made his demand of it, first by a letter, which was taken no notice of, and afterwards in person.

The Vice-Chancellor shewed on this occasion all possible tenderness and regard to Dr. *Bentley*, as has already been particularly observed in the printed state of our proceedings. But after all his pains to put a quiet and amicable end to this dispute, he has been repaid for his civility with the odious charge of a suspected Judge: The

The decree was at last issued, and put into the hands of Mr. Clarke the Beadle to be executed; what reception it met with we shall find in the following deposition.

The Deposition of Mr. Clarke the Beadle.

“ ON Tuesday the 23d of September, I waited on Dr. Bentley,
“ and told him I had orders from Mr. Vice-Chancellor to
“ arrest him at the suit of Dr. Middleton. He asked me why I
“ came so late, that he had expected me all the afternoon, design-
“ ing to write by the Post to the King about it. I told him I
“ brought it soon after I received it. Well, said he, 'tis illegal
“ and unstatutable, and I will not obey it; let me see your arrest,
“ are there nine heads to it? I told him I could not part with it,
“ because it was my authority. Well, said he, you shall have it
“ again, only let me peruse it. Then he took it, and said, It signi-
“ fied nothing, because there was not the consent of nine heads;
“ and added, that the Vice-Chancellor used him worse than he
“ would any common Doctor of the town; that the Vice-Chan-
“ cellor was not his Judge, and that he should find; the King alone
“ was his Judge, as he was his *Regius Professor*; that the Vice-
“ Chancellor should not think that he would be concluded by
“ what he and four or five of his friends determined against him
“ over a bottle: that they acted foolishly, calling an arrest and a
“ summons to his Court the same thing; and that if he gave bail
“ or went to prison he satisfied the Law. I told him, I thought
“ that was only in part, and then ask'd him for my arrest. He
“ said, I might leave it with him, but that he would give it me
“ whenever I called for it, or wanted it, and so we parted.

“ The next day in the morning I went and demanded it of him.
“ He said, he had farther occasion for it, and could not part with
“ it. I told him, he broke his word and promise with me, and
“ pressed him to restore it: Well, well, said he, you shall come
“ to no damage by it; and he added, that he would give it me
“ when

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“ when *Friday* was over. I said, he dealt unceivilly by me, and
 “ would put me upon difficulties ; but he absolutely refused to do
 “ it, and so I went off ; and going to the Vice-Chancellor, told
 “ him what usage I had met with. He told me I must get another
 “ decree, which I did from Mr. *Cooke* of *Magdalen's*, but when
 “ I went with it to Dr. *Bentley's*, he would not see me, and I was
 “ refused admittance.”

“ On *Thursday, September* the 25th, about two of the Clock,
 “ Mr. *Simpson* and I went together to Dr. *Bentley's*, into the room
 “ where they dine ; the company was just gone out, and after a
 “ little time Mr. *Simpson* left me, and went to the Vice-Chancel-
 “ lor's. Not long after Dr. *Aspenburst*, Mr. *Lisle*, and Mr. *Wit-*
 “ *ton*, came in to me. Mr. *Lisle* asked me, what authority I had
 “ to stay in another man's house against the master's leave. I said,
 “ I was not to give him an account. He said, he believed I could
 “ not justify it. I then ask'd him, why he did not turn me out.
 “ Well, said he, if you want your arrest, I will give it you, and
 “ have orders to tell you, you shall come to no damage so far as a
 “ hundred pounds go. I said, if Dr. *Bentley* would give it me, I
 “ would thank him, but would receive it from no other hand.
 “ They stayed some time longer with me, and then going out, Dr.
 “ *Aspenburst* said, Well, Mr. *Beadle*, if you wo'nt go out of the
 “ room, I'll lock you in, which he did, but soon after returned
 “ and opened it. A while after this, the master's servant came in
 “ and desired I would go away. I told him, I had orders to stay
 “ longer ; on which he said he was commanded to lock the door,
 “ and the doors on both sides of the room were locked upon me
 “ for two hours at the least ; after six of the clock I knocked, and
 “ the door was opened to me, not long after which Mr. *Simpson*
 “ came and called me away.

“ Upon *Saturday, September* the 27th at night, I went again
 “ to Dr. *Bentley's*, Mr. *Witton* came out and asked my Business.
 “ I told him, I came to speak with Dr. *Bentley* from the Vice-
 Chancellor.

“Chancellor. He came out again and said the Doctor was busie,
 “and had nothing to say to me. I told him, I wanted my De-
 “cree. He came out the third time and brought it in his hand; I
 “said, I would not receive it but from the Doctor himself as he
 “had promised. He said, the Doctor knew I came to compleat
 “the Arrest, and would not then be seen by me, and that I must
 “not think he would be arrested when I please, but that three or
 “four days hence perhaps he would consent to it.

Edward Clarke.

*Edvardus Clarke Bedell. Arm. Jurat. Dept' in præscript. esse
 vera Juram^o ei delat^a per me Robertum Grove, cui Dm^{us}
 Procanc. Potestat' dedit Juram^{um} in hæc parte deferend'*

Ita test. Robertus Grove Not. Publicus
 Acad. Cant' Reg'.

I need not give my reader the trouble of any remarks upon this Deposition; it speaks so plainly for itself, that he must prevent me in the reflections it naturally suggests of the crime and insolence of our Doctor: But the nature of his offence, and its obnoxiousness to our Statutes, with the grounds of the proceedings that are to follow, have already been so clearly stated by an able and judicious hand, that there is no occasion left to add any thing here on this subject. I shall proceed therefore in my story. Dr. Bentley still shut himself up, and absconded for some time longer, making himself very merry with the arrest, and the Beadle's folly in delivering up his Decree, by which he pretended to have evaded it. We were entertained in the mean while with a few scraps of his wit, which turned, as usual, upon some gross raillery on the Heads, with Nick-names for such of them as happened to be least in his favour. To Dr. Sberlock he has on this occasion given the Title of *Cardinal Alberoni*. But having said, as I am told, not long since to a learned Dean, *I am your Pope, your only New Testament is in my hands*, we must not dispute with his Holiness the power of making Cardinals. There is hardly a Head of a Col-

lege amongst us whom he has not distinguished by some name, either ridiculous or scandalous: But for the Right Reverend Dr. *Bradford* Bishop of *Carlisle*, whom till very lately he has always treated with the utmost contempt, he could find none better than that of *Belzebub*.

In this interval the candidates for fellowships in his College being under examination, in the gaiety of heart he gave them this theme for their exercise;

Τὰς ἄλλας ἐνάειμ' ἀπὸ δ' Ἐκτορος ἴχθη χεῖρας. Hom.

It was part of *Achilles's* advice to *Patroclus*, to kill or fall upon the rest as he pleased, but to keep his hands off from *Hector*. This he designed as a witty insult upon the Vice-Chancellor, who might indeed controul and humble the rest of the University at discretion, but must not pretend to meddle with him; our *Hector* was above his hand, and an over-match for him.

But on *Wednesday Oct. 1.* this great man consented to be arrested by another Beadle and a second Decree, and gave bail for his appearance; and the *Friday* following the Vice-Chancellor held a Court, assisted by six of the Heads as his Assessors, viz. Dr. *Covel*, Dr. *Ashton*, Dr. *Adams*, Dr. *Lany*, Dr. *Jenkins*, Dr. *Grigge*: it being usual with Vice-Chancellors, in any cause of importance, to call such to their assistance in it, as are best able to give advice on the occasion.

But after all this expectation and solemnity, Dr. *Bentley* did not think fit to make his appearance; which was such an instance of contempt as has seldom been known in the University: and to tell us, as he did afterwards, that he had sent a Proctor to appear for him, is so far from excusing, that it aggravates his offence, for by our express Statutes [g], and the practice of the Court, no

[g] *De Procuratoribus Litigantium, & Decr. Sen. Principales personæ factum* ipsum per se proponant, viz. Actor per se suam actionem, & Reus suam defen-
party

party can be in judgment, or allowed to appear by proxy, till he has personally asked and obtained the Judge's leave to constitute a Proctor: and if the Plaintiff be present, which was the case, and the Defendant absent, his Proctor cannot be admitted. And farther, if [b] either party shall presume to procure or retain one to act for him contrary to the tenor of the Statute, he shall, if the Plaintiff, for that very reason lose his cause; if the Defendant, be looked upon as convict, and censured accordingly.

Dr. *Middleton* therefore, after leave granted him, appointed Mr. *Cook* his Proctor; who having entered his cause, began to accuse Dr. *Bentley's* contempt in not appearing, and moved for some censure upon it; and called upon the Beadle to make a return of the first Decree which was put into his hands, and to inform the Court of the execution of it: but he being confined to his chamber by a fit of the gout, sent his Deposition already mentioned, to give an account for him of the treatment he had met with in the discharge of his duty.

The Deposition being read, it then plainly appeared what the Doctor meant by his non-appearance. It was then clearly seen, that it was not any accidental or careless mistake; that it was not any omission of ignorance or inadvertency, that it was not barely an incivility or disrespect to the Vice-Chancellor, but a wilful and designed insult to his authority and jurisdiction. He had declared, we see, that he should not be his Judge; and was resolved to be as good as his word, at least to protract the cause, till it should expire with his magistracy.

tionem, nec Procuratores admittantur pro iisdem, nisi adversâ valetudine, vel aliâ legitimâ causâ per dominum apprehendâ, sint detenti, quò minùs in iudicio sui præsentiam possint exhibere, de quo in principio fidem faciant juramento: si verò præsentem Actore, Reus ab-

sens fuerit, Procurator ejus non admittatur.

[b] *De Advocatis.* Quod si Actor contra tenorem præmissorum Advocatum aliquem procuraverit, causam suam hoc ipso amittat, Reus vero similia faciens pro convicto habeatur.

The crime then being flagrant and indisputable, being confirmed and aggravated by the Deposition of the Beadle; and the Vice-Chancellor having, as he declared, received the same defiance and contempt from him to his face, he did, with the express consent and approbation of all his Assessors, pronounce Dr. Bentley suspended *ab omni Gradu suscepto*, till he should make a proper submission for his offence.

This power of suspending from Degrees is clearly and undoubtedly given by our Statutes to our chief magistrate, and made particularly applicable to the very case before us, of contumacy and disobedience to his authority [i]. The particular constitution of our body makes it necessary that he should be armed with it, as an instrument of discipline, and a check upon the manners and orderly behaviour of our members. We have had instances of suspensions declared *extempore* immediately upon the offence, without any process or formality at all.

Yet the author of the Letters lately published in the *St. James's Post*, out of ignorance or malice, treats the exercise of this power as an encroachment and usurpation: but for all his childish declaiming against the dangerous influence and effects of an authority so absolute, our Vice-Chancellors have been in calm and quiet possession of it ever since our Statutes were given us, without raising the least terror or jealousy in the body, that their liberties or properties were endangered by it: this very instance we are speaking of, sufficiently shews how useful and necessary it is to curb the insolence of such amongst us, who make no scruple to trample upon privileges which they are solemnly [k] en-

[i] *De Cancellarii Officio & alibi*—
Contumaces nec Obedientes suspensione
Graduum judicio suo castigandos.

[k] *Ex Statutis in admissione Graduum
legendis*—Postremo, cautum est, ne
quis hic ad gradum aliquem admittatur,

nisi se obedientem fore Cancellario, aut
ejus vices gerenti juraverit; seque sua
privilegia renunciaturum, in quantum
privilegiis & statutis Universitatis con-
trariantur.

gaged to defend, and insult an authority which they have sworn to obey.

This Letter-writer tells us, that it is a mistake to imagine that the appearance of these six Heads as Assessors in Court, could add any credit or weight to the proceeding, as if they were introduced only like mutes upon the stage, to fill up the scene, and grace the action: that because, strictly speaking, they have no voice or power in that Court, the whole must rest upon the sole authority of the Vice-Chancellor, and be looked upon as his single Act and Deed.

It is hard to guess what this author could mean by an insinuation which turns against himself, and effectually confutes his charge of rashness and violence in the Vice-Chancellor: For is it not a demonstration of his caution, candor and moderation, that in a case, where he is acknowledged the sole and competent Judge, where he wants no consent or concurrence to the validity of his sentence: he would not however take one step himself, without the advice and approbation of such as are best acquainted, and most experienced in the Statutes and Customs of the University?

If the Vice-Chancellor could have been capable of designing or concerting this disgrace to the master of *Trinity*, as has been insinuated, he had not wanted this opportunity, or the assistance of friends, for the execution of his design; there was a fair and just occasion which had long offered itself, and indeed called for some censure and animadversion upon him, I mean the shameful neglect of his duty in the Professorship; for though he is obliged by Oath to preach twice a year in *Latin*, and to read publick Lectures in Divinity at least twice a Week in Term time, yet he has never so much as once attempted to do either, till since his late suspension, when he well knew that he should be over-ruled in the attempt; but by this he hoped to bring an odium upon the Vice-Chancellor.

Chancellor for having hindered this good Professor in a conscientious discharge of his duty. But as the Vice-Chancellor is appointed by the [1] Statutes his Visitor, to see that he does his duty, and to admonish him for any neglect of it, his lenity and forbearance to him on this occasion, is the only part of his administration which seems to want an excuse.

But he had said, it seems, in his Court, that if the Professor did not make his submission, he would in consequence of the suspension, declare the Professorship vacant: This I find is remembered by the Letter-writer by way of sneer, I guess, upon him, for having threatened more than he could or durst perform; but if ever this Question shall come upon the stage, it will be very easy to shew that there is nothing in it so difficult or dangerous as they imagine, and that it not only may, but must be vacated.

For besides, that its forfeiture might be fairly argued from his present want of [m] Degrees; that by its foundation [n] it is made inconsistent and incompatible with the Mastership of *Trinity College*; that he obtained it by bullying, and holds it by violence: Besides all this, I say, as the Statute has made it a necessary qualification of a Professor, that he have [o] no blemish or infamy upon his character, I would desire no other foundation to prove the necessity of his being ejected: He has been publickly accused by his Fellows of many great Crimes, which he never has or can clear himself of: And his tryal, which never came to a sentence, has left the marks of such an infamy upon him, as by all

[1] *De officio trium Lectorum*—Si Officium suum negligentiter fecerit, & per Vice-Cancellarium & Magistrum dicti Collegii admonitus eâ de re non emendaverit, &c.

[m] *Ibid.* Quos vel Doctores Theologiæ vel Baccalaureos ejusdem faculta-

tis semper esse volumus.

[n] *Ibid.* Nemo prædictorum Lectorum in dicto Collegio ullum Officium, aut Magistratum habeat.

[o] *Ibid.* Nemo unquam eligatur, qui sit de Hæresi probabiliter suspectus, vel infamiâ notatus.

the notions which the Civil or Canon Law has of it, would be sufficient not only to incapacitate him from being chosen Professor, but to deprive him when in possession. The suspicion of Heresy, and the marks of infamy, being the only incapacities mentioned as to his moral character, ought to be the more nicely insisted on. We have had a Professor of Mathematicks lately deprived for the one, and this Professor, we see, is equally liable for the other. But of this perhaps we may have occasion to treat again in the farther Progress of this Affair.

As to the hardship complained of, that he was denied the right of an appeal from this sentence, it would hardly deserve any notice, but that it has been insisted on as an instance of the violence and injustice of the Vice-Chancellor: Every body who is acquainted with our Constitution, must know that there could not be the least ground for an appeal on this occasion: There is indeed one allowed by our Statutes in every civil action between two Parties tried before the Vice-Chancellor; but what has this to do with a case of contempt censured by his authority? There had been already one appeal regularly made from a sentence of this Vice-Chancellor, which he neither obstructed, nor in the least resented; it is not in his power to withstand one, whenever statutely demanded; but in the present case, the Proctor of the University, who, upon an appeal, is to inhibit his farther proceeding, was perfectly convinced that there was here no pretence for such an inhibition: And the part the University has since acted in the last scene of this proceeding, shews plainly what he had to expect by an appeal to the Body.

But the grand and principal objection to the legality of this proceeding is, that our late Doctor was condemned unheard, and was not cited to answer for the offence for which he was censured; though he had denied an *Arrest*, he would, it is said, have obeyed a *Citation*; and would have shewn that he had been misrepresented in the *Deposition*, for he could have denied the whole

from the beginning to the end ; he could have put the Court under this dilemma, either to acquit him or commit the absurdity of believing the oath of a Beadle against the word of the Master of *Trinity*: This was his old way of clearing himself from a heavy [p] charge against him in his controversy with Mr. *Boyle*. *The Bookseller affirms, Dr. Bentley denies ; Utri creditis, Quirites ?* But Mr. *Clark's* character and his happen to be so very different, that if he had sworn and the Beadle only denied, he would have made no advantage of his *Utri creditis*: In [the practice of all Courts, *Credendum est Ministro* is received as a maxim ; but *Credendum est Bentleyo*, has never yet passed for such, even within the walls of *Trinity College*.

But he had not, it seems, as our Letter-writer tells us, the least notice or advice of what was acting against him, till the sentence of his suspension was actually pronounced: This is strange usage indeed, that the Vice-Chancellor should not think fit to take his consent along with him, when there was not a Head in town besides himself whose concurrence and advice he had not expressly procured on the occasion.

In his late famous trial, which all the world expected to end in his expulsion from his Mastership, *John of Ely* (as he always calls the late Bishop, whom though his Judge he had heartily contemned) was pleased, as he says, to beg of him by some common friends, that for some shew and form of justice, he would consent to be suspended, though but for a few days ; but our Vice-Chancellor is so passionate and violent a Judge, that he will not take a *Contempt* at his hands, but proceeds to a sentence, without so much as consulting him whether he will submit to it or no.

The objection is so trifling, that I can hardly bring myself to

[p] See the Pref. to Bentl. *Dissertation upon Phalaris*.

be serious upon it; for I am well informed, that no other Court in *England*, upon a manifest and apparent contempt of it's jurisdiction, confirmed by the report and complaint of it's officer, ever waits the formality of publishing a Citation, but proceeds directly to chastise the offender: The Civil Courts thunder immediately with their attachments, the ecclesiastical with their excommunications.

But to silence at once all objections of this kind, the Vice-Chancellor in the proceedings in his Court, is not only exempted by our Statutes [q], from all particular forms, however necessary elsewhere, but is obliged to omit them: He is obliged to hear and determine all causes before him in a short [r] and summary method, without any of the [s] pomp and solemnity of the law, not regarding forms, but [t] the truth only: So that in the present case before us, the truth being demonstrably found, beyond all possibility of doubt or mistake, there was nothing more to be regarded, the cause by our Statutes was certainly ripe for a sentence.

But let us suppose for once that a Citation had been, if not a common right, yet a civility at least which every body in our Professor's circumstances might have expected: Yet he of all men living has the least reason to claim the advantage or plead the necessity of it: For though by the Statutes [u] of his College, no member there can be punished, especially for the greater crimes, without a previous confession, or a legal conviction; yet in all the tyrannical censures he has inflicted, there is not, I dare say, one instance of his having ever cited and convicted the party he

[q] *De Cancellarii Officio, De Causis forensibus, & Decret. Senat.* Cancellarius potestatem habebit omnes omnium scholasticorum controversias tum audiendas tum dirimendas.

[r] Summarie.

[s] *Omni juris solemnitate semotâ.*

[t] *Solâ facti veritate inspectâ, &c.*

[u] *Si confessus fuerit, aut idoneis testibus convictus, Collegio privetur.*

punished : When the want of a Citation has been sometimes objected to him, *Would you have me*, he used to say, *come to fending and proving*. But to give one example out of many, of his way of dispensing justice in his College : He expelled by his authority one young gentleman from his Fellowship, which was at that time the only subsistence and income he had in the world, without any previous notice or summons, or the least appearance of any evidence against him, upon the sole pretence of a common fame, which all who knew him believed to be false, and which his life and conversation has since proved him incapable of : And when it was objected, that the irregularity of this proceeding might bring some trouble upon the College, his answer was, *His Father has left him a beggar, and he cannot hurt us*.

This frivolous clamour and outcry against the validity of the Vice-Chancellor's sentence puts me in mind of the advice which Mr. Bentley always gives his friends in distress, *to raise but dust enough, and they may find a way to get off in the cloud*. He has now been shewing us his skill in this art, which he has found useful to him on many occasions : The *Denial of an Appeal*, the *want of a Citation*, the *Malice of a Party*, is the *Dust* he has been raising to blind the world withal, till he could find or make a hole to creep out at. It is an old trick, to throw dust in people's eyes, and run away with their perriwigs ; but he has improved the invention, to the running away with their senses. But though he has magnificently said on this occasion, that he has rubbed through many a worse difficulty than this ; yet he now seems caught in a net where his struggling will but entangle him the surer : The censure of an University, like a bearded arrow, sticks fast where-ever it lights,

— *hæret lateri letalis arundo,*

it galls but the more effectually, for our violence in drawing it ; or, to borrow a *Simile* of his own, it is *like Hercules's shirt, and will stick to him till his funeral*.

He.

He had, we know, for a twelve-month past been teizing the Vice-Chancellor, to summon Serjeant *Miller*, Fellow of *Trinity College*, into his Court to answer there for a book he had published before the late Act of Grace, reflecting on the honour and privileges of the University. He offered the service of his Agent and Proctor Mr. *Lisle* to prosecute *gratis* in the cause. But when it was hinted, that because of some privileges belonging to Serjeants at Law, it might be questioned whether he would obey such a summons; *If he does not,* says he, *expel him directly; my Lord Chief Justice Parker, and Lord Chief Justice King have often asked me, why do you not expel him?* If the Vice-Chancellor had followed his advice in this case, or in another, where he was pressed to it by him, *viz.* the turning Dr. *Johnson* out of his Conservatorship of the river: Though the characters of these gentlemen might have given some colour to the insinuation, we should then have heard nothing from him of the design and spleen of a Party in it; we should have seen him defending the Vice-Chancellor's Sentence as just and regular: That the Serjeant had, contrary to his Oaths, betrayed our privileges, contemned our jurisdiction, and as an unworthy Member was deservedly cut off from the Body. But now that this has happened to be his own case, though it be notorious, that he has run through all the several changes of Parties, that he has made his Court to them all; upon the first prospect of advantage from any side: That there was a time when his Flatterer and sole Confident Dr. *Ashenburst*, (whose company Dr. *Laughton* has long ago forbid to his Pupils) took some pains to have it believed that his Master would not take the Oaths to this Government; yet now he pretends to fall a Martyr for his zeal to King *George* and the Protestant Succession.

It is well known that the Vice-Chancellor did in Convocation, and every where else, distinguish his affection to the Government, at the time when the Master of *Trinity* affected to shew a neglect and aversion to it: But now we are told, that it is just the reverse
between:

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between them ; but though I can easily allow and account for it in the one, I cannot see the least ground or reason to suspect any change in the other.

In *Trinity College*, when his tyranny had raised a necessary prosecution of him, by the Fellows ; he threw himself upon the *Whigs* as a sufferer in their Cause, and persecuted for his attachment [w] to *the then present best Ministry*. While the quarrel continued, the Ministry happened to change ; and the same persons, who had been said in print to pursue him for being a *Whig*, were then cried out upon for their malice to him as a *Tory*, and he had the address or good fortune to screen himself from justice by assuming that character : And his Dedication to the Earl of *Oxford*, is hardly more awkward in its panegyrick upon his Patron, than severe in its satire upon the *Whigs*.

The Controversy still out-lived the late Queen ; the Fellows renewed their petition for a Visitation, which has laid two years before the Council : but he now plays his old game upon them ; is just come round to where he first set out, and the *present Ministry* is once more become the *best* with him.

I cannot help turning upon him another application of his own, which seems to have been suggested to him by his own conduct [x] ; his loyalty is a mere Empusa, it changes shapes as fast as Vertumnus.

Quo teneam vultus mutantem Protea nodo ?

In the time of this suspension our Chancellor the Duke of *Somerset* did us the honour of a visit, and of spending a *Sunday* with us in the University : A favour so great and extraordinary was received by us with all the proper sentiments of gratitude and duty

[w] See the Pref. of his printed Letter to the Bishop of Ely.
Free-Thinking.

[x] Remarks on

to his Grace: The Vice-Chancellor and Heads laid before him all the measures and steps they had taken in this affair, which he approved and concurred with; and I hope it will always be remembered to his honour, that he was willing, if there had been occasion, to have chastised in person this insult upon our privileges: But finding that there was no want of spirit or power in the Heads to do themselves justice on this occasion, having recommended to them to pursue the resolution they were in, of vindicating their authority, he left us on the *Monday* morning, and pursued his journey.

Upon the rumour of the Chancellor's coming to the University, Mr. *Bentley* gave him the trouble of a Letter to *New-Market*, making some overtures of submitting himself to him, but proposing that it might be at a private audience in *Clare-Hall*, or that the Duke would take the pains of coming to *Trinity College*, to receive his submission at his own house.

His Grace was pleased to make himself merry with this proposal at a full meeting of the Heads; a proposal so insolent and absurd, that no man but Mr. *Bentley* could have made it: It was, in effect, to desire a greater condescension and submission from the Duke, than was even expected from himself. But even this will hardly seem strange from him, who dares to give out, that the King and his Ministry will interpose to reverse our statutable proceedings against him: That for the sake of a single person so justly odious, so void of all credit and interest amongst us, his Majesty will set a mark of his displeasure upon his famous and loyal University: But it is to be hoped that an insolence so criminal, so apparently tending to alienate the affections of his people from his Majesty, may meet with the just severity and chastisement of the law.

After the memorable day of suspension, as it is called, there were three Courts held in the fortnight following, for no other reason

reason but to give Mr. *Bentley* time and opportunity to come in and submit ; but he not appearing, it is not material to observe what was done there ; before the third Court the Vice-Chancellor sent him word that it would be the last, in which he would wait for his submission : But *submission* was a term which he did not at all understand, and it was the business of a Letter to the Vice-Chancellor, to know what might be the meaning of it : When it was explained to him to be an acknowledgment of his offence, an asking of pardon, and an humble request to be restored. He thought, I suppose, that a duty so servile belonged only to the Fellows of *Trinity College*, and could not therefore legally be required of the Master : But if a submission by proxy would have given satisfaction, he had two or three of his Doctors, long trained and exercised in all the kinds of it, who, for the least word he could have spoke, would have done it for him to admiration.

After these Courts the Vice-Chancellor called a meeting of the Heads, not to his own house, as the Letter-writer says, but to the Master's of *Peter-House*, Dr. *Richardson's* ; who being something indisposed, they paid him the compliment of waiting upon him at his lodgings ; for it was his judgment and advice that had the principal influence in the management of this affair ; it was to his great experience in the Statutes and Customs of the University, that the Vice-Chancellor paid the utmost deference in every step of this proceeding ; and his known candour and zeal for the government will be sufficient to clear it from the least suspicion either of *Violence* or *Disloyalty*.

It was now high time to think of some way more effectual for the saving the honour and privileges of the University ; all that the Vice-Chancellor had done, which was the utmost effort of his prerogative, was plainly insufficient, was ridiculed only and despised ; and to suffer his authority to be thus contemned by any of our Members of what station or character soever, was a precedent

dent too dangerous to be allowed in an Univerfity. Contumacy, which was evidently the crime here [y] committed, is punishable by our Statutes [z] with the fevereft penalties : It can no more be endured with us, than mutiny in an army, without diffolving our difcipline and our Government : And indeed the nature and neceffity of things require, that in all focieties an obftinate contempt of authority muft end in a cutting off from the body.

At this meeting therefore, it was propofed to expel Mr. *Bentley* the Univerfity : But though they were all unanimous in the opinion that he had ftatutably deferved it ; though there wanted neither precedent, nor power, nor confent for the doing it ; yet as the old Statutes [a] generally direct, that offences of a high nature or cafes of importance fhould be brought to the hearing and decision of the body ; they refolved [to take this method, as being open and public, and therefore leaft liable to exception ; and the Vice-Chancellor was accordingly defired to prepare a grace for the degrading him to be propofed to the Senate.

In the Univerfity of *Oxford* they have a Statute [b] which literally describes our very cafe : That if any Member, who is to be arrefted, fhall, upon the Beadle's fhewing him the Warrant of the Vice-Chancellor, refufe to furrender himfelf immediately,

[y] Hinc tradunt Doctores communiter, qui citatus refpondet nolle fe comparere, verè & manifèftè contumax efficitur ; atque pœnam veræ & manifèftæ contumaciæ meretur, etiãfi femel & non peremptoriè citatus fit. *Vid. Roynar in verbo Contumacia.*

[z] *De Rebellantibus Cancellario.*—Contra Cancellarii quoque prohibitionem colluctantes, & alias fibi inobedientes & contumaces, fine differentia Personarum, fimili pœnâ, viz. expulfione ab Univerfitate, coërceantur.

[a] *De Potestate Cancellarii.*—Cancellarius vel Vicarius per fe tantùm (fi voluerit) caufas Scholarium univerfas audiat & decimat, nifi Facti atrocitas vel Publicæ quietis perturbatio Magiftrorum requirat Convenientiam & Affenfum.

[b] *De iis qui de fe iuftitiam fieri non permittunt.*—Si quis mandato Vice-Cancellarii per Bedellorum aliquem arreftandus, Bedello Warrantum Vice-Cancellarii monftranti, protinus fe fe haud dederit ; fi Scholaris fuerit, Banniat ; & fi Graduatuf fuerit, Gradu privetur.

if a Graduate, he shall be degraded, if not, expelled; the reason and equity of this law extends equally to us; if it be necessary in either University, it is certainly so in both: But though we have not this case in any single Statute, yet it is easily to be collected from many of our scattered ones [c]; and the punishment of Degradation is sufficiently warranted both by Statute and Precedent.

On *Friday* therefore (*Octob. 17.*) two Congregations were appointed for the finishing this affair: In the first, the Vice-Chancellor made a handsom and elegant Speech in *Latin*, giving a clear and succinct account of all that had passed before him in relation to the Master of *Trinity*; the acts of the Court and deposition of the Beadle were afterwards read; and then the following Grace, having passed the approbation of the *Caput*, was proposed to the Body; which concluded the business of the morning.

A Copy of the Grace:

CUM Reverendus Vir, Richardus Bentley, Collegii Trinitatis Magister; ad summos in hac Universitate Titulos & Honores vestro Favore dudum promotus, adeo se immemorem & Loci sui & Vestrae auctoritatis dederit, ut debite summonitus ad comparendum & respondendum in causâ coram Procancellario obedientiam recusaverit, Ministrum Universitatis summonentem indignis modis tractaverit, Procancellarium & Capita Collegiorum opprobriis impetiverit, Jurisdictionem denique Universitatis, longo usu, Regiis Chartis, & auctoritate Parlamenti stabilitam pro nihilo habendam esse declaraverit; cumque idem Richardus Bentley super his causis. ab omni Gradu sus-

[c] *De Pœna impediendum Privilegia; & alibi*—Quicumque Magister Regens vel non Regens majori parti Regentium probabiliter fuerit suspectus, quod impetrationem Libertatum seu Privilegiorum pro dictâ Universitate, vel Promotionem eorundem vel executionem

impedierit, &c. à Cancellario juxta qualitatem negotii arbitrando Purgatio judicetur, & si in dictâ purgatione defecerit, pro convicto habeatur, & propter idem delictum ab omni actu Magistrali, beneficiis & honoribus ejusdem Universitatis suspendatur & excludatur.

pensus fuerit, & postea per tres dies juridicos expectatus comparere tamen neglexerit; Placeat vobis ut dictus Richardus Bentley ab omni Gradu, Titulo, & Jure in hac Universitate dejiciatur & excludatur.

The *Caput* mentioned above is a Committee of six persons chosen from the different parts of our Body, to consult and determine of what is proper to be proposed to the University, the Vice-Chancellor always being one; Every Grace, before it can be offered to us in Congregation, must first pass the scrutiny of the *Caput*, where each Member has a Negative upon it.

The gaining therefore of a Friend might here have been of some service to Mr. *Bentley*, as it would, having prevented for some little time at least, the censure now falling upon him; but when that was found impracticable, another design was formed and executed by Dr. *Ashenbush* and Mr. *Bull*, who came to require of the Vice-Chancellor that the Oaths might be tendered to Dr. *Otway*, then a Member of the *Caput*, while it was actually assembled and attending to this Grace which was reading to them.

This was meant only as an affront to a worthy gentleman of good family and fortune, who has been in *Commission of the Peace* almost ever since the *Revolution*, and for near as many years has acted in the *Caput*, sometimes with Dr. *Ashenbush* himself, without the least intimation, or indeed the least ground for any offence; but he was now, I say, to be affronted not for any disaffection to King *George*, but to the *Master of Trinity*, and for his known frankness in declaring against all such, whose ill practices and immoralities he detests: but the Vice-Chancellor, who well knew the impertinence as well as malice of the demand; that he had no power to require any oath or test on such an occasion; that the oaths, whether taken or refused, could have no influence upon his right of voting at that time, sent them back to their places, not without some indignation.

And it was well for them that they came off so: For Dr. *Richardson*, who knows perfectly well what would have been proper on the occasion, has since, as I am told, declared, that, if he had been Vice-Chancellor, he would have suspended them both upon the spot, for this rude and unparalleled interruption to the business of the University.

The letter-writer reproaches us here with a charge of levity and inconstancy, for having some time ago voted honours to this gentleman in the same place where we are now going to degrade him: but though I might infer from this, some change in the Professor rather than in the University; though I might make use of it to shew that we have no personal malice or aversion to him, but are as ready to honour as to censure him, whenever it becomes us; yet I shall freely wave all the advantage I could make of it, and content myself at present with wiping off the reproach, by observing, that the University is very little answerable for this vote, which was gained merely by artifice and management, the design being whispered only to friends, till it was carried as silently and clandestinely as possible in a single congregation; and the scandal it gave was the occasion of a resolution, which soon after passed into a decree, that no business for the future should receive its completion in the University but in two congregations. It was in consequence of this decree, that this grace of degradation came to be proposed to us a second time in the afternoon of the same day; it being then again read and put to the vote, was carried by one hundred and eight voices for it, to fifty against it; a majority rarely known, but where Mr. *Bentley* happens to be concerned: Of ten heads who were present, there was but one against the grace, and of twenty other doctors but six.

Thus fell the *Great Bentley* from all his degrees amongst us; a sacrifice, as his writer says, to the *Madness of the People*, but, as I have plainly shewn, to *his own*;

Quos Jupiter vult perdere, dementat prius.

His conduct will bear me out in the application, and shews the plain marks of a judgment and infatuation upon him: By the restoring of four Guineas, which he had shamefully extorted, he might have saved himself the great trouble and expence which his obstinacy has involved him in: By an easy, and perhaps private submission, he might have saved himself the shame of this public disgrace; but for the glory of never having been known to submit, he has risked not only his credit, but, what is much dearer to him, his preferments, on the quarrel. By this censure, which now lies upon him, he stands actually incapacitated both for his Mastership and Professorship; by his own rashness he has at once brought upon himself, what all the petitions and remonstrances of his College could never effect.

— *Quod optanti Divum promittere nemo
Auderet, volvenda dies en attulit ultro.*

Virg.

We have had precedents of his punishment, but never any of his behaviour or his crime: We have had instances of *Suspensions* by Vice-Chancellors, of *Degradations* by the Body, but never any where the power of those censures was disputed with either: We have had a Professor of Divinity [d] deprived of his lecture, expelled the University and *Trinity College*; another great and learned one [e] was forced to fly for the same, and left his Professorship with this memorable saying, *Fugio, ne fugarer*; but never any man before himself durst provoke and defy the resentment of this venerable Body, or ever made it a controversy, whether he or the University should submit: This was a part reserved for our mighty *Hector*; this was left to finish the character of the *Great Bentley*, who resolves to fall, like some other heroes of tragedy, braving the Gods and his Destiny.

Quantò doctior es, tantò te geras submissus.

Cic.

He has acted just the reverse of this good old precept, which

[d] Cartwright.

[e] Peter Baro.

Account of the Proceedings

we learn with our *Grammars*; and his great learning is the only excuse we ever heard of for his much greater Pride.

Sume superbiam quæsitam meritis,

is a text of his *Horace*, much oftner quoted by this Professor of Divinity, than any one in his *New Testament*.

Even now, when his Mastership is precarious and at mercy, he threatens, I am told, with expulsion those Fellows of his College, who according to their privilege, their duty and their conscience, gave their votes for his degradation; and when he was asked by a friend how he could justify it, *I'll do it, says he, and let them get it undone, if they can.*

We may strip him of his *Titles*, but we never can, we see, of his *Insolence*; he has ceased to be *Doctor*, and may cease to be *Professor*, but he can never cease to be *Bentley*: There he will triumph over the University to the last; all its learning being unable to polish, its manners to soften, or its discipline to tame the superior obstinacy of his genius.

I have now given a full, and, I am sure, a true account of this whole proceeding: There is not a single fact affirmed or insinuated in it, which Mr. *Bentley* himself does not know to be true, and which, whenever he pleases, I cannot easily prove to be so: There is something so singularly rude and barbarous in his way of treating all mankind, that whoever has occasion to relate it, will, instead of aggravating, find himself obliged to qualify and soften the harshness of his story, lest it should pass for incredible: But if I am thought by any too free or severe upon a person so distinguished by his learning and preferments, it must be remembered that it was he, or his apologist, who first began the hostility, by abusing the Vice-Chancellor and University in two printed letters, which are scandalously false, and malicious in every article of them: To observe a decency and complaisance towards him who
has

has no notion of it would be interpreted only as the cowardice or weakness of his adversary. A controversy with him must always be a *fighting without quarter*; for it is but necessary not to give any, where you are sure of finding none.

P O S T S C R I P T.

AFTER I had sent my papers to the Press, I met with the following extract of a letter taken from the *Flying-Post* dated Nov. 13, 1714; which I thought very proper to be added here by way of Postscript, as it might serve for a farther proof and illustration of what I have already observed of the loyalty of our Professor.

“ Dr. Bentley, in his visitation at *Cambridge Nov. 4*, has zealously propagated the common cant of the *Danger of the Church*, for which we have paid so dearly already.

“ It was Mr. Archdeacon’s turn to harangue, of which, till I get the whole speech, I shall communicate to you this post, only this remarkable period; *It is hardly possible for a foreign Prince to avoid several errors in Government at his first coming amongst us; but I doubt not but a little time will open his eyes, and then all will be well.* Concluding with an exhortation to his brethren to join with him in prayers to God, so to direct the King’s heart in the choice of a Bishop for them, that he might send them one *at least not inferior to his reverend predecessor*, who could not escape a disdainful lash of his pen, though now at rest, for designing to expel the Doctor for ruining one of the best of our learned societies.”

A
S E C O N D P A R T
Of the FULL and IMPARTIAL
A C C O U N T
Of all the late
P R O C E E D I N G S
I N T H E
Univerfity of CAMBRIDGE
A G A I N S T
Dr. B E N T L E Y.

————— *Iracundus, inexorabilis, acer*
Jura neget fibi nata, nihil non arroget ———

Hor.

Ergò ignem, cujus scintillas ipse dedifti,
Flagrantem latè, & rapientem cuncta videbis,
Nec tibi parceatur misero, trepidumque MAGISTRUM
In caveâ magno fremitu Leo tollet alumnus.

Juv.

1910

1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

1916

1917

1918

1919

1920

1921

1922

A

S E C O N D P A R T

Of the Full and Impartial

A C C O U N T

O F T H E

P R O C E E D I N G S, &c.

SINCE the publishing of *the full and impartial account of our proceedings*, though the performance, I am told, has done me no discredit, which is some satisfaction to an author not used to the press; yet the only pleasure I find from it, is in the consciousness of the truth and sincerity with which it is writ, and in the hopes it gives me of doing some good to our cause, by the kind reception it has met with.

The Master of *Trinity* has not yet attempted, by himself or friends, to disprove any one single fact in it; though there are some alledged against him, which hardly any man but himself would bear the scandal or odium of, for all the preferments or learning he is so proud of.

The *Letter-writer* indeed, whom I had often occasion to mention, has in a third letter lately printed, made some cavils and reflections, not upon its veracity but its reasoning, which I can

easily forgive him ; for in this I am just the reverse of our Professor, and had rather have my understanding than my integrity called in question.

His friends, when they can no longer defend his honour, think it enough to display his learning ; but virtue, though joined with ignorance, makes a much fairer character, than vice with the greatest learning.

Invidiam placare paras, virtute relicta ?

He may comfort himself, if he pleases, with the dying speech of Nero,

Qualis Artifex pereo ?

What a Critic is lost to the World ?

Or like another learned tyrant, when expelled his College as unfit to govern men, he may turn an useful schoolmaster and governor of boys.

In encountering this *Letter-writer*, I must comply with the *Ceremonial* observed by all fair combatants ; who, before they fall on, salute each other always with much decency and respect. I return him the compliment which he makes me at setting out, and own him a champion full as good as his cause ; and though his objections will soon appear both frivolous and false, yet I allow them to be the best which his subject can afford him.

He begins by reviving the story of the *Fee*, which the Professor will hardly thank him for : he must, I am sure, be heartily sick of it by this time ; and the surfeit it has given him, will make him very squeamish for the future of touching *Gold* again.

— *Melius non tangere clamo,*

Flebit, & insignis tota cantabitur urbe.

He little thought that such a trifle could have brought so much trouble and disgrace upon him : but it is, we see, with a *foul Character,*

Character, just as with a *foul Constitution*, the least accident that sets the humours in motion, generally raises such a ferment, as is always dangerous, and often fatal: the gentle *Evacuation* which the Vice-Chancellor would have given him, had been properer *Physic* for his case, than what his *Asst* can prescribe him; his friends and enemies agree in this, that the advice of this *Physician* will one day be the ruin of him.

By the whole tenor and design of this third letter, the author endeavours to draw his reader into this error and mistake, that, while all the other officers of the University are allowed a right to *Fees* at a *Royal Commencement*, the Professor of Divinity is the only one, who is not permitted to claim any; he takes not the least notice of a *Broadpiece* which he receives from every Doctor as the special *Fee* on this occasion, which nobody disputes with him, which is more than sufficient for his trouble, and more than he can equitably claim from any degrees whatsoever.

It is this *Fee*, and not the four Guineas in dispute, which must be put upon the same foot, and compared with those of the other officers; he has the same right to it, and no other, than they have to theirs: If the other *Fees* are an encroachment, so is this; if the rest take a Guinea where a Shilling only is due, he receives his *Broadpiece* for a Shilling, which will appear to be all that he has a right to by Statute, whenever the table of *Fees* we are threatened with comes to be published.

But though we are defied to shew any precedents of these *Fees* before the *Revolution*; I now know many in the University, who remember their being customary; and some, who themselves have paid them in King *Charles* the II^d's time: It is strange to see things roundly affirmed as true, which the least enquiry about them can so easily prove to be false.

———— *Phalaris licet imperet ut sis.*

Falsus, &c.

Summum crede nefas.

The

The difference then between our other Magistrates and the Professor, is this; that while they were content with the *Fees* which they found their predecessors possessed of, he was resolved to add four Guineas extraordinary to his; which had never been heard of or demanded before, and in defiance of the authority of the University, and the remonstrances of his friends, did violently extort them from several of the Doctors.

But these Officers of ours are the men, says this writer, who have condemned Dr. Bentley for *exorbitant* and *unstatutable Fees*; he insists upon it and repeats it, that these are the men who have *voted against*, these the judges who have *condemned* him for *exaction*, which is another blunder so egregious, that I cannot easily find a name for it: Every freshman cannot but know, that there has not yet been either *Sentence* or *Vote* in the University upon the *Fee* in question; the case is now depending before the Vice-Chancellor, and the Professor still at liberty to make the best defence he can for himself, but to as little purpose, probably, as his advocate pleads here for him to the world.

The next point which this author insists upon is, that the Professor having been arrested in an action of debt, and given bail for his appearance, it was illegal and absurd to punish him for a *Contempt*, when he was liable only to a *Forfeiture of his Bail*; he acutely distinguishes between a *Civil* and *Criminal* process, but does not imagine, I guess, that there can be any of a *mixt* and *compound* nature: But let him ask, as he says, *the emptiest, ignorantest limb of the Law*, let him ask *Proctor Lisle himself*, whether, in the prosecution of a *Civil* cause, a man may not be guilty of something *criminal*, and in an action of debt commit a *Contempt of the Court*? Grant me but this, which is as self-evident as any *Axiom* in *Mathematicks*, and I will demonstrate the legality and necessity of our proceedings.

Our Statutes without exception direct, that in all causes, both parties

parties must make their appearance and own the authority of the Vice-Chancellor : The Professor was sued in an action of debt ; before the cause came on, he defied and threatened the Judge to his face ; on the Court day he refused to appear ; his *Contempt* was accused by the Proctor, and proved to be a wilful and resolved one by the deposition of the Beadle : Where then lies the difficulty ? The Statutes are clear, besides a *Forfeiture of Bail*, or loss of the cause, the *contumacious* and *disobedient* are to be punished by a *Suspension from degrees* ; both these are very consistent, and both very necessary ; the one as the *Satisfaction* given to the Judge, the other as the *Security* provided for the *Creditor* ; the Professor has already suffered the one, and his friends need not be in any pain for the other ; it will without doubt be adjusted to satisfaction when the merits of this cause shall come to be determined, which, because of this incidental point of *Contempt*, have been necessarily delayed for some time.

Whatever has been said in defence of our Professor turns only upon mere *Subtleties* and *Niceties* of Law, which we have nothing to do with ; they do not pretend to say, that he has not deserved punishment, but that we have been mistaken in our methods of applying it ; but unless they could prove that the charge against him was false ; that the Judge was not fully informed ; that he was mistaken in the facts on which his sentence was grounded ; whatever else they can say will be little to their purpose : for we do not enough consider in this case the fallacy of arguing from the practice of other courts to that of ours, which is of a very different and peculiar constitution ; whatever forms are necessary, whatever omissions fatal elsewhere, we are for good reasons discharged from them all ; ours is a *Court of Equity*, where the Judge is obliged to determine *ex æquo & bono*, to decide upon the truth, as soon as it appears to him, and which way soever it happens to be proved, and an *Affidavit* taken in a *Chamber* by the Register, if it be credible, is the same evidence with us as one taken in *Court*.

But the *Letter-writer* tells us, that if the Master of *Trinity* had been guilty of a *Contempt*, it was to the *first Writ* only, which the Vice-Chancellor himself did in effect *contemn* by granting a *second*, which is a mere gingle upon words, without any sense or meaning at all: The first *Decree* or *Writ* was fraudulently seized and violently detained from the Officer; a *second* was granted, which whether necessary or no, is not much to the purpose; it was then perhaps thought proper for the security of the Plaintiff, lest the validity of the arrest might otherwise be disputed; it was to all intents and purposes the same with the first, conceived in the same terms, issuing from the same authority; and is therefore so far from proving (as this author would make it) any nullity or illegality in the other, that it demonstrates just the contrary; if there had been any want of form or authority to the first, it would have been supplied to the second; but both being the same, to allow the validity of the one, is to establish that of the other: A *single Writ* had certainly been sufficient for any other member of the University, but *double Fetters* are not strong enough for this *subtle old Offender*.

——— *mille adde catenas,*
Effugiet tamen hæc sceleratus vincula Proteus.

I would now advise this writer to keep close to himself the *ridiculous nonsense* he is so free of to others: As for the *Retraction* he promises, we will allow it to pass for mere ceremony and grimace; if he had a mind to have been believed, he should have retracted the *many Falshoods*, and made amends for the scandal of his *two former Letters*; but if he once begins to have *Qualms*, he is no longer an advocate for the Master of *Trinity*; *Asb———st* would soon be dispatched to discharge him the cause; where to own the truth is to betray his client, who, though often *convicted*, was never known to *recant*.

It must however be owned, that this third Letter, as weak as
it

it may seem to be to common readers, has been declared unanswerable by a *learned Civilian* and *Chancellor of a Diocese*. If this gentleman would but give himself the trouble of writing upon the subject, I could be proud of owning myself convinced by such an authority. I have often wished that he would give me an opportunity of displaying to the world his great character and abilities: whenever he will do me the honour to sit to me for his picture, I have got such colours by me, as will paint him to the life; Sir *Godfrey* himself shall not draw him half so like; the piece I shall make of him, may be proper for a present to the Bishops his patrons.

Now that the friends of the Master of *Trinity* have nothing more left to say for him, but find themselves only exposed for the little cavils and exceptions they have made to our proceedings; they begin to hector and threaten us with a *Royal Visitation*, which, we are told, is now preparing to chastise the insolent and sawcy spirit of the University.

But how ridiculous is it to imagine, that we, who are desirous to prove to all the world the justice of our cause, who, like the Universities of *France*, would appeal even to a *General Council* against the insolence of this *Pope of ours*; that we, I say, should have reason to be afraid of such judges, as his Majesty will send down to us!

A *Visitation* is what many amongst us have wished, what the Fellows of *Trinity* have long petitioned for, what no man has any reason to fear, but such whose ill lives and practices cannot answer the obligations they are sworn to:

*At bene si quis,
Et puris vivat manibus, contemnat.*

The very mention of visitors has given a new life and joy to every member of honest *Trinity College*; they now congratulate each other,

that their deliverance is at hand, that their slavery is near expiring, when their Master must give an account of such a *Violation of Statutes*, such an *Abuse of Discipline*, such a *squandering of their Revenues*, as has never been known in any College since it's foundation.

I cannot help remembring here an instance or two of his *Discipline*, which will hardly be forgot when his indictment comes to be drawn : There is now a senior fellow in his College, whose name he once covered upon the Buttery-tables ; which punishment, though unknown to the practice and statutes of the house, is looked upon as the next thing to an expulsion. The reason of it in this case could not so much as be guessed at, till it was discovered to us by one of his confidants ; it was not that the *Morals* or the *Learning*, but the *Courage* of this honest gentleman was suspected ; if I can frighten, says the Master, such as are no way obnoxious, I shall easily bring those who are so into my measures.

This is the encouragement he gives to the virtue ; let us see what use he makes of the vices of his fellows.

A certain *Archdeacon's Official* sent one day for two of the senior fellows, to acquaint them, that he was obliged in conscience and in virtue of his office, to prosecute them in his Court, for the notorious and public scandal of their lives and conversations ; the good old man declared with tears in his eyes, the great uneasiness it gave him, to bring his old friends, and his chamber-fellow to such a shame ; but he conjured them to save him and themselves a trouble so disagreeable, by making up matters with their master, and complying with his proposals.

Quis non

Jupiter ! exclamat simul atque audivit ?

I have heard this story more than once from the parties themselves concerned, who, as abandoned as they were thought to be, had yet

yet honour enough to detest this scandalous profanation of the Church's authority.

The project he was then forcing his Fellows to was, at the expence of the College, to double the Revenue of his Masterhip, which is otherwise the most valuable one of any in *England*.

I have added in the *Appendix* the Petition from many of his Fellows, which near three years ago was addressed to his Majesty; it is drawn in such modest and general terms, that the Master himself might and ought to have signed it, as he would certainly have done, if he had not been conscious to himself of the *Mal-Administration* he is accused of. These are the *Tories* he complains so much of, who beg to throw themselves into the hands of the Bishop of *Ely*, or any other *Visitor* which his Majesty will appoint for them: But it is well known that he has drawn several to his Party, by suggesting the terrors of a visitation; which while the others would fain bring down upon them, he undertook to secure them from. And it is not wondered at, that he has insulted, abused, and treated always as Enemies, those who subscribed the *Petition*, since he knows that a *Visitation* must certainly be fatal to him, and cannot but end in his confusion.

We all know with what arrogance to the University, he lately endeavoured to engross to himself and his College the whole honour of entertaining his Majesty; he will hardly shew such eagerness to *monopolize the Royal Visitors*, though he can find such entertainment for them, as all the University beside can neither furnish, nor will envy him for.

Besides the complaints of his College, his right to the Professorship will be enquired into by our Visitors; we charge him with an *illegal Seizure*, a *violent Usurpation*, and an *unstatutable Discharge* of it; the University will demand and insist that this

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charge be examined; and it is the opinion of all whom I have ever talked with upon the subject, that his chair must be vacated.

Yet this is the man who pretends to threaten us with a *visitation*, which he has ten times more reason to fear, than any other Member of the University; if any other man can suffer, he is sure to be undone by it; but, like a second *Codrus*, he devotes himself to sure destruction for the good of our *Athens*.

Codrus pro patria non timidus mori.

Or like another *Sampson*, if he can but pull the house upon his enemies, he is content to bury himself in the ruins.

Ash-----st would now persuade us, that the game *his Master* has been playing was all a *bite* upon the University, all pure art and stratagem, to make himself the glorious instrument of bringing down this *visitation*; he has been defying, contemning and provoking our resentment, to draw us by a rash pursuit of him into this *ambush* prepared for us.

But let them talk whatever they please, he cannot dissemble the dread and concern he is under; he and all his creatures shew the plain symptoms of disappointment and uneasiness.

Hi sunt, qui trepidant.

We have heard nothing lately of his gaiety or his wit, he is become sullen and silent; Dr. *Ash-----st* himself is grown somewhat less impudent; and a certain *smooth* gentleman, so famous for his complaisance

amicum

Mancipium Domino,

has quite lost his *art*, which with some had passed for *nature*; for

for mere despair betrays the *genuine rage* of his temper, and instead of *bowing to the ground*, is ready to fly in your face.

Ὅτι ἐγένετ' ἄρ' ἄλλ' ἐφάνησ'.

The way of *visiting religious houses and societies* abroad, is by summoning every particular Member to answer to certain interrogatories; and give an account upon oath, of all they know of any breach of Statutes, abuse of discipline, immorality of their Members, or any thing else, contrary to the honour and design of their foundation.

If this were the method to be observed with us, what good man could apprehend any danger or ill consequence from it? It would be a means of detecting and banishing from amongst us such ill customs, or ill Members, as are found to be a scandal and reproach to us; of which kind, I'll venture to say, the small number of *voters* for the Professor shall furnish more instances, than the great *majority* against him.

But this is a *visitation* which would be very far from answering the purposes, and doing the business of those who talk the loudest, and would seem most to wish for it: For want of virtue and learning, to make themselves esteemed or considerable upon our present model, they hope to gain a reputation by their malice and spite to our establishment; by searching into, and exposing all the little flaws and weaknesses of our institution; and by betraying the privileges, which they have often sworn to defend: They long to see our foundations torn in pieces, our constitution dissolved and new modelled, and our Members put under such new obligations, as are better levelled and adapted to their genius and capacity: This is the only *visitation* they desire, or would thank his Majesty for; this is the only one they now threaten us with; and they have the assurance to use the *great and venerable names* of Archb--ps, L--d Ch--nc--rs, and Min--rs of St--te, as embarked in this design.

Servius

Servius iratus leges minitatur & urnam.

A certain angry Doctor of ours, *learned in the Law*, had rather, he says, live under the *Great Turk*, than under the power exercised by our Vice-Chancellors; yet he has already spent the best part of his life under it, and is himself an infallible proof of its mildness and lenity: but let him go whenever he pleases, our church will lose no credit by his turning *Mahometan*.

He talks loudly, I hear, in our Coffee-houses, of a letter to him, from a *Great Prelate*, condemning our proceedings in terms as strong as he himself had done: If this were true, it is however a discovery, that he had owned to his *Grace*, what he had denied here to our Vice-Chancellor.

It is now one of his threats to us, that the *Passive Obedience* of the University will soon be put to the trial; which is such a reflection upon the Government, as I hope to see him called to an account for. Whatever has been condemned as extravagant and ridiculous in that *Principle of the Tories*, is a tame submission to our Princes, when acting contrary to the Laws and Constitution of the Realm; a *legal Obedience* is, I hope, a duty of *Whigs* as well as *Tories*: A trial then of our *Passive Obedience* implies necessarily some arbitrary and illegal act of power against us; which is such an impudent suggestion, as no man durst have made, but one so thoughtless, absurd and rash as himself.

alter

Si fecisset idem, caderet sub iudice morum.

If these men be friends to *King George*, they are such, I may be bold to say, as do him more mischief, than the worst of his enemies.

In all civilized Nations, Universities or public Seminaries of Learning and Education, have always been cherished and encouraged

raged by *special favours and immunities*, and distinguished by *peculiar privileges*, from all other Corporations whatsoever: This is but necessary to the end and design of their institution, in which mankind in general has such an interest and advantage.

Our Universities have always been the peculiar care and pride of our Princes; and we may affirm, with much truth, that none ever in Christendom have made such a figure in History, have been so useful to the World, have done so much honour to their founders, so much service as well as credit to their Country, as the two equal Sisters, *Cambridge and Oxford*.

They have neither been *servile* in their compliances with *Courts*, nor *disloyal* in the adherence to their privileges; they have always shewn as much duty and obedience to the *One*, as was consistent with their oaths and obligations to the *Other*; the generous and liberal education found there, gives them a spirit superior to that of other *Bodies Corporate*; and they have in all ages testified a laudable zeal and firmness in defence of their Rights and Liberties:

*quid oportet
Nos facere à vulgo longè latèque remotos?*

The World expects from them a good account and reason of their conduct; and has hardly ever found them unable to justify their *Proceedings*: they are not, like the Monkish Societies, a *Nest of Drones*, but have often been compared to a *Nest of Hornets*, provided with stings for such *B--ntl--ys* as would violate their privileges, and disturb their repose.

King *Henry* the VIIIth, though so resolute and arbitrary a Monarch, and so impatient of contradiction, was forced to use much art and management, with a good deal of patience and gentleness, before he could bring the Universities to declare for some opinions he had recommended to them: He procured the concurrence of the other foreign Universities of *Europe*, with much less difficulty;

difficulty than of his *Own Two* at home; though they were then much more at the mercy, and subject to the power of the Court than they have since been; yet the opposition he met with from them in some points so critical and so much at his heart, did not hinder him from being afterwards one of our greatest Founders and *Benefactors*.

In the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, at the instance and solicitation of *the Heads of Colleges*, the Court sent down *Visitors* to the University to compile a Body of new Statutes for us, by which we have ever since been governed; this was necessary in the circumstances of those times, when the *Old Statutes*, which were made under the influence, and adapted to the principles of *Po-pery*, were many of them become impracticable after the *Reformation* was established: With our Statutes, an *Act of Parliament* was also procured for us by the favour of this Princess, to confirm to us the *Charters* and *Privileges* given us by herself, or any of her Predecessors; a clause of which may be seen in the *Appendix*.

About this time, though there were many *Judicial Proceedings* amongst us, and as many complaints and appeals to the Queen or her Ministry; the *Court*, whenever it was disposed to shew any favour, used only the gentle style of recommending the complainants to the mercy and forgiveness of the University, and was always satisfied when it appeared by their humble remonstrance, that such an obedience was prejudicial to their interest, or *contrary* to their *Statutes*.

We may find in our *Records*, and in the *Annals* of this *Reign*, many instances of this kind; some, where even the *Relations* or *Dependants* of the *Prime Ministers of State* were not able to get redress against the *censures* they complained of.

So indulgent was this wise Princess to us, and so tender of our

Rights and Privileges, which were then many of them, but new and in their infancy, granted and procured to us by herself; she well knew how useful it was to keep up a *strict correspondence* with her two Universities, that they might act together and in concert against the common enemy of Church and State, and support with joint forces the *Reformation* she had accomplished: *These* furnished her with *Champions* as necessary to the *cause*, as her *Drakes* in the *Fleet*, or her *Burleighs* in the *Cabinet*. *These* fought as successfully with the *Pen*, as she did with the *Sword*; maintained against all the World the necessity and justice of what the Government had enacted, and inspired the courage which was so bravely exerted.

If the favours of this Reign to us were now to be reversed and annulled; if the power of our *Courts*, which we are so much envied for, were to be taken from us, or made only less absolute, by the allowance of an *Appeal* to a superior jurisdiction, our University might bid adieu to its peace and its discipline: the very nature and design of our institution made it necessary to every private founder of a College strictly to prohibit all *Appeals* from the authority of the Society.

How could it be possible for us to govern and keep in order such a Body as ours, without a final and absolute power within ourselves of inflicting and supporting our censures? What Magistrate would run the risk of doing justice upon an offender; if it made him liable to answer for it before the *Council*; or to the trouble and expence of defending his sentence in any *other Court*?

The very report of our Vice-Chancellor's being called to an account for his *late Proceedings*, raised such a spirit of *Mutiny* and *Sedition* amongst us, as is an earnest of what we must expect, if his authority were to be lessened and reduced. His back was no sooner turned, but the *Senior Proctor* of the University, who by his *Office* is the *Governor and Censor of the Manners* of our youth,

youth, took the occasion of a Speech he, was to make to the Scholars, to abuse publicly and grossly the conduct and discipline of the Univerfity.

The fubject and purpofe of this Speech had always been, to exhort them to *modesty* and *duty* to their *Governors*, to diligence and application in their *Academical Studies*, and to prefcribe rules for the regular and orderly performance of their *exercifes*: yet this man prostituted his *office* fo far, as to make himfelf the example to them, how they fhould insult their fuperiors, by introducing a ftupid piece of *Ridicule*, as he thought it, without the leaft turn of *wit* or *good fenfe*, and contrary to all decency and custom of thofe fchools. In *plain Englifh*, his *dulnefs*, if discreetly managed, might have paffed perhaps for *gravity*, but the *poor creature* muft needs betray himfelf by aiming at *wit*, and drew the *laugh* upon *himfelf*, which he had defigned for his *jeft*: his conduct is fuch an offence to our Statutes, as well as to all grave men amongft us, that, while we ftill have the power, I do not know how to anfwer its remaining yet uncenfured.

From the time of Queen *Elizabeth*, when we were fettled upon a new bottom and foundation, made more feure in our *privileges*, and lefs depending on our Princes, there has not been one inftance of a Vifitation of the Univerfity, to this day, except in the *Great Rebellion* under *Cromwell*, when our form and difcipline was new-modelled to the humour of the times; and the *Loyalifts*, the *Malignants* of thofe days, ejected from their *Fellowfhips*; there were twenty Fellows, I think, of this kind expelled then from *Trinity College*, which the *Mafter* would now fain make a precedent for about the fame number of his *Tory Petitioners*.

In King *James* the II'd's time, the brave ftuggle which both Univerfities made for their *Rights* and *Liberties* will be remembered in all *History* to their honour; it was of the utmoft fervice to the *Church of England*, and the greateft blow and obftacle to the

the designs of the *Papists*: And the *high Proceedings of the Court* against us were more *odious* to the *People*, more *fatal* to the *Prince*, more *effectual* towards bringing about the *Revolution* than all the other violent measures of this unhappy King.

With the change then made in the *Succession* and *Settlement of the Crown*, the liberty and property of the Subject obtained also a new Settlement and Security. We have now a Right to maintain and defend them, by Laws which cannot be suspended but by the authority which enacted them; no *Power* less than the *Legislative* can deprive us of them; our Courts of Justice are open to the meanest Subject to contest them, even with his Sovereign: the grievances and arbitrary methods of former Reigns, particularly *those* relating to the *Universities*, were then represented and redressed, and our Princes since this time have been willing for our ease and quiet to remit to us every dubious and disputable point of their Prerogative: these are the *Principles of the Revolution* so much talked of, and it is by these only, that we desire to possess and enjoy what belongs to us.

Yet, as if the reverse of all this were true, as if the *Revolution* had thrown us back from a State of *Liberty* into *Slavery*, we are now threatened by many of our noisy, forward Members; that our *Privileges* and *Charters*, granted by our *Kings* and confirmed by *Parliament*, under which our Universities have so long flourished to the envy and admiration of *Europe*, will, with little difficulty and ceremony, be voided and dissolved, because a *B-nl-y* has been punished by them, or a *J-bnf-n* is obnoxious and afraid of them.

These creatures are silly enough to imagine, that the precedents of *Visitations* in *Edward VIth* and *Queen Mary's* days relating to *Papists* and *Protestants* in the University are applicable to the present circumstances of our *Whigs* and *Tories*: if they can make us pass for *Tories*, the business they think is done, and because there

may be some few amongst us (as there are every where else) whose *Loyalty* may be questioned, they roundly charge us all with *Disaffection to the Government*; and if there is any thing we have ever done, which they can wrest and misrepresent to their purpose; they take no notice of the many clear proofs and undeniable instances of our *Zeal* and *good Affections*: they deal with the University as *Sharppers load their Dice*, to bring their *high Throws* always uppermost, and keep the *low ones* out of play.

Perrarò hæc alea fallit.

But let them search into our Statutes for the crime and punishment of *these invidious Denominations*; let them enquire in *Westminster-hall* for the penalty and forfeiture of being a *Whig* or a *Tory*; like the *ancient Greeks*, let us send to the *Oracles of that venerable Pile*, and let our *Fate* be determined by the *Answer* they return us.

If Mr. *Bentley* indeed has a mind to be tried upon the foot of a *Tory*, we will readily join issue, and find proof enough to convict him; especially if Dr. *Asb——st* would but turn evidence against him, as I am confident he will, when the Court has once dropped him; this *sole Favourite* of his, though he has *taken the Oaths* himself, yet for the respect he declares for *Nonjurors*, has taken withal a *Resolution* never to accept any fees from them, and he hopes, as he says, that the *one* will atone for the *other*; but I know how he will come off from this, by telling us that it was in pure zeal to King *George*, that he insinuated himself into their favour; it being the surest way of destroying his enemies by making himself *their Physician*.

While some writers are now labouring to shew the hardship and injustice of subjecting people to any *Tests* or *Civil Incapacities* for *Opinions* even in *Religion*, our charitable enemies can think it reasonable to deprive us even of *Freeholds* for *Notions* merely *speculative*.

The *Parliament* has just now quieted the fears of the *City of London*, by a bill brought in on purpose to exempt them from the penalties of a *certain Law* which they had neglected as *obsolete*: And can we believe, that *our Corporation*, which is more securely established than any other in the Kingdom, will be made liable to any forfeitures for what *no Law* has made *penal*? Our *Charters and Privileges* are the *Property* of the University, which cannot be taken from us but by the *same Power* and for the *same Reasons*, that any other *Body Corporate* in *England* may be disfranchised, or any private man's property seized and alienated.

In the first speech which his *Majesty* made to his Council upon his *happy Accession to the Crown*, he was pleased, as I remember, to observe, that the good effects of our *Property* being secured to us; were in no other nation of the world so visible as in this of ours: And in the *gracious Answers* which he has since made to the *Addressees* of this University, he has repeated to us the assurance of his *Royal Protection* in our special rights and privileges. This, one would think, should be sufficient to confound the insolence of our *Praters*, who make no scruple to talk in public, what is criminal even to imagine. But though a *B---ntl---*, a *J--bnf--n*, or an *Ash---* be never so impudent; though this *Religious Divine* should make it a point of *Conscience and Duty* to reform us; though this *Civilian* give it for *Law*, that our *Privileges* are a *Grievance*; though this *Physician* subscribe an *Opinion*, that the University wants *Physick*, we shall still rest easy and secure in the *Justice of our Cause*, and the *Word of his Majesty*.

Let our *Visitors* then come whenever they please; the University, I dare say, has not been, since the *Reformation*, in better order and disposition to receive them than at this day: In so many members as compose this body of ours, *human Frailty* must needs display itself in several instances amongst us; in such a number of youth as is committed to our care, some few extravagances, some offences

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offences to our statutes and discipline must sometimes be committed.

*Unus & alter
Forſitan hæc ſpernant Juvenes.*

But they are never ſooner detected than chaſtiſed. Let our *Senior Proctor*, who is ſo forward to accuſe us, diſcover, if he pleaſes, to the world all the corruption and debauchery he has found out, ſince his coming into office; let him ſay what irregularities he has complained of, which have not been puniſhed; and whether our *Discipline* be not regularly, conſtantly, and equally adminiſtered.

If there is any *Breach of Statutes* amongſt us, it is of ſuch only as have out-laſted the end and deſign of their inſtitution, and are no longer applicable to any good uſe and purpoſe.

If there are any of our members under any censure, diſgrace, or diſcredit with us, they are ſuch only, whoſe ill lives are a reproach to us, or who are profeſſed enemies to our *Conſtitution and Eſtabliſhment*; who commit the *infamous Parricide* of deſtroying the *Mother* that has brought them up, and to whoſe care and indulgence they owe all the credit and merit they pretend to.

*Interimis matremque veneno,
Incolumi capite es?*

If there have been any inſinuations of our *Diſloyalty* and *Diſaffection to the Government*, they will be found *false* and *frivolous*, without any juſt ground or foundation. We are ready to give every proof of the contrary, to anſwer every *Teſt* of our *Loyalty*, which the *Law* has required; and more, I ſuppoſe, will not be expected from us.

*Domus hæc nec purior ulla eſt,
Nec magis his aliena malis.*

But

But if it were possible to be true, which it is hardly so to imagine ; and the University was to suffer all that her enemies now threaten her with ; she could never hope to fall with more honour, than in the *Cause* she is now engaged in, *fighting* for her *Privileges* and her *Discipline*.

A P P E N D I X.

I Shall make no remarks upon the following *Petition* of the Master of *Trinity*, nor the Vice-Chancellor's *Answer*, since they both lie before the Council ; nor would I indeed have printed them, but that a copy of the *Petition* had long been exposed in all our Coffee-houses, and is common in every body's hands ; and the *Answer* was produced, and argued from, publicly in the Vice-Chancellor's court, by the Master's *Proctor Lisle*, in a late cause he was engaged in.

To the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY in Council.

The humble Petition of Richard Bentley, D. D. Master of Trinity-College, and Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner was made Master of *Trinity College*, aforesaid, by his Majesty King *William* the III^d of glorious Memory ; That your Majesty's Royal Predecessor founded the *Regius Professorship* ; and, That your Petitioner was *duly elected thereunto*, and did afterwards peaceably exercise the office ; That the Reverend Dr. *Gooch*, the present Vice-Chancellor, in a Cause depending before him, under a pretence of certain contempts, committed by your Petitioner, did, with six Assessors, especially called to that end, (*viz.*) the Reverend Dr. *Covel*, Dr. *Ashton*,

Dr. Laney, Dr. Adams, Dr. Jenkins, and Dr. Grigg, suspend your Petitioner from all Degrees in the University, without hearing your Petitioner, or *summoning him to that purpose*: And upon that suspension, the said Vice-Chancellor afterwards, (*viz.*) out of Court, did totally obstruct your Petitioner in the execution of his office, as Regius Professor; That afterwards the said Vice-Chancellor called a Congregation of the University, and the same being assembled, proposed a Grace to the *Caput* for degrading your Petitioner for the aforesaid *pretended* Contempt, and Dr. Otway, one of the *Caput*, being *suspected of not having taken the Oaths* to your Majesty, Dr. Asbenburst and Mr. Bull, two Members of the said Congregation, demanded of the Vice-Chancellor, who is a Justice of the Peace, that *the Vice-Chancellor, with Dr. Laney, another Justice of the Peace also present*, should tender the Oaths to the said Dr. Otway, before he gave his vote as one of the said *Caput*; but the Vice-Chancellor refused so to do, with threats to the said Dr. Asbenburst, that he would *take care of* him, or to that effect; and permitted the said Dr. Otway to vote, and the Grace passed the *Caput*; and the said Grace being read to the Congregation, it there passed by a majority: whereby your Petitioner stands degraded, and excluded from all Degrees in the said University. That the said proceedings being *unjustifiable and illegal*, tending to the *Confusion of the Methods of Justice* in the University, to the *Disquiet of the same*, and to the *Support of Disaffection to your Majesty's Person and Government*, your Petitioner doth most humbly apply to your Majesty, as the supreme Visitor of your own University.

Your Petitioner therefore doth most humbly beseech your Majesty, to bear your Petitioner's Case; and to give such Relief in the Premises, as to your Royal Justice and Wisdom shall seem meet: And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

At the Court at St. James's the 30th of October, 1718.

The KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY in Council.

His Majesty in Council taking the said Petition into consideration,

tion, is pleased to order the same to be sent to the Reverend Dr. Gooch Vice-Chancellor; who is thereby directed to attend his Majesty in Council on *Thursday* next, being the 6th of *November*, at twelve of the Clock, at St. *James's*, and give an account of the proceedings which have occasioned this complaint.

To the KING'S Most Excellent MAJESTY in Council.

An Account of the Proceedings against the Reverend the Master of Trinity College in the University of Cambridge, most humbly presented, in obedience to your Majesty's Commands, by Thomas Gooch Vice-Chancellor of the said University.

AT a Court holden the 3d of *October* in the Consistory of the said University, in a Cause between *Conyers Middleton*, Doctor in Divinity, and the said Master of *Trinity*, for a debt claimed as due from the said Master to the said Dr. *Middleton*, who appeared personally, and constituted Mr. *Cook* his *Proctor*. The return of the Decree, which before had been issued against the said Master, being called for, and the said Master not appearing, the Register of the Court exhibited the Beadle's deposition taken upon oath, a copy whereof is hereunto annexed, which being read, Mr. *Cook*, *Proctor* for Dr. *Middleton*, alledged to the Court, that the said Master was in contempt, and prayed that he might be suspended for the same. Whereupon the said Vice-Chancellor, with the consent of his *Assessors*, did pronounce the said Master suspended from all Degrees in the said University, which is a legal punishment provided for such contempt.

He the said Vice-Chancellor apprehended then, and does still apprehend, that such his proceedings were according to the ancient and ordinary method of the court; and that such non-appearance of the said Master, was a contumacy and contempt to the court; and he is informed, such proceeding is agreeable to the rules and practice of all courts of the like nature, where there is no process known to call persons to be heard, in order to punish the contempt of a former process.

He the said Vice-Chancellor held three courts after the suspension, for no other purpose, but to give the said Master an opportunity of appearing, in order to the being discharged from his suspension.

The first court was held on *Tuesday, October* the 17th.

The second on *Thursday, October* the 19th. At which court the Master not appearing, nothing was done.

The third court was held on *Wednesday, October* the 25th.

Before the Vice-Chancellor.

ASSESSORS.

Dr. Covel,	Dr. Adams,
Dr. Balderston,	Dr. Jenkins,
Dr. Fisher,	Dr. Sherlock,
Dr. Laney,	Dr. Grigg.

Whereas the Master of *Trinity* not appearing, the Vice-Chancellor took time to deliberate, how the authority of the University might be preserved and maintained. And this was all the business done in this third court.

The Vice-Chancellor did take the advice of all the Heads then present in the University (the Master of *Trinity* only excepted) who, considering that the several steps taken by the Vice-Chancellor's authority, had been without effect, were of opinion, that the said Master's behaviour, in contempt of the University, was proper to be laid before a congregation of the University, together with a Grace for his degradation.

A congregation was called on *Friday* morning, *October* the 27th.

The

The Vice-Chancellor proposed the Grace to the *Caput*, who are select persons appointed to consider what is proper to come before the body; each of them having a *Negative* upon every Grace proposed by the Vice-Chancellor, the only person that can propose any to them.

The Grace was, without any difficulty or scruple made, approved by the *Caput*.

In the same congregation it was published in both houses, after which the Vice-Chancellor continued the congregation to the afternoon. In the second meeting of the congregation the Grace was again read and voted in both houses.

It passed in the Regent-House,	} <i>Placets</i>	40
		} <i>Non Placets</i>
It passed likewise in the Non-Regent House,	} <i>Placets</i>	
		} <i>Non Placets</i>

A Copy of the said Grace is hereunto annexed.

The said Grace is a Decree of the University, and the only proceeding remaining with effect, upon the reverend the Master of *Trinity*. And that whereby he stands degraded and excluded from all degrees, titles, and rights in the said University, which is the only present subject of his complaint, the suspension being sunk in the degradation.

The said Vice-Chancellor humbly conceives, that he is not personally accountable for an act of the body corporate of the University of *Cambridge*, whereof he is but one member.

Whereas it is objected in the petition of the Master of *Trinity*, That he the said Vice-Chancellor did totally obstruct the said Master in the execution of his office as *Regius Professor* :

He the said Vice-Chancellor (not intending hereby to admit, that the said Master is legally possessed of the said Professorship) answereth :

That after the suspension, the said Master of *Trinity* did attempt to preach a *Latin* sermon in the University Church.

That the said attempt was a contempt of the jurisdiction of the court, the said Master well knowing, that no persons under suspension can preach in the University Church.

That the execution of his office was the thing least in his thoughts, it being notorious, that another person was provided to do that office, and that the said Master had no intention to preach in person, till he had notice of his suspension.

And whereas it is objected in the said Petition, That Dr. *Otway*, one of the *Caput*, being suspected of not having taken the Oaths to Your Majesty, Dr. *Ashenbush* and Mr. *Bull*, two Members of the congregation, demanded of the Vice-Chancellor, who is a Justice of the Peace, That the Vice-Chancellor, with Dr. *Laney*, another Justice of the Peace then present, should tender the Oaths to the said Dr. *Otway*, before he gave his Vote as one of the said *Caput*; but the Vice-Chancellor refused so to do.

He the said Vice-Chancellor answereth :

That he sat in the said Congregation in the capacity of Vice-Chancellor, and as such had no authority to tender the Oaths to the said Dr. *Otway*. That he never knew nor heard of any persons acting as a Justice of the Peace in the congregation of the University.

He denies that Dr. *Ashenbush* and Mr. *Bull*, or either of them, did apply to him as a Justice of the Peace, or that they or either

of them mentioned to him or applied to Dr. Laney as another Justice then present, to join with him in tendering the Oaths.

That Dr. Otway was in the *Caput* pursuant to the Statute, as Senior of his faculty then present, the Member of the *Caput* for that faculty elected for the present year being absent, and he the said Dr. Otway had a Right to vote, from which the Vice-Chancellor could not exclude him. That the very day before, (*viz.*) *October* the 16th, Dr. *Ashenburst* and Dr. Otway were in the *Caput* together, but then no objection was made; and Dr. Otway was a standing Member of the *Caput* all last year, but no objection was made all that time against his acting in that capacity, though Dr. *Ashenburst* and Mr. *Bull* were all that time Members of the Congregation, as was also the Master of *Trinity*.

In justice to the said Dr. Otway, he the said Vice-Chancellor begs leave to add, that he is very well assured, that the said Dr. Otway is ready upon any proper occasion to take the Oaths to your Majesty. And in answer to the suggestion of the said Master's Petition relating to himself, he the said Vice-Chancellor saith, that he is conscious to himself of an hearty zeal for your Majesty's service, of which he has given undoubted evidence, as well before as since your happy Accession to the Crown of these Kingdoms; and there is nothing he should be better pleased with, than to have the complaint against him made the occasion of your Majesty's enquiry into his conduct in that respect.

He humbly presumes to hope that your Majesty will receive the present account with all favourable allowance, considering the shortness of time he had to prepare it.

Your Majesty's most dutiful, and

Most obedient Subject and Servant.

To

To the KING's most Excellent MAJESTY.

The humble Petition of many of the Fellows and Members of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in the Town and University of Cambridge, of King Henry the Eighth's Foundation,

Sheweth,

THAT by the forty-sixth Chapter of the Statutes, by which the said College was at first governed, given by your Majesty's Royal Predecessor King *Edward* the Sixth, of blessed Memory, the Lord Bishop of *Ely*, for the time being, was appointed Ordinary Visitor of the same. But in latter Statutes, given by your Majesty's Royal Predecessor Queen *Elizabeth*, of like blessed and glorious Memory, (by which only the College hath been ever since governed) the said forty-sixth Chapter is wholly omitted, and yet, as your Petitioners humbly conceive, is plainly referred to in the fortieth Chapter of these latter Statutes, the said Lord Bishop of *Ely* being there styled *The Visitor*. All which will appear from copies of both those Chapters hereunto annexed. The which omission and reference, by making it uncertain how far the power of the said Lord Bishop doth extend, have occasioned many great inconveniencies, through a long disuse of regular Visitations *which Founders of Colleges have always thought necessary for the maintenance of good discipline*; and the want of some person of undoubted authority, to whom the several Members of the said College might, upon urgent occasions, apply themselves for the redress of Grievances, and a speedy compofure of such differences as may arise, and of late years have arisen, among them, concerning their respective Rights and Privileges; but remain still undetermined, to the great disquiet of the College, the present Lord Bishop of *Ely* forbearing to interpose his authority, till such time as his Right to the ordinary visitatorial power shall be declared.

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray, That your most excellent Majesty, as Royal Successor to the Founder of the said

faid College, will graciously please to ascertain the Vifitatorial Power, either by a new Grant, or Confirmation of it to the faid Lord Bifhop; or elfe by authorifing fuch perfons to execute the fame as to your Royal Wifdom fhall feem meet.

And your Petitioners fhall ever pray, &c.

A Clause of an Act of Parliament, confirming the Queen's Letters Patents to the Univerfity, in refpect of their Privileges.

Tenor Actus Parliamenti.

And be it fo enacted, &c. As the Letters Patents of the Queen's Majesty aforefaid, granted to the Chancellor, Mafters and Scholars of the faid Univerfity of *Cambridge*, bearing date as is aforefaid; and other Letters Patents by any of the Progenitors or Predeceffors of her Highnefs; and all manner of Liberties, Franchifes, Immunities, Quietances and Privileges, Lytes and Law-Days, and other things whatfoever therein expreffed, given or granted, to the fame Chancellor, Mafters and Scholars of either of the faid Univerfities, or to any of their Predeceffors, or either of the Univerfities, by whatfoever name the faid Chancellors, Mafters, and Scholars, of either of the faid Univerfities, in any of the faid Letters Patents be named, BE, and by virtue of this prefent Act, fhall be from henceforth ratified, eftablifhed, and confirmed unto the faid Chancellor, Mafters, and Scholars, of either of the faid Univerfities; and to their Succeffors for ever; any Statute, Law, Ufage, Custom, Conftitution, or other thing to the contrary in any wife notwithstanding.

SOME
REMARKS
UPON A
PAMPHLET,

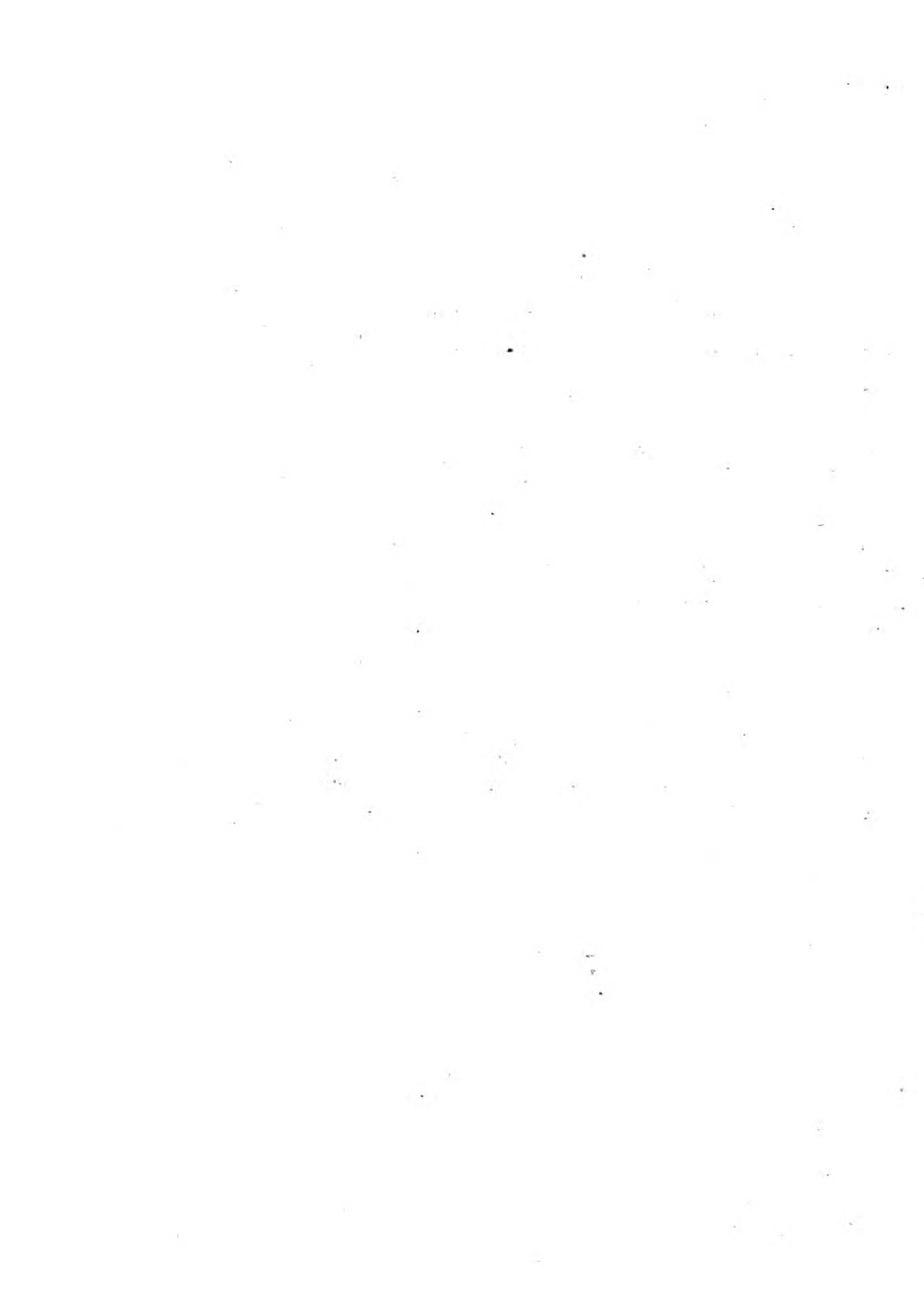
ENTITLED,

*The Case of Dr. Bentley farther Stated and
Vindicated, &c.*

Wherein the Merit of the Author and his Performance, and the
Complaint of Proctor *Laughton*, are briefly considered.

*Qui magis hoc Lucilio licuerit assumere libertatis, quam Nobis? Cum etiam si
odio par fuerit in eos quos læsit, tamen certè non magis dignos habuerit in
quos tantâ verborum libertate incurreret.*

Cic. Epist.



S O M E

R E M A R K S, &c.

WHEN the *Full and Impartial Account of our late Proceedings* was first published, the friends of Mr. Bentley gave out presently that it would certainly be the occasion of a new controversy, and must be answered; it was at that time generally expected, that the Professor, who is such an allowed Master of colouring, would have found something plausible at least to have amused the World withal, some specious colours to have taken off the glaring light of those truths affirmed against him.

But upon the most *critical* sifting of the performance, it was found too true in every part of it to be answered, every fact had undeniable vouchers to support it, and was too well known in the University to give him any advantage by denying it: If the case had been otherwise, it is not possible to imagine that he could have suffered an *Account of a Proceeding*, in which his reputation is so much concerned, to have passed upon the World under the Title of *Impartial*, if he could have found any means of impeaching its veracity, or blasting its credit.

The *Critic* could have played with an Adversary through twice as much *Latin* or *Greek*; but *plain English*, we see, quite silences and confounds him.

The insolence and menaces of some of his friends soon made a farther vindication of ourselves necessary; we were threatened and
I 2
terrified.

terrified with nothing less than the *loss* of all our *Privileges* and *Immunities*, and by such of our Members as pretended to be perfectly informed of the *Counsels* and *Resolutions* of the *Great Ones* above: This gave occasion to the Second Part of the *Full Account*, that those, whoever they were, who had such designs against us, might see however that we would not be smothered in the dark, but that the World should be acquainted in *what Cause*, for *what Reasons*, and by *what Hands* we fell.

It was then believed, that some of the Doctors, whose characters are touched in this second Part, would have taken the opportunity of shewing the grounds and reasons of their zeal and animosity against us, and how necessarily they were provoked to it, by our unjust and barbarous treatment of the Professor.

This had been a task becoming gentlemen so *worthy* and *learned* in the account of a late author: The defence of one's own, or friend's reputation, being not only a laudable employment, but a duty upon every one who is able.

amicum

Qui non defendit alio culpante——

Hic niger est——

But the truth of the matter is, that however these gentlemen may complain of me *in private*, they do not care that the *Public* should be informed how much they are all obliged to me for the tenderness and regard I had shewn their reputations, and that it had been easier for me, when they fell in my way, to have wrote a Book upon each of them, than to have dismissed them in a paragraph.

And I here declare that it was not out of any private *Pique* or *Resentment* (as has been scandalously insinuated) or to revenge any particular Quarrel of my own, that I have made so free with any body's character; but out of the just abhorrence and indignation

nation which I have always freely declared against the *base and scandalous practices* of some, and the *criminal compliances, and slavish obsequiousness* of others.

Scilicet uni æquus virtuti, atque ejus amicis.

About the time of publishing my *Second Piece*, we received at Cambridge a *Pamphlet* entitled, *The Case of Dr. Bentley truly stated, &c.* and some time afterwards another, called, *The Case farther stated, &c.*

It was to little purpose for the author to conceal his name, for every soul who could get through a page or two, cried out presently, it must be *S---kes*.

Ubi ubi est, diu celari non potest.

Nature, which in kindness to the World has set a mark upon his countenance, has given us *infallible ones* of his productions.

Where-ever you find a writer *surprizingly trifling and dull, glorying in never being in the right* [a], *discovering an antipathy to Church and University* [b], *with a special malice to Dr. Sh----* [c] the principal *Champion and Ornament* of both, *there's your man*; pronounce it to be *S----kes*; you need not be afraid of counterfeits. When the Work is too foul and scandalous for any other man to engage in, *S---kes* is a sure card that never fails his friend in distress.

Cum nemini obtrudi potest, itur ad me.

He always keeps himself in readiness for service; and like a famous Lawyer I have heard of, can be *Advocate* or *Evidence*, as occasion requires; and, as a *true Dragoon*, fights either a foot or on horseback. It has been wondered at by some, how a man,

[a] Vid. *Case farther stated*, p. 16. [b] *Ibid.* [c] *Case truly stated*, p. 21.

who had no relation to or business in the University, no particular acquaintance or friendship with the Professor, could, out of pure love to wrangling, thrust himself into a controversy, which he had not the least concern in.

But there is, it must be owned, another good reason very obvious; his friend *Ash---st* had been roughly handled by me; and that was touching him in a tender part; there his *own Character* was nearly concerned; for if *Tale-bearing* and *Informing* could once be brought into discredit and contempt, his business was done at once, and all his *Parts* and *Talents* made useless and unserviceable.

A---st and *S---kes* are terms convertible, that have always signified the same thing in the University.

Par nobile Fratrum

Nequitia & nugis, pravorum & amore gemellum.

Their Names are *Proverbs* in every College, to give at once a full and adequate idea of a *Disturber of the Peace of the Society*, and an *Accuser of his Brethren*.

A---st when he was caught the other day alone and without leave in the *Vice-Chancellor's House*, and in the absence of the family, set the whole University a thinking and talking of *Young's Plot* upon the late *Bishop of Rochester*.

But *S---kes* may one day arrive at the more glorious character of a *Dr. Oates* or *Dr. Tongue*, men famous in their generations, and recorded to all posterity as the Deliverers of their Country from Popery and Slavery.

Our author having offered nothing new upon the merits of this controversy, nothing but what has already been fully answered,

swered, I shall not be provoked by him to say any thing more upon the Subject.

I shall but just observe, that this fee of four Guineas, which was the ground and occasion of all this squabble, was not, as this author has given an account of it, claimed only by our Professor upon *honorary* and *extraordinary Degrees*, and an encroachment common on such occasions to many others in the University, but it was insisted upon, and actually *extorted the commencement before*, from *regular Degrees*; with design and resolution to make it a *stated ordinary Fee*, where the *rest of our officers* have always been and ever must be, content with their *statutable Groats and Shillings*: But the only thing that S----kes and I are agreed in, is that the World has had enough, perhaps too much, of B----ly and his Cause; he has been the employment of more Pens, the subject of more Books, than any other Hero in History: His character puts me in mind of that in the Poet.

Famosisque Lupo cooperto versibus.

and his Picture may be drawn, like that of the *Man in the Almanack*, stuck quite round with darts.

I shall leave him therefore to those comfortable reflections which a *good Cause* always inspire, and to please himself with despising those *poor Souls*, as he calls them [d], who have not Faith to believe the constant assurances he sends his friends of a *speedy Restoration* and *Triumph* over the University.

Our author, in his *Case farther stated*, makes himself very merry (p. 13.) with what I have said of the *Loyalty* of the Universities; that it has always been as great as was consistent with their *Oaths* and *Obligations* to their *Statutes*; he had been canting

[d] In a late Letter to a Friend.

all the late Reign upon the *Duty of Resistance*, and the *natural Rights* of Subjects, superior even to *positive Laws*; but now 'tis a mighty Jest with him, that any *particular Privileges*, or *private Oaths* should be alledged as an excuse or exception to our obedience.

To insist upon our *Rights* and *Liberties*, is with him to *beſtor* and *bully* the Government; and because, as he says, (p. 15.) we have been able to *frighten some of our bigotted Princes*, we conclude that we can terrify King George too.

King James II. was the only *bigotted Prince* who ever made any open attempts to subvert the *Constitution of the Univerſity*, by modelling it to the purposes and designs of Popery; but his *Bigottry* is not to be inferred, it seems, from these *Violences* of his, but from his *Cowardice*, in suffering himself to be baffled and disappointed in the execution of them. But King George, according to this author, is to shew himself no *Bigot*, but the reverse of this *Predecessor* of his, not in leaving us to the quiet enjoyment of our *Charters* and *Immunities*, but in not being moved or terrified, as he styles it, from what he has resolved in regard to us, by any *Spirit* or *Remonstrances* of the Univerſity.

I have heard of an *Engineer*, who declared some time ago in a Coffee-house, that it was so much the business of his life and profession to *obey Orders*, that if his Prince should command him to undermine and blow up the Nation, he should think himself obliged to execute it immediately.

Our *Ecclesiastical Engineer* has, we find, the same notion of duty with this *military one*, and for the least word of King George would not scruple to *blow up Church and Univerſity* in an instant; it would be in vain to think of holding his hand, he would tell us, as he does here, that his *Principle* was that generous one of
public

public good, that particular oaths and obligations were no rules or measures of obedience for him.

But whatever contemptible opinion he may have of *University Loyalty*, or whatever high notions of the *Power* of a *Court*, yet while there are honest men in *England*, there will be always some things which a *King* and *his Ministry* cannot do; it will always be out of their power to make an honest man turn *Advocate* for a *B——ly* or a ——, to make him believe that there is either *Truth* or *Sense* in the writings of the *one*, or *Virtue* or *Honour* in the practices of the *other*; it will never be possible for them, with the bribe of a *Living*, to make him *write* like *S——kes*; or by making him *Court Chaplain*, *act* like ——.

This worthy writer insinuates (p. 17.) that he has got a *long Detail of Facts*, to be published some time or other against the *University*: But as this has been a *Work* of much *Industry* and more *Invention*, the whole employment and fruit of all his studies amongst us, he designs, I presume, to print it by subscription, as soon as he can meet with proper encouragement. In the mean while, as a *Specimen* of the merit and value of his *Collection*, he produces at present four *Cases*, all of them the product of one fruitful year, *viz.* *Professor Bentley's*, *Mr. Brooke's*, *Mr. Bull's*, and the *Bishop of Carlisle's*; each of which is sufficient to prove to the world our great *Injustice* and *Partiality*.

He makes the *Vice-Chancellor's* conduct in the case of *Mr. Brooke* to be a confutation of the legality of his proceedings in that of the *Professor*; (p. 10.) for every step, he tells us, that was taken against the *one*, was reversed in the process against the *other*. *Mr. Brooke*, he says, *was three times summoned*, but *never would appear*; the *Proctor* against him alledged him to be in *Contempt*; all other *Judges* would have thought him so, but the *Vice-Chancellor* would neither suspend him, nor punish him at all.

Now this whole account is entirely false and groundless, for Mr. *Brooke* did actually appear in person upon the *first Summons*; I myself saw him in court, heard him petition the Judge for leave to constitute a Proctor; the reasons he assigned for it were thought good and admitted, and he accordingly retained Mr. *Lisle*: And it is what he complains of as a hardship, that even after this liberty allowed to him, he could not still get himself excused from a *personal Appearance*: The only end and design of this prosecution was to deprive him of his *Library Keeper's Place*, in which he found himself so pushed, as to have no way left of preventing it, but by a resignation.

The Vice-Chancellor has ever since been much clamoured against by Mr. *Brooke* and some of his friends, for the severity of this proceeding against him; but the character of this gentleman, as a *Nonjuror* to the Government, made it convenient for our author to persuade the world, that a wonderful tenderness and regard had been shewn to his particular case; that the Vice-Chancellor had acted against him with the utmost regret, full sore against his judgment and inclination, and had not the heart at last even to *punish him at all*.

Which though *S—kes* himself knows to be false, 'tis no matter for that, his book, he hopes, may fall into some hands not enough acquainted with the University, as to be able to inform themselves better, or so much strangers to his character, as to have no notion of an *Author so prostitute*, as to forge and invent at pleasure whatever he finds useful to his purpose.

As to Mr. *Bull*, whose case is objected here to the Vice-Chancellor, he was sued in our court in an action of defamation, for some words he had spoken, highly reflecting upon a very ingenious and worthy person, a Fellow of his own College, and at that time Proctor of the University: The words were clearly and

and undeniably proved; and the Vice-Chancellor, who did not condemn him till after a full and long hearing of all sides, shewed him, as he himself has owned, all the favour and civility that the case would bear.

Mr. Bull, as is allowed by our statutes, appealed to *Delegates of the Body*, who confirmed the sentence against him; but he has since been made *Chaplain to his Majesty*, and it is inserted, as 'tis generally reported, very *particularly* and *unusually in his Warrant*, that he succeeds to the *very Place* of our Vice-Chancellor, a *Promotion* so far from putting the University *out of Humour*, that every soul amongst us makes himself *merry with it*; but it is a demonstration, I find, with Mr. S—kes, that he must have been *injured here*, because he has been *preferred at Court*.

The Bishop of *Carlisle's* case is this: Several Fellows of *Bennet College*, where he is now Master, looked upon themselves as aggrieved, by a *Præ-election* to a *Fellowship* which he had lately made there: They complained of the *unusual* and *clandestine* manner in which it was managed, without the consent of the *greatest part* of the Fellows, where, contrary to custom, the *absent ones* had not any summons to attend, or even all the *resident ones* any notice of the design; but *four* only out of *twelve* concurring with the Master, chose his *own Son* into the next vacancy that should happen.

While the complaint and appeal of the Fellows was actually depending, the Master made *two Præ-elections more* after the same manner.

Præ-elections, 'tis true, had been common and frequent in this College, but being, properly speaking, *irregular* and *unstatutable*, they were for that reason transacted always in the most open manner, and supposed to require a fuller consent and concurrence of the society, than regular and ordinary elections.

But this method of *making Fellows* introduced by his Lordship, was at that time generally looked upon as altogether *new* and *arbitrary*, and a *dangerous Precedent* in the University.

The Fellows appealed to the Vice-Chancellor, as the *Visitor* appointed them by their statutes, who accepted the appeal, and undertook the cause, in which he did no more than what every honest man and good magistrate would in his case have found himself obliged to, in duty to his office, and justice to the complainants.

By a charter of King *James I.* the Chancellor of the University is made the *Visitor* of every College, where a *special one* has not been constituted by the *Founder*. When some mention was made of appealing to him, the Bishop declared against his authority and jurisdiction, because *special Visitors* were actually appointed by their statutes, *viz.* the Vice-Chancellor, with the two senior Doctors of the University; yet when these *special Visitors* had resolved and were preparing to act, he appealed against their power and right of visiting to the King in Council, whence an *Inhibition* was soon sent down upon them, and the dispute has since been determined there to the satisfaction of the Master.

But to demonstrate once for all what a want of discipline and good order there is in the University, our author makes here a discovery to the World, that the present Vice-Chancellor *Dr. Gooch*, who is so severe upon the Professor, and *Dr. Middleton* the Prosecutor of him, are after all the *only persons* who deserve the censures and animadversion of the University.

This is supported by the *complaint of a Proctor*, dated July 3^d, 1710, now printed with much pomp, and subscribed *Richard Laughton, Proctor senior*.

The account I had received of this old story's being revived and published here, was the only reason that could make me read or regard any thing that *S—kes* had wrote ; it was to come at *this*, that gave me the patience to wade through all the dirt which he had thrown in the way to it ; it is not in the power of *S—kes* to give me the least uneasiness or disturbance.

Men' moveat Cimex Pantilius ?

He can raise no passion of mine but that of mirth or contempt : But Dr. *Laughton* indeed has something to stake upon a controversy, has some reputation to lose, if indecently or unjustly he attacks that of others ; which I shall easily prove to be the case of this *Complaint* of his, *false* in many passages of it, and *misrepresented* in all.

How will he justify to the world the dispersing, as he will own he did, among *Bishops* and *other great men*, many *written Copies of this Manifesto* ? Where the story, as he has represented it, could have no other possible effect, than to bring *Scandal* upon the University, gain *Reputation*, perhaps *Preferment* to himself, and *injure* others probably in *both*.

But to examine this account of his a little more particularly. One of the persons whom he found in this company at the *Rose*, appeared, he says, *to have drank to great excess by the Tone and Accent of his Voice*, &c. This he pretends to have observed at his first coming amongst them, when yet at their parting about two hours afterwards, the whole reckoning amounted only to eighteen-pence a piece; out of which, besides what was given away, some part was reserved and carried off unspent.

Another, he tells us, *was sitting indecently without either his Gown or Cassock on, though he be in Priest's Orders*: Would not any man imagine from this description of his, that this Clergyman
had

had stripped himself to his Waistcoat to drink with more ease and coolness in a warm summer's evening? Yet there was nothing more in it than this, that having been to take the air on horseback, he came into company just as he alighted from his horse, in a riding habit, and with boots and spurs on.

When the Proctor first drew up this complaint in writing, he found it proper to pass over in silence such of the company, whose *Names* would effectually have demonstrated his *Rudeness*; and in this printed edition of it, the *names*, for some special reasons, are dwindled only to two, *viz.* *Mr. Gooch of Caius College, and Mr. Middleton of Trinity College.* One of these is at present Vice-Chancellor of the University, whose character is too well known in the world to want any vindication; who has joined the accomplishment of a *Gentleman* to those of a *Scholar*; who with all the proper *Gravity* and *Severity* of the *one*, knows how to practise and allow every liberty which becomes the *other*; whose Magistracy has taught us what difference there is between *Discipline* and *Pedantry*, *Reformation* and *ill Manners*.

The *other*, who from this *Representation of him*, might pass probably enough for a *Haunter of Taverns*, a *Lover of Wine and Debauch*, has always been *remarkable and exemplary* in the University for the *strictest Temperance and Regularity of life*.

These are the *rude and disorderly* persons he complains of; these are the *Men whose ill Lives*, according to Master *S——kes*, are a *Reproach to us*.

But these gentlemen however are much obliged to him for the opportunity he has given of informing the world, that they had the honour to be found by him at this time in company with the present Earl of *Anglesey*, who was then the *shining Ornament of the House of Commons*, as he has since been of the *House of Lords*; a person much more distinguished by his *great Parts and Abilities*,
 I
 than

than by his *high Birth* and *Quality*; whose *Friendship* and *Conversation* have always been the ambition and delight of the *greatest* and *politest* in the kingdom; and whose *Name* and *Education* amongst us will be remembered to all posterity as the *Honour* and *Glory* of this Univerfity.

There were befides in this company some others of *great Quality* and *Character*; the *Honourable Mr. Windſor*, Member of Parliament for the Univerfity; *Sir J. Cotton, Bart.* Member of Parliament for the Town, with Doctors and Maſters of Arts. This was the company when this *zealous Reformer* came bolting into the room, about ten at night, with as *much Authority* and as *little Ceremony*, as if he had ſurprized a Club of *Sizers* or *Freſhmen*; he *required them to be gone*, declared he would not ſtir, till he had ſeen them pay their reckoning; brought all his *young Scholars* in upon them, and encouraged the ſaucineſs and rudeneſs which ſome of them offered to the company. Such treatment of perſons of *ſuch Diſtinction* had never before been practiſed or heard of in the Univerfity. And it had been ſtrange if an *Inſult* ſo unuſual had not been reſented by the company with a juſt *Contempt* and *Indignation*; it was out of *pure Opposition* to him that they ſtayed till the late hour he mentions of twelve a clock, and did not break up till they had received three viſits of the ſame kind from him.

They were not however provoked to ſhew any other incivility or diſreſpect to his perſon, than that of *laughing* at him pretty heartily; and though he complains of this as an affront to his office, he muſt thank himſelf for it, 'twas impoſſible to be help'd, 'twas but the natural and neceſſary effect of the *great Pains* he took to make himſelf *ridiculous*.

We all remember a *late Profeſſor* in our Schools, who when himſelf had made the jeſt, uſed to thunder at the ſcholars for rudely laughing at things ſo ſerious.

This

This gentleman had a fair occasion of reforming some *Abuses*, and abolishing some *dirty Perquisites* of his office, which too justly give offence to grave and good men : But 'tis *Charity* only, and not *Reformation* that begins at home ; and his want of scruple here is enough to make us suspect that his business was to chuse such a part, as would make a noise in the world, would bring him *Credit*, without *Loss*, and would give people such notions of the University, and himself, as to think it unsafe to trust their children there, but under his government and direction.

There needs no other proof of the absurdity and impertinence of this *Complaint*, than the confession which Mr. *S---kes* has made, *that it was never yet redressed.*

Dr. *Roderick*, the late Provost of *King's*, was at that time Vice-Chancellor, a known *Lover of Discipline*, and *steady Friend to the Revolution* ; and though he was very tender of discouraging whatever looked like *Reformation* ; yet he expressed himself, I know, very severely upon the trouble and disturbance *this Proctor* gave him in *this* and many other of his *Complaints*.

But to return once to our author ; he comes in the conclusion, with a modesty peculiar to himself, to prescribe to the Ministry, a method and scheme of new modelling and reforming the University.

First, by giving us a body of *new Statutes ; reasonable ones*, free from all *Oaths* and *Obligations to our Privileges* ; that is, such as we may break and dispense with at pleasure, without wanting any of those *superstitious Absolutions* which are now thought so necessary ; such as may give our youth an early taste and notion of *true Liberty*.

As for our *present ones*, being given us by Queen *Elizabeth*, they

they are but the ragged *Remnants of Popery* ; and by unreasonably tying us up to a *strict Observance* of them, are a clog and dead weight upon the enterprizing genius's amongst us ; and give *flawish* and *abject* impressions of duty and respect to our Governors.

He would have *such Statutes as will educate Gentlemen so, as to make them Honours to the Time and Place they live in* : By the help of our *present ones* we have been always able to furnish the world with persons who have adorned, and who now actually fill the *greatest Offices* of Church and State ; but these have still, it seems, some tincture, some leaven of our *Principles* upon them ; *S---kes* longs to see them succeeded by such, as his *new Statutes* are to raise ; *Men, as he says, truly useful to the World, free from every prejudice of education, and without the least bias of Church or University upon their minds.*

The next thing he proposes, is, the appointment of a *Place of Appeals* for us, from the authority and jurisdiction of the University ; for at present, it seems, all our differences and disputes are determined in an *arbitrary* and *summary* manner, in a hearing or two before the Vice-Chancellor ; the *Liberty* of wrangling and quarrelling no sooner *breathes in any College* where he has any authority, but 'tis stifled and extinguished : *Our Judges too by one Art or other generally make themselves such Parties, and interest themselves so much in the cause, as to end it often, even before it comes into court, to the great discouragement and obstruction of law and justice among us.*

But if we were once allowed to *appeal to Westminster-hall*, or to carry our *Magistrates* before a *superior Judge*, this would tend much to the *Peace and Quiet* of the University, would keep our *Vice-Chancellor* and *Heads* in good order, and make them less forward and impertinent in meddling and concerning themselves with what the rest of the University is doing.

L

But

But lastly, for the keeping up and perpetuating the good effects of such a Reformation, he desires the *Visitors* may be appointed to come amongst us *once in a certain Term of Years*, to see that we have not *degenerated* or fallen back into the *old dull Track* again, that we have not acquired any *superstitious Reverence to our Statutes*, any *selfish Love to our Privileges*, but that we have constantly and sufficiently *contemned our Superiors*, and never failed to carry the least point in dispute to *this Place of Appeals*, this *Asylum of oppressed Liberty* provided for us.

These are the things, which in Mr. S--kes's Opinion are wanting, to do the business of the University; but he is not sanguine enough to believe, that this is the precise Time of Reformation, for we have got a Ministry, as he insinuates, disposed to neglect the best Opportunity of doing Service to their Country that has offered itself since the Restoration.

One thing only he is sure of, and which we must take upon his word, that *this is certainly the Time when our Professor will be redressed*; that is, I presume, *restored to his Titles and Degrees* amongst us; If this could be true, it would be far from being disagreeable to any honest member of the University, for it is no more than to tell us, that Mr. Bentley is come at last to a sober mind, to understand himself and his duty, is now become sensible of the *Insolence and Indecency* of his conduct, and desirous to ask pardon and make amends for it to the University: Upon *these Terms* we might, I fancy, be prevailed with to restore him at any time; and these, I'll venture to say, are the *only ones*, upon which he can ever be restored.

To tell us of his *being redressed*, without making a *Satisfaction* suitable to his *Offence*, is to talk to us like children; we know ourselves and constitution too well to believe that we can ever be obliged to it.

We are threatened indeed every day with the expectation of a *Royal Mandate* to re-establish him ; and he himself, I hear, gives assurances of it to his friends ; if ever we should receive *such an one*, we shall hardly be at a loss how to behave ourselves with a *becoming duty* and *regard* to it ; we should use it, without doubt, with the *utmost Reverence* and *Respect*.

But should we obey it without *Reserve* or *Hesitation*, before *the Law* has convinced us that we are in duty bound to do it, his Majesty himself would, I dare say, have the worse opinion of us ; the world, I am sure, would despise us for it.



A TRUE
A C C O U N T
OF THE
P R E S E N T S T A T E
OF
T R I N I T Y C O L L E G E,
IN
C A M B R I D G E.

Under the oppressive Government of their Master
RICHARD BENTLEY, late D. D.

*Prætermittam minora omnia, quorum simile forsitan alius quoque aliquid
aliquando fecerit: nihil dicam nisi singulare; nisi quod, si in alium reum
diceretur, incredibile videretur.* Cic. in Verr. i.

1911
A GOOD TIME

PRESENTED BY

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE COMPANY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1911

AND THE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1911

A T R U E

A C C O U N T

O F T H E

P R E S E N T S T A T E

O F

T R I N I T Y C O L L E G E, &c.

WHEN the late Controversy between the *University* and Dr. *Bentley* was thought so considerable, as to deserve the *notice and cognizance of the Court*, and had raised every where an opinion that *visitors* were to be sent down to us to enquire into and determine it; whatever apprehensions other people might have of the consequences of such a *visitation*, many worthy Members of *Trinity College* had a particular pleasure in the thoughts and expectation of it, having had good assurances given them, that such a Commission would never be granted, without powers and instructions to examine at the same time into the state of their *particular differences*, and redress the *grievances* they had so long laboured under.

But since the *Court* seems now to have left the *Master* to the just resentment and *censures* of the *University*; whatever satisfaction the World might take in the shame and disgrace of an *unjust* and *insolent* man, yet those of his own College have found little reason to claim any share in the public joy it gave, being at present

present very far from receiving any benefit or relief from it : For what is it to them, that their Master has now lost his *Academical Titles and Degrees*, which are but the *trappings and ornaments* of virtue, when he had long since lost, in the esteem of all good men, the *very substance and thing itself*? What is it, I say, to them that he is now no more a *Doctor*, nor will be much longer *Professor*, if he must still be their *Master*, their *Tyrant*, and *Oppressor*? If besides all his former insults, they must now bear the additional weight of his fury and spleen for his late disappointments ; their case seems now like that of some *poor wretch* under the correction of a *merciless bully*, who, after having been kicked and despised by all the World besides, is sure to return with interest the drubbings he receives, upon that unhappy creature whom he has had the luck to get the better of.

They have for several years past been labouring, by all the means they could, to procure a public and decisive hearing of their disputes, and have applied themselves for that purpose to every *great man* they could any way find access to : They have long been desirous to subject themselves to the *visitatorial power* of the Bishop of *Ely*, and to join in any addresses to *Court* or *Parliament* for such an explication of their Statutes, as would confirm *that power* to him ; their *Petition to the King in Council* to assign them a *visitor*, has been depending there above four years, without any other effect, than from the little notice that is taken of them abroad, to find themselves trampled upon, with the greater spirit and insolence, at home.

While the *liberty of an Englishman* is so much the envy of other Nations, and the boast of our own, and the meanest Peasant knows where to find redress for the least grievance he has to complain of ; it is hardly credible, that a *Body of learned and worthy men*, oppressed and injured daily, in every thing that is dear and valuable to them, should not be able to find any *proper Court of Justice* in the kingdom that will receive their complaints.

It is very discouraging to them to observe, that the University had no sooner executed a *necessary piece of Discipline* upon their Master, but the *alarm* was presently taken, and a *jealousy* conceived, that they had exceeded the bounds of their regular authority, and assumed a power not warranted by their *Charters and Statutes*; yet this very man, after all their *Remonstrances* and *Petitions* against his *Tyranny*, has long been and is still suffered, without check or controul, to commit the most exorbitant acts of power that were ever heard of in any regular society, and to ruin one of the most *flourishing Colleges in Europe*, by every possible instance and act of *Male-administration*.

But what makes it still more strange, is, that by the best information I can get, there is not so much as *one person* of any *authority* or *credit about the Court*, who does not take pains to shift off from himself the *envy* and *odium* of protecting him; not *one*, who does not seemingly detest and openly disclaim him; and yet with all the consciousness of his guilt upon him, without any visible hand to preserve him from sinking under it, he continues still so *remorseless* and *incorrigible*, shews such a contempt and defiance of all opposition, and seems to know himself so secure against every thing that threatens him, that his conduct is not any way to be accounted for, except we could believe of him, what a *modern Historian* relates of another *Tyrant* and *Usurper*; that he has found means of *contracting* with a *certain invisible Power for a lease of his Government*, to be insured to him against all hazards and events, till the *Charm* be out, and his *Term* expired.

But to come now to my purpose: As to the particulars which I design to insist upon in this *short account of the present state of Trinity College*, I shall confine myself chiefly within the compass of the last year or two; and though it will be necessary for me to touch upon *many facts* of longer date and standing, it shall only

be with design to make myself clearly understood, or to give a better light into the *general character of the man*, which cannot be more perfectly drawn in short, than in what was said of him the other day, *by a gentleman in conversation*, that he is one of the *greatest Savages these latter ages have produced*.

The *Statutes of Trinity College*, in describing the *office and duty* of the Master, require, that [a] he be as eminent and distinguished *by his piety*, as he is by his *station and dignity* from all the rest of the College; and it is but necessary that in a society, designed particularly for the pious and liberal education of *Clergymen*, the *Head* of it should be a person of *unblemished life and manners*, and a *shining example* of *virtue and religion*, to those who are to be bred under his care: Yet this man, during the whole time of his Government, has by his *shameful irreligious life*, and by *withdrawing himself almost totally* from the *public worship of God*, given such *notorious scandal and offence*, as would not be endured without the severest censures, in any other Member of any College in the University: He has not, I dare say, for the last dozen years, been above *twice* at Morning Prayers with his College: He once appeared there a good while ago on a *Sunday* morning, to the great surprize of the congregation, who had no other solution to give of this *so strange a phænomenon*, but that the *Judges* being then at *Cambridge*, and having been the evening before at chapel, he came in expectation of finding them there again, and of sending *their Lordships* away with an high esteem and opinion *of his piety*: And a few months since he was seen there once again on a *Sunday*, to pay a compliment to a *Favourite of his* who was to preach that morning before the society; but to cut short the *fatigue of so tedious an attendance*, he contrived to come in, not till the *second Service* was reading, and the *prayers* just at an end.

[a] *De Offic. Mag. Ut sicut honore cæteros antecellit, ita eximiâ pietate, &c.*

As for *evening prayers*, it is very usual for him to be *many weeks, nay months* together in the College, without ever once coming there: One winter, I remember, a frugal chapel-clerk, willing to save an expence to the College, which he had long observed unnecessary, gave over lighting up any candles for his seat in chapel; yet all this while he was known to be in perfect health; often visiting his friends in town, and receiving company at home; and lest he should be suspected to have some reasonable excuse for a *conduct so extraordinary*; lest the true reason should not appear to be, what it really is, *a pure contempt of all things sacred*: He has taken care sometimes when the College were going to their devotions, to be seen *sauntering and staring* upon them at his window, or *drinking a bottle* in his parlour.

Any other man of common understanding, though we could suppose him *void of all religion*, would still pay some regard to outward *decency*, some respect to *station and character*; but nothing is to be wondered at in him, who can *profit so little* under the *pious labours and advice* of his *good friend the Lord Bishop of Carlisle*; for we cannot suppose that those frequent visits, which his *Lordship* does him the honour of, can pass without many *serious and episcopal admonitions* to a more *decent and edifying* behaviour.

One of his creatures, when pressed some years since in a *Coffee-house* with this his *scandalous neglect of Prayers and Sacraments*, replied very gravely, that it were to be wished, that those who accused the *Master*, had ever so good an excuse for their absence as he had, or were employing themselves so well at home, as he was then known to be; he meant, in the *edition of his Horace*, which he was at that time preparing to publish.

But Doctor *Ab--st* (who never baulks any cause he undertakes) will argue it with you, as long as you please, that it would

be a *sin* and *kind of impiety*, for the great Bentley to come to chapel, and waste so much of his time at prayers, which is so greatly and usefully employed for the public service and advantage; nay, that he would not accept of a *Bishoprick*, for this very reason, because of being confined to the *inconvenience* and *drudgery* of cathedral prayers.

Next under the *Master*, the *Deans* of the College are the persons particularly entrusted by the Statutes, with the *Government of the manners*, the *care* and *inspection* of the *moral* and *religious* behaviour of the Students; it is their business to *preside* and *moderate* in all the *theological exercises*; they are to see that *divine service* be decently and regularly performed in the chapel; to be *constant* there themselves, and to take care that all the rest of the College be so too, and to punish very severely any *failure* or *neglect* of that kind.

An office so solemn and weighty as this, cannot be executed as it ought, but by men of the greatest *gravity* and *abilities*; yet the *Master* has generally forced upon the society such *Deans*, (and indeed all other *officers* whatsoever) as by their *vices* and *infirmities*, have been most notoriously unfit for any kind of duty, though for that reason the fittest to serve his *private purposes*; such, as must be *slaves to his will*, because *obnoxious* to his *power*; such, as might, if possible, serve as *foils* even to himself: A *vigilant conscientious officer* would but cast a greater reproach upon his own conduct, by making the scandal of it the more glaring and remarkable.

He made one of the Fellows *Senior Dean*, after having accused him *in print* to the late *Bishop of Ely*, of a public and scandalous piece of *immorality*, which need not now be named.

Another he took occasion to convict in a solemn manner, by the testimony of all the College, of being a *common swearer*, and
5 *habitual*

habitual drunkard; and without inflicting upon him the least censure for all this, he made him not long after the *Senior Dean*.

As for the next who bore this office, he had some time ago covered his name upon the *buttery tables*, for talking, as his spies informed him, against his *arbitrary proceedings*: He knew him to be a *timorous poor spirited man*, of *much body*, but *little soul*: and when by the terror of this *unheard of punishment*, he had brought him to an abject compliance to all his *scandalous purposes*, he then made him *Senior Dean*; though he knew him much *unqualified* and *incapacitated* for it by the *Statutes* [b]; yet he was annually chosen into this place for the four years last past, wherein he *played the courtier* so well, as never once to be seen at *morning prayers* during that whole time.

The late *election of Deans* in *October* last, has still exceeded all the rest; for though it be absolutely necessary that the *Senior Dean* be *constantly residing in the College*, and the *Statutes* require that he be always [b] *one of the Senior Fellows*, yet he, who was then chosen into *this office*, was no *Member of the Seniority*, and had just before given a *bond of a thousand pounds to the College*, to reside upon a *Vicarage* that they had presented him to. I shall not enter into the character of this *new Dean*, but though modesty makes no part of it, he will not, I dare say, pretend to so much as *one single qualification*, requisite to a proper *discharge of his duty*; yet all this while *Doctor Colbatch*, a *Member of the Seniority*, *always Resident*, and of all others the most *eminently and confessedly* qualified to do *service and credit to the College* in this and every other station, was claiming it, as his *Right by the Statutes*.

At every election the *Master* and *Seniors* are obliged to take a

[b] *De Decan. Offic. Et vel uterque vel Theologiæ sit, & ex numero octo Seniorum, &c.*
alter saltem eorum semper Baccalaureus

solemn

solemn Oath [c], that without *favour, hatred, or any perturbation of mind*, they will elect such persons only whom they believe in *their consciences* to be *most worthy* of the places they are to fill; yet when the question was put home to the *consciences of these Electors*, whether by virtue of the *Oath* they had taken, they could believe that *this person* proposed to them by the *Master* would make a *more useful Dean* than *Doctor Colbatch*; there was found a set of them, so *prostitute and abandoned*, as to declare that they did.

The mention of *Dr. Colbatch* obliges me to give some account of the *barbarous and brutish Treatment*, which the *Master* has long shewn to this *great and good Man*. He had formerly much *courted and carested* him, by the offer of every *personal Advantage* he could desire for himself in *College*, to draw him off, if he could, from opposing his *irregular Proceedings*; but since that was found impossible, he would fain be thought to despise *that integrity*, which he could not corrupt: This *Gentleman* is now the *Professor of casuistical Divinity* in the *University*; a post he *singularly adorns*, being himself a *living Instance* of that *strict Morality and Religion*, which he recommends in *his Lectures*; he has always been revered and esteemed, as a *thorough Master* of every part of *sound Learning*, which is either of *Use or Ornament* to a *Professor of Divinity*; his *Enemies* (which are such only as can be *Friends to the Master*) have never had any thing else to say against *his Virtue*, but that it was *too severe*: He is now the only *Member of the Seniority*, who is qualified by the *Statutes*, for the *Place of Vice-Master or Senior Dean*, which ought always to be filled by *Doctors or Batchelors* [d] of *Divinity*, yet when at every yearly

[c] *De Officiar. Elect.* Deinde Jusjurandum det, se neminem ad aliquod officium gerendum, gratia, odio, ullave animi perturbatione, vel precario adductum, sed eum solum quem testimo-

nio conscientiae permotus maximè idoneum ad illud munus obsequendum judicaverit, electurum; eodemque Jurejurando se octo Seniores similiter obstringant.

[d] *De Vist-Mag. Offic.* Sit semper

election he makes his claim to *these Offices*, which have many years been executed by *Masters of Art only*, he has always been over-ruled and abused by *the Master* with an *incredible Insolence and Contempt*, and seldom with any better language than that of *Fool, Mad-man, unfit for the lowest Office in the College*: But I must do the Master the justice to own, that I cannot but think him serious and in earnest in this his *Character of the Doctor*; for he certainly thinks it *the utmost Folly and Madness* in any man to part with *his Profit or his Interest* to save his *Honour or his Conscience*.

The elections of *Fellows and Scholars of the Foundation* have generally been managed by him with the same *Injustice and Partiality* as those of *the Deans*; he has no regard to the *Morals, Learning, or statutable Qualifications* of the candidates; but only to their *Zeal and Affection* to his *Cause and Service*; he has his spies and agents to give him an exact account of the several *Interests and Inclinations* of the Students; and if any be found or suspected to have any *relation to, Acquaintance with, or respect* for the *Fellows that oppose him*, though their merit be never so extraordinary, they are sure to be disappointed in all their pretensions: nay, it is very usual for his *Creatures* to declare and give out who are to be the fortunate persons who are to succeed to these preferments, long before they have passed *any Examination* for that purpose, and Dr. *Ash---st*, I am told, has not scrupled to own that it is his province to nominate to the vacancies.

At an election of Fellows, where *one of the Electors* had made such objections to the *Merit* of a person they were going to chuse, whom he had found upon the examination not so well *qualified* as some of the rest; he was told afterwards by the *Master*, in the hearing of all the other Seniors, that if he were in the young man's place, he would *break his Head as much a Doctor of Divinity as he was*, for the reflection he had made upon his character.

Baccalaureus Theologiæ, aut Doctor inferioris Gradus, &c.
eiusdem facultatis, nunquam autem in-

But

But I need not go any farther for an undeniable proof of what I have asserted, than the election of Fellows in October last. There was then amongst the candidates a Youth of excellent Learning and Abilities, and whose manners and behaviour in College had always been regular, grave, and exemplary: At the Examination he easily distinguished himself to be superior to all the other Competitors; greatly so to most of them, but most remarkably to him that was preferred before him: Yet at the Election, when five of the Seniors being a majority of the Electors, had voted for him, and urged that he might be sent for and publicly examined before them, yet he was set aside with an high hand, and utterly rejected by the Master: The case was very plain, it was difficult, he knew, to make a Tool for his Purposes of one who had been bred up by Mr. Pilgrim, and was espoused by Dr. Colbatch.

His policy seems not unlike that of the Recruiting Officer in the play, who would not list under his command any that could read or write, for fear of their drawing Petitions and Remonstrances against their Superiors.

Mr. Pilgrim indeed has had some of his pupils made Fellows, and sometimes with as little justice as this last was rejected; but they were either such as had given full satisfaction and assurance of their good Affections to the Master, or were recommended by such an interest as could not be withstood by him: He said to one of them of great merit, upon his election, *My Lord has made me your Friend, pray let him make you mine*: Another was made Fellow the last year; but it was not the extraordinary parts and learning he was master of, but a powerful Court Interest that saved him, and even with that he had much ado to get himself chosen the very last of the elected.

But lest this worthy Greek Professor of the University should give him any farther trouble, by such good scholars his pupils; he seems

seems now resolved to suffer no more to be admitted under him, having obliged a youth who last offered himself for that purpose, either to chuse another College, or another tutor; which last he did; and yet the Master has no authority, that I can find, by the statutes, of debarring any Fellow from the right of *taking Pupils*, or, I am sure at least, no reasonable objection to make against the *Professor*.

He had some time ago greatly favoured and encouraged him, and had set him up as a *Tutor in the College* in opposition to another, whom he as much despised; yet when Mr. *Pilgrim*, pursuing his conscience, became obliged to declare himself against his proceedings; and *that other*, as steddily pursuing his interest, was continually fawning and cringing upon him in the most supple manner, (for which kind of address he has long been famous) the tables were quite turned, and pupils must now be denied to *the one*, to be given to the *other*.

He has long claimed and exercised a most *exorbitant Power* in the making all elections, by the *single Vote* and *Concurrence* of any one Senior with himself; which is plainly against the *Intention* and *equitable Construction* of the Statutes, and contrary to the *practice* and *usage of the College* under all his *Predecessors*: the votes of *five Seniors* had ever before determined the elections: But I hope one day to see him called to an account for this before his *Visitor*; where though this *extraordinary Power* should even be allowed him, he could not fail of being severely punished for his shameful abuse of it in the many scandalous instances of Fellows and Officers he has obtruded by it upon the College, and especially for the *notorious Injustice* of the last election I have been speaking of.

At his first coming to the College, upon the pretence of some necessary repairs, and a few ornamental improvements he desired in his own lodgings, which were not to cost the College above

two hundred pounds, having gained a general order and consent for that purpose from the Seniors; he immediately fell to work, demolished in a manner the whole fabrick, and consumed presently in *Wainscot, Marble Chimneys, Sash Windows, and a grand Stair-case, upwards of two thousand Pounds*: The extorting this money from the College, with more afterwards for some other additional extravagances, has been one occasion of perpetual heart-burnings and murmurings against him ever since: But to shew how well he can preserve his character, and that he is still the same man he was near twenty years ago; the very last year he squandered at least *five hundred Pounds of the College Money*, in the improvement of his garden, the building a sort of a banqueting-house there, the making a terrass-walk upon the river, and some other things of great expence and no use to the College; and though it is the *express Command of the Statutes [e]*, and has always been the custom of the College; that the junior *Bursar* shall not expend any considerable sum, even in the most necessary repairs of the house, without the *particular Order of a majority of the Seniors*, and shall himself be obliged to pay for all the expence he makes without such authority; yet all this was done not only without *their Order*, but without their being so much as *made acquainted* with it: For the Master had gained an officer to his mind, whom he imposed upon the College against the votes of *six or seven Seniors*, though incapable of the place, by a *Conclusion and Interpretation of the Statutes of his own making*: But he knew him to be so much a slave to his purposes, as to accept and pay all bills without any other warrant, than that of his commands to him, which are no better authority in this case than those of any other member would be.

Besides all this, he has put the College to very great charges in

[e] *De Thesauror. Offic.* Statuimus denique, ut nihil vel intra Collegium vel extra aut extruendum aut reficiendum curent, nisi de Magistri aut, eo absente,

Vice-Magistri & majoris partis octo seniorum sententiâ: Quod si fecerint ipsi, per majorem partem octo Seniorum & Magistrum pro eodem solvere cogantur.

buying *Furniture* for his lodgings, which he has no more right to by statute, or even by custom, than the Fellows have to that of their private chambers, which they always provide at their own expence; and this last summer he produced a bill of large arrears which he claims as due to him from the College on this account, and which, I'll venture to prophecy, he will find some means or other of forcing from them in due time.

In the *Junior Bursar's Book*, there used always to be a distinct *Title*, or *Article*, of the *extraordinary Expences of the Lodge*; under which one might have seen at one view, whatever had been expended from this office in any year upon the *Master's* account: But for the inconvenience he had long found, of having his extravagances lie so open and exposed to common observation, he has contrived of late to have this *Head* or *Title* quite struck out of the books, and to have his particular expences so jumbled and intermixed with those of the College, that it is not easy to collect or distinguish the one from the other; especially when, at their *General Audit*, he takes care, that the *Seniors* shall have no opportunity of examining the books of the several offices, for he allows no more time for the passing the great yearly accounts of the College, than is merely necessary for the casting up the many sums and figures, which indeed is all he will suffer to be done there; while *the auditing of about Seven thousand Pounds*, divided and disbursed in a vast number of small sums, is commonly huddled over by him in the space of six or seven hours.

Amongst *Archbishop Laud's Injunctions to Winchester College*, at a *Visitation* he had held there, we find the following article, which I desire to recommend to his serious perusal.

9. Item, "That your Warden make Satisfaction for the unnecessary charge that he hath put your College to, in building himself Lodgings, a Stair-case and Balcony Window, and for the College Money he expended in Furniture for those his Lodgings and Build-
N 2 " ings,

ings, amounting (as we are informed) to Two hundred Pounds.

What would become of this man, if his *Visitor* should take this as a *Precedent* for him to proceed upon? For should he ever be obliged (as in all justice he ought) to *restore to the College* whatever he has *unnecessarily squandered*, or *illegally extorted* from them, I question whether all he is worth in the world would be sufficient to make full restitution.

His yearly expence in *Coals* and other *Firing*, which he makes the College pay for him, has amounted always to above an hundred pounds; that of his *Bread*, *Beer*, and *Ale*, to about half as much more; sums which could not in any modest computation be fairly spent by him, though all the chimnies in his house were employed the year round about *the one*, and twice the number of his family were to live upon *the other*. But though it be part of the *Oath* [e] he has taken as *Master* to preserve the goods of the College, as far as is in his power, from *Waste* and *Diminution*, yet it has been his constant policy and practice to embezzle and confound, as much as he possibly could, in these and all other articles, that he might gain from the Seniors a *higher Composition in Money* for them, which he has long been aiming at: When he has once settled this, we should then see enough of his good *Management* and *Frugality*, for as far as his own pocket is concerned, never any man of his income has lived with less reputation of good house-keeping, or any kind of hospitality.

In answer to this charge of his *extravagant Profusion* of the money and goods of the College, his friends make a mighty noise of the *great Improvement* he has made of its revenue; and he himself has roundly affirmed that he has raised it above a *Thousand Pounds a Year*; but how and in what way he has done it, he has

[e] *De Mag. Offic.* Omnia denique quantum in me situm erit, conservaturo, &c.
bona sine imminutione aut vastatione,

been pleased as yet to keep a secret to himself: He once said to a noble person in conversation (as has been taken notice of before in print) *that he was sent by Providence to the College, as Joseph was to Egypt, to save it from Famine; but he might have remembered, that Joseph was not sent so much to save Egypt, as his Father's House from starving; and if there is any resemblance between the Patriarch and himself in this case, it is in the good Provision he has made for his Family, out of the Fruitfulness of the College.*

As to the management of the College estate, the [f] Statutes direct, that the *Master*, if not otherways hindered, or the *Vice-Master*, with some other persons, shall make a *Progress* every year through some part of it, in such a manner, that the whole may be visited every three years. The preamble of the Statute sets forth as a reason of it, the great damages that may accrue to the College from a *negligent Administration*; yet this survey of their estate has never once been made by himself, or any one else for him, since his coming to the College; nay, he has discouraged and actually hindered others from undertaking it, who had offered their service for that purpose; yet all the while they have but too much reason to believe, that great waste and encroachments have been made upon their lands, that their manors, woods, and edifices, have suffered greatly by this neglect of his, as it must of necessity be, where every thing is left to the management and honesty of the tenants.

As for the setting of fines upon leases, it is all done at random and by mere guess, and generally upon no better information than what is had from the tenants themselves; and wherever he has raised any of them in their fines, it may as probably, for any thing he knows, be to their injury and wrong, as with any justice

[f] *De Agr. Coll. lustrand.* Statuimus & ordinamus ut intra triennii integri spatium, omnia sacerdotia, prædia, agri & fundi Collegii diligenter à Magistro aut, eo aliis negotiis impedito, à Vice-Magistro, &c. lustrantur, & in singulos annos totidem eorum, quot commodè lustrari possunt, lustrantur.

equity ; yet this is the man who pretends to have improved the estate of the College : But I have heard of *some leases* that have been granted by him, so plainly *disadvantagious* and *ruinous* to the society, as to make all who know him suspect that there must have been some private conditions made for the passing them : For the *plundering of the College* is so much his peculiar province, that he would hardly suffer any man to encroach upon him there, without a valuable consideration : But I shall give one late instance for all, of his great uprightness and integrity in the *letting of Leases*.

A gentleman of *York*, not being suffered by him, upon the conditions he offered, to renew a lease he had of a large house in that City, belonging to the College, his term expired, and the lease became void. The Master upon this, taking the Seniors once at a surprize, as they were rising and breaking up from other business, proposes his own brother to them for a tenant, and names at the same time *a fine* which he thought proper for him to pay on that occasion, which they, not at all apprized of the matter, made no objection to.

He soon after went to *London*, where the Burfar acquainted him by Letter, that some of the Seniors began to be unwilling to pass the lease so rashly, and desired that the house might first be viewed, and the circumstances of it reported to them ; which the Master would not consent to, but in answer to him pressed the dispatch of the lease, said, his brother should take it at all hazards, and endeavoured to demonstrate, *that the fine* which he had before named, was a full and sufficient equivalent for the purchase of it ; and a twenty years lease was accordingly granted for a fine of forty pounds.

This house consists of several tenements, whose rents amount yearly to upwards of forty pounds ; the reserved rent to the College, with another small one to the Vicars of the Church of
York,

York, is no more than three pounds a year; so that this *twenty years lease* was sold for *scarce one year's purchase*, which (considering the excellent repairs the tenements were in, and their situation in the most convenient part of *York*) was worth at least eight or ten.

Thus we see this *pious Ruler* once again acting the part of *Joseph*, in the good *settlement* he assigned to *his Brethren*, upon the Lands of his Government.

The ejected tenant soon after filed a bill in *Chancery* against the Master and Fellows, alledging that there had been a *Contract* made between him and the College, (which is still to be seen in their Conclusion book) that he should not be raised *in his fine* for any improvements or additional buildings he might make to that house; yet, though he had laid out *five hundred pounds* upon the premises, and had always offered his *usual fine*, he could never obtain any renewal of his term, but was arbitrarily dispossessed by the Master, who had sold *the lease* to his *own brother*, at a price much under its real value.

The Master draws an answer to this Bill, which he sends down engrossed to the College, to be sealed by the Fellows; wherein he sets forth, that for his part he *knew little or nothing* of the lease above-mentioned, and had no share or hand in the passing of it; that it was entirely transacted in his absence, *by the Vice-Master and Fellows*, and as he presumed, by the *interest of his brother's son*, then a Fellow of the College; which particulars were all known to be *so false to the Seniors*, that as great slaves as they generally are to his commands, they durst not however obey him in this, but returned his answer to him just as they received it, having absolutely refused to set the College Seal to it: But they were told by him at his return, that, since they were so scrupulous, the Lord Chancellor had, upon sight of his brother's answer, soon determined the dispute in his favour; though
most

most people are of opinion, that the matter was *made up with the prosecutor* in a more private manner.

Upon a *Visitation of the University* in Queen Mary's days, under the Legantine authority of Cardinal Pool, one Christopherson, then *Master of Trinity College*, was joined in commission with several others for the management of it; and though he was a leading, zealous man in the interests of the Court, just before made a Bishop, and was then entertaining the rest of the Visitors at his own lodgings, yet he could not escape such a severe censure and reprimand from them, as was supposed to have thrown him for a time into a kind of distraction, for having let a College Farm to his Brother-in-law, upon terms of disadvantage and detriment to the society.

There is one way indeed, which has been taken of advancing the Revenue of the College, which he must be allowed the honour of, being himself the sole manager and contriver of it. It is by an art he has found of governing the market at Cambridge in such a manner, as to set what price he pleases upon the Corn that is sold there, on those two Market Days, when the rents of the College are determined by it for the rest of the year: But this method of his is so remarkable, and so entirely new to the University, that I shall beg leave to be somewhat particular in my account of it.

A little before Michaelmas 1717, he sent for the College Baker, (an able, experienced man in his business) and shewed him two Samples of Wheat, desiring to know his opinion of them, and what they might be worth. The best of them was valued by the Baker at four shillings and two pence a bushel, the other at much less; but this price did not at all satisfy the Master, who said, that it should not be sold for that, nor a good deal more. And upon the Baker's declaring, that he could not in honour or conscience offer any thing more for it in the Market, he began to be

be out of humour, and told him, that those who *would not give a good price on Rent-Days, ought not to bake for the College, or to that effect*; which threat he soon after made good, by discharging this honest man from the service of the College, for his endeavouring to preserve a good conscience in it: The *same Sample of Corn* was shewn afterwards to some other considerable Bakers in the town, who all agreed in setting the same price upon it.

About the same time messengers were dispatched to a farmer in the Country, to let him know, that, if he would bring into the market a quantity of his old corn, he should have a *Chapman* for it from *Trinity College* at *five shillings a bushel*, which he (well pleased with so good a price) easily complied with: And an *Agent of the Master's* wrote to one Mr. *Matthews* of *Cambridge*, to desire him to receive and expose for him in the market a load of Malt, and that he would *have a chap come to him to buy it, at twenty six shillings a quarter*; but Mr. *Matthews* suspecting some foul play at the bottom, refused to be concerned in it.

On the market day, the *Master's own Bailiff* or *Steward of his Country affairs* brought in a load of Malt, with some Wheat of the same kind with that of the *Sample*; and the Butler of the College, who had never before been employed on such occasions, was sent (as he himself confessed full sore against his will) to buy all the Wheat which the Farmer and Bailiff had to sell at *five shillings* a bushel, and the Brewer of the College took off the Malt at *twenty six shillings* a quarter.

At this price the Master fixed the rents of the College to the tenants; who were thus plainly cheated and robbed of their money by a *shameful suborning* of people to buy and sell in the manner above-mentioned; for it is well known and will be attested by all the Bakers and Dealers in the town, that there was no other Corn sold that day, nor long before or after, at near so high a rate; the ordinary price of the best Wheat being then

under four shillings and six pence a bushel, of Malt about two and twenty shillings a quarter.

When this came afterwards to be known in the University, it was talked on every where with a good deal of indignation, as highly deserving some public censure and condemnation: It was the bringing such scandal and disgrace upon the College, as in the sense of their Statutes [g] would merit an *expulsion*; being such a breach of public faith, such an evident piece of fraud and injustice to all College tenants, as might have easily raised the out-cry of the Nation and the resentments of the Parliament upon them, if it had not been notorious, that no body bore any other part or share in it, than what was forced upon them by the Master.

But to detect the full reach and extent of this roguery: I must acquaint the reader that upon *the Master's intrusion* into the *Regius Professor's Chair*, being by that means possesst of a good benefice annexed to it, he became immediately the greatest *Farmer and Malster* in the country; and besides the advantage he had by his practising upon the Markets, in his great share of the College revenues so much augmented by it, his main view and design was to furnish the offices of the College with Corn of his own, though never so indifferent at the *same extraordinary price* the year round. By this means he intended, as he commonly bragged, to double the income of his Professorship, and for the convenience of carrying on this trade he built a *spacious Granary* near his own lodgings at the expence of the College.

But the clamour he soon drew upon himself, and the advice of some of his friends upon it, have of late cast a damp and check upon these projects of his, and when he had kept his Malt so long that it was damaged by age, and almost eaten up by an *in-*

[g] *De pœna maj. Crim.* Aut dedecus, infamiamve dicto Collegio inuffèrit, Collegio privetur.

ſett called *the Weevil*, he then ſent in above ſeven hundred buſhels of it to the brewhouſe of the College at the beſt price of the market, and in ſpite of all their remonſtrances, and though the Brewer, Butler, and other Servants freely owned, that it could not make good drink of any ſort, he obliged them to make uſe of it; and he has ſtill, I hear, in his Granary a great quantity of old Wheat in much the ſame condition, which, when ſo decayed as to be fit for no other uſe, he will, I preſume, think good enough to make *Bread for the Fellows*.

Mr. *Miller* Serjeant at Law, and Fellow of the College, had been always, during his reſidence, a great oppoſer of the Maſter's *unjuſt deſigns*, and was the chief Manager of the *famous proſecution* againſt him at *Ely-Houſe*, for the carrying on of which he is ſtill believed to be a great deal of money out of pocket, though he had received on that account above an hundred pounds from the College; he was ſoon afterwards ejected by the Maſter, or ſuſpended from all the rights and profits of his Fellowship, and has ever ſince been labouring *above*, to little purpoſe, to bring their quarrels to ſome deciſive iſſue.

But the laſt Summer *the Maſter* began to think it convenient to take off this *old adverſary* of his, and made a propoſal to him, that he ſhould have *four hundred pounds* paid him on pretence of charges at the tryal, beſides moſt of the profits of his Fellowship ſince his ſuſpention, if he would but quit all his claim and title to it for the future; which the Serjeant conſenting to, he undertook to procure him the money from *the College*: And becauſe *the Plaintiff's expences* were thus to be repayed him, he thought it full as reaſonable, that his (*the Defendant's*) ſhould alſo be allowed him, which in principal and intereſt he laid at *five or ſix hundred pounds*.

Thus the *poor College* muſt not only furniſh him with money to buy off their own friends from them; but after having been

forced by his intolerable injuries to a *troublesome expensive prosecution* of him before the *late Bishop of Ely*, must now be condemned in *Costs and Damages* to the utmost farthing, and obliged to make him amends for the *public shame* they put him to, in so fairly *convicting him* of every article they accused him of.

But after all, when he came to make this hopeful proposal to the Seniors, there was found to his great surprize, a majority of them so stout and honest that day, as to refuse their consent to it, though he stormed and blustered in a most extravagant manner, and falsely and impudently affirmed, that the agreement was made by the approbation and direction of the Lord C----.

At another meeting of the Seniors soon after this disappointment, he told one of them in the hearing of all the rest, that the *money was none of his, and he would have it in spite of him, but in another way*: Which, though not well understood at that time, he has since effectually explained, for, on pretence of putting a Statute in execution which had long been neglected, he has lately taken out of the *Bursar's hands* all the money that used to lie there, for the more easy distribution of it to the uses of the College, and has laid it up in a chest secured by three locks, whose keys are to be kept by himself and the two Deans; and there is hardly a soul who knows any thing of the character of this *worthy Triumvirat*, that makes any scruple to believe that this is done with a design to be as good as his word, and to have it in his power to *plunder* it when he pleases.

Most of the late *Bursars* have been little better than his Bankers or Cashiers, to pay out the money as they received it to his orders; but the present officer, Dr. *Ayloff*, being a man of a *quite different stamp* of too much *honour and integrity* to be at all applicable to his purposes; he was forced to have recourse to this stratagem of executing the Statutes; and I much wonder that a person of his sagacity could so long overlook a Statute, so favourable

able and apposite to the methods of his Government : By this he can now dispose of what sums he pleases without any noise or disturbance ; this puts him upon the foot of those *great Monarchs*, whose characters he has long been imitating ; for he can now *levy money without his Parliament*, or, when *his College* grows mutinous, shut up his *Exchequer*, and so starve them to a peace by withdrawing the sinews of War.

As for those Fellows of the College, who have had the virtue to struggle for their liberty, and to make a stand against his corrupt practices, they will easily be believed to live uncomfortably enough under the power of *such a Master* : A man who dares use *Doctor Colbatch* in the manner he has done, will make little scruple of trampling upon the rest at discretion : They are not only denied *every common favour*, they might expect from the society, but *every common Right*, which not only their Statutes, but what the laws of nature and humanity make due to them ; If they are sick in their chambers, they are debarred the statutable privilege of exchanging their *Commons* for a diet more proper for their condition : Every Junior of theirs who has testified any zeal for the interest of the Master, is presently put over their heads into all the *places of trust and profit* they lay claim to.

A reverend old gentleman, who had passed through all the offices of the College without any other offence, than that of having been sometimes *too compliant to the Master's will*, yet, when forced at last to withstand his *perpetual incroachments*, was turned out by him from the *place of Vice-Master*, and by his threats and insults driven away to *London in an extreme old age*, where after a long life spent *in the service and within the walls of the College*, he ended his days about a month ago in exile from it.

Most of the rest are glad to dispose of themselves to Curacies or other small preferments, where they may find some ease and quiet from the effects of his malice : But they will one day have
the

A true Account of

the just satisfaction of seeing these things return upon his own head, and may in the mean while comfort themselves with good *Ofellus* in the poet

*nos expulit ille,
Illum Nequities, &c. postremo expellet certe.*

As for the *good order and discipline of the College*, it has been wholly ruined and subverted by him: The correction of vice would be but a *Satire upon himself*; it has been his business to make parties even amongst the scholars, to list them betimes into his service, that he might be the better able to *mob and insult* his opposers.

With the *discipline of the College* the *Genius and Spirit* of it must fall and sink of course, of which we cannot have a surer proof, than a *late Pamphlet* published in the *Defence of the Master* against the *Proceedings of the University*: A performance so exceedingly *senseless and impertinent*, so void of all *good Language, Truth, and Wit*, that his own friends were forced to own themselves ashamed of it.

What can the World expect from *Trinity College*, when it is told, that this was the production of *a club of it's choicest wits*, employed and furnished with materials by *the Master himself*? Who can help lamenting the *degenerate State* of this great society, once so famous for the *polite learning and fine wit* of its Members now daily sinking into *Pedantry and Barbarism*?

It was formerly the credit of its Fellows, to have a *true taste and understanding* of the *good authors of antiquity*; it was enough for them that they could *imitate*, without pretending to *correct them*; but it has been *this man's glory and delight*, to raise up, from *Country Schools* in opposition to that of *Westminster*, a race of *awkward Critics*, of a character just the reverse to the other,

who

who set up for *Reformers* and *Correctors of the Ancients*, without *any taste or understanding* of them.

I have now gone as far as I designed for the present, in *this account* I have given of *the State of Trinity College*, and may venture, I believe, to appeal to all who read it, for the justice and necessity of our complaints.

The *Charge* I have brought against *the Master*, is such, as no honest man can falsely make, any more than an honest man can be guilty of it, — *ita apertam vim habet, ut aut accusetur improbe aut defendatur*. The controversy is of that nature, as can never end but in the loss of all *Credit* and *Character* to one side or other; the quarrel is now come to such a *Head and Crisis*, that it is impossible for the contending parties to live with any ease together within the same walls; it is impossible for them to continue *scuffling and wrangling* thus perpetually, but to the irreparable damage and utter ruin of the society: It is now become necessary, that one or other be made to submit and quit the field to his adversary; this is *the Issue* that the Complainants would gladly put the dispute upon: If their accusation should appear at last to be *false and frivolous*, they are content to become as *justly odious*, as *their Master* must needs be, if it is found *real and unanswerable*; they are content to suffer *Expulsion* themselves, if they cannot prove him to have long deserved it.

But I would appeal more especially to the *Right Reverend Fathers the Bishops* of our Church; it is to them I would leave the judgment of the cause I contend for; let them declare their opinion of it to the world, whether it be not necessary, for the sake of every thing that is good, to *remove* this man from his *Master-ship*; whether he can be a fit Governor and example for a society; where the youth come to prepare themselves under his care for the *sacred Ministry of the Church*.

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But if there be any of that *high Order*, who find themselves still disposed to favour and espouse him, let them but first enjoin him to purge himself of the crimes he is accused of, or to testify a repentance for them, as public as the scandal he has given, and then they may cherish him as much as they please: In the meanwhile they are desired to consider, how far the countenance of such *venerable Names* may influence to the obstruction of justice against him, and perpetuating the miseries of the oppressed; or at least, where the guilt is so notorious, what an offence it must needs be to all good men, to see the man, who stands charged with it, countenanced and caressed by persons of *so reverend and sacred* a Character.

It has, I know, been the constant art and management of his friends to insinuate every where, that all this cry against him has been raised by the *Malice of a Party*, provoked by *his Zeal and good Affection to the present happy Establishment*: And this pretence, though so often confuted, so stale and false as it is, has, I am sensible, prevailed with some to think the worse of his accusers. I should freely give leave to all such, to believe him as *sincere a Whig* as they please, if they would but first take the trouble to inform themselves of these two or three following questions.

Whether the same persons, who are now prosecuting him as a *Whig*, were not petitioning and pursuing him just as warmly, when an *open and declared Tory*? Whether he did not actually shelter himself from them, under a *late Ministry*, by taking upon him that *Character*? Whether out of his zeal to *that Cause*, he did not turn out *College Servants* from their business and livelihood, for refusing to *vote for Tories* in the corporation, at the very last *Election to Parliament*? Whether he was not stiffly opposed by some, whom he now calls *Tories*, in his shameful abuse of a trust reposed in the College, when he bestowed a charity, designed for the maintenance of decayed gentlemen of grave and sober character

ter, upon a *Ringleader of the Mob of Cambridge*, as a reward for the great services he had done *the Tories at their Elections*.

But to demonstrate that he knows no other principle but that of his interest : The other day, when a Gentleman of the University, believed to be a *Nonjuror* to the Government, was for that reason under a prosecution from the *Vice-Chancellor*, in order to be dispossessed of an office he held amongst us, being supposed to have some friends in the body, who, in compassion to his particular circumstances, were willing to have screened him from the ruin he was threatened with : *This true Whig of ours* dispatched an agent to him, as I am well informed, with proposals to unite their forces, and to join their several friends, to act together for their mutual defence against their *common Enemy the Vice-Chancellor*.

But how is it possible for a man, who wants to be *screened and saved* from the pursuit of justice, which would ruin him, to be of any *Principle or Party*, but that, which can give him immediate shelter and protection? He must necessarily throw himself upon *that Power*, which alone can secure him. This is no more than what fact and experience will always confirm, as it has remarkably in this very instance ; for ever since this prosecution of him began near twelve years ago, his *Principles* have always run the same changes with *Court Favour*, and never yet out-lastet *the Ministry* they were calculated for.

Every man of honour and integrity, of what denomination soever, cannot but abhor such a shuffling, selfish conduct ; every *honest Whig* must certainly resent the affront done to his party by such *scandalous Pretenders* to it. I know of none, who can be friends to him out of *Principle*, but such only as are professed or secret enemies to all *Virtue and Religion* : It must be, without doubt, the utmost pleasure and satisfaction to them, to see him *flourish and triumph over his Adversaries* ; to see him abuse so suc-

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cessfully to their service and interest, the great talents and opportunities that have been afforded him of doing good in the world; they will easily give him leave *to write* whatever he pleases, if he will but continue *to live*, as he has done: For to see a *Clergyman, Archdeacon, and Professor of Divinity*, behave himself in the manner he does, is of such service, they know, to the *Cause of Irreligion*, as will out-balance twenty of his *Pamphlets* against the *Free Thinkers*.

How far it may be for the service and credit of the Government, to indulge this pleasure to such friends of his as these, I most humbly submit to the consideration of *those*, who preside over the great affairs of the kingdom, into whose hands, if *this Account* should have the honour to fall, I desire them to remember, that it is not *any matter of Favour or Grace*, but *Justice* only we petition for: That it is not any *new Law* we want to relieve us, but the *Benefit and Protection of the old ones*: That it is not any *Act of Power or Authority* we desire from them, but the *common and natural Right* of every subject, *a Hearing and Redress of our Grievances*.

F I N I S.