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PROPER REPLY

TO A

B. J. 11-149

P A M P H L E T,

E N T I T L E D,

*A Defence of the Rector and Fellows
of Exeter College, &c.*

By GEORGE HUDDSFORD, D.D.
VICE-CHANCELLOR of the University of OXFORD.

O X F O R D,

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M D C C L V.





A

PROPER REPLY

To A PAMPHLET, Entitled,

*A Defence of the Rector and Fellows of Exeter
College, &c.*

THE Vice-Chancellor of the University of *Oxford* having lately been publickly attacked, in a most virulent and extraordinary Manner, by a Pamphlet entitled — *A Defence of the Rector and Fellows of Exeter College, &c.* — thinks it unbecoming the Office, which He has at present the Honour to sustain, to descend into personal Altercations with a nameless Adversary. Nor indeed does He hold himself accountable to any Academical Delinquents, for such Notice or Reproofs, as in the Course of his Administration He thinks it necessary to bestow upon irregular or indecent Behaviour. Suffice it to

A 2

assure

assure the Publick, that his Admonitions were founded upon Facts that were publickly notorious; of which He had the fullest Conviction; and of which He esteems himself to have proper Cognizance, though He shall not here argue with the Offenders his Right of admonishing for Offences.

THIS Method of treating his rude Assailants will not, He hopes, be interpreted as too great a Sensibility of his Station. Of Himself, in his Personal Capacity, He thinks with all becoming Diffidence; But to maintain the proper Dignity of his Office is a Duty which He owes to the University, and to his Successors; as upon the Preservation of This all Order and Authority must depend. And He believes It is without Precedent for any Person, in the same Station, to be summoned to the Bar of the Publick to answer for an Academical Censure.

HOWEVER, as an Appeal has been brought to that Tribunal in a Matter of Domestick Discipline, it at least became Those, who thus appealed, to found their Complaint upon Truth. Whereas the Writers of the Pamphlet referred to have been Guilty of gross Prevarication, in connecting the Vice-Chancellor's Speech with a Paragraph in a *London* News Paper, of which They have the Effrontery to treat Him as the Author. He has therefore been persuaded

ded to state to the Publick how far his Animadversion did really extend, by printing so much of his Speech as was relative to the Matter complained of, or could any way be supposed to concern *Exeter* College, in particular, or any of its Members. This He has done in N^o I. of the ensuing Papers. And if, by any Gentlemen of Candour, a Disavowal can also be thought requisite of the Paragraph in the Evening-Post, He likewise begs leave to assure them, that He has not so far forgot the Character of a Magistrate, or a Clergyman, as to stoop to the unfuitable Employment of becoming a Writer of Invective in any News Paper: and He does in particular disown any Knowledge of the Writer, or any Concern, directly or indirectly, in the Publishing, of the Paragraph referred to by the said Pamphlet.

THE same Considerations, that restrain him from a formal Apology for the Censure He thought proper to inflict, prevent Him also from taking any farther Notice of the other malicious Suggestions, and scandalous Charges against him, which are broached by the Authors of the Defence. However there is one Aspersion, of a Nature more malevolent than the rest, to the thorough Refutation of which all other Considerations must give Way; That of Disaffection* to His Majesty King GEORGE, for whose

* See Pages 61, 62, of the Defence.

Person

Person and Government He has ever entertained the most dutiful and affectionate Zeal. The same Insinuation is artfully conveyed in their Method of relating a particular Instance of his Conduct, which will be found in the Extract N° II. and Its Refutation in N° III. which contains a plain Narrative of the whole Fact. And These together may serve as a Specimen of that Misrepresentation which abounds in all parts of their Performance.

HE cannot but remark upon this Occasion the disingenuous Behaviour of those Men, who, attentive as they were to his Speech in Convocation, have yet ventured to call in Question his Loyalty; of which not only the whole Tenor of his Conduct through Life, but many Passages in that Speech itself, might have furnished them with ample Demonstration. Some of these (more immediately occasioned by what is related in N° III.) He has also been prevailed on to submit to the Inspection of the Publick, in N° IV. at once to vindicate his own Fidelity, and to testify the Spirit of his Accusers.

THE same Spirit has endeavoured to cast the same Stain of Disaffection upon that learned and much injured Body, over which He has the Honour to preside. In relation to which He must observe, That among a numerous Assembly of Youth, collected from all Parts of the Nation,

tion, and subject to perpetual Changes, it is impossible by any Care to prevent the Seeds of Difaffection from being sometimes imported, if It any where subsists in the Kingdom. Of this a few Instances may have appeared in the Course of a Number of Years; a Misfortune which has happened to other Societies, without any Impeachment of their Allegiance. But such Instances have been punished with a proper Academical Severity, calculated to extirpate the Offence, and amend without ruining the Offenders. Some real, but much aggravated, Stories of this kind, and many that were absolutely false, have been industriously propagated to the World; to serve what purposes the World is well able to judge. And from particular Accidents, thus circumstanced, has the University been branded with Difaffection, though no Body of Men in the Kingdom have in general a stronger Attachment to the Person of their lawful Sovereign King GEORGE, to the Principles of Constitutional Liberty, and to the Protestant Succession in His Majesty's illustrious House; all which They are bound by the most solemn Engagements, religious as well as civil, to support.

THE Vice-Chancellor has only to add, that, as his Speech was intended entirely for a single Recital before an Audience, and not for the Perusal of the Publick, He must leave such Inaccuracies of Style, as may appear in the following

lowing Extracts, to the Candour of the learned Reader: Not apprehending Himself now at Liberty to make any, the minuteſt, Variation from what was delivered in Convocation. And He farther begs leave once for all to declare, That no ſimilar Inſults, from the ſame or any other Quarter, ſhall provoke Him to trouble Himſelf or the Publick with a further Answer.



N° I.

“ **A** NIMADVERTENDAM interim censeo, imo
 “ & dolendam, Collegii unius Conditionem pro-
 “ fus singularem, & Situm præter cætera infelicem. Nam
 “ cum Quorundam seu Artificio seu Fraude ita extructa
 “ & fabricata sunt Tabernacula Comititalia, ut eorundem
 “ Pseudothyri seu Posticæ Collegii Ipsius Postico aptissime
 “ responderent, & facilem præberent Aditum Iis folis Suf-
 “ fragantium quos istorsum intromitti placuerit: Sive Id
 “ factum est Virorum Spectabilium Reverentia & Amici-
 “ tia; Sive eximio Pacis conservandæ Studio & Desiderio;
 “ Qua data Porta irruit Vulgus profanum, famelicum —
 “ Monstrum illud horrendum, informe, ingens, cui Lu-
 “ men ademptum.

“ **Q** U A M tunc me misertum est Viri illius doctissimi,
 “ & Institutis Academicis, Si quis alius, amicissimi, qui
 “ Collegio huic meritissime præest! Quam illorum etiam
 “ misertum est Sociorum gravissimorum, qui cum Pu-
 “ bem sibi commissam honestis Disciplinis, Moribus purif-
 “ fimis, & Exemplis optimis informandam & imbuendam
 “ sedulo curare soliti sunt, Atria jam non amplius sua —
 “ Cænacula—Conclavia—imo ipsa, ut fertur, Cubicula—

B

“ fædissimo

“fædissimo Ingluviei & Ebrietatis Excessu & Dehonestamento per aliquot Dies fædata & conspurcata conspicerere & pati coacti sunt.

“Scio me, dum hæc commemoro, lubricam ire Viam, & Offensionis instantis Periculo videri ultro subiturum; & malletm sane mihi licuisse scenam oculis Academicis adeo indecoram, Pudicis adeo ingratam, vel penitus intactam præteriisse, vel obducto Velo adumbratam obscuris tantum Lineis indicasse: Sed vetuit Fides illa, qua semper Vobiscum agendum statuimus: Et Officio meo defuisse crediderim, si qua Opprobria nobis exponenda nec refellenda cognoverim, & non idcirco vobis fideli Enarratione exposuerim; ut futuris Temporibus, si quid ejusmodi sese obtulerit, maturiori Consilio & Cautela prudentiori eorum, quorum præcipue interest, cavendum & providendum iri admoneamus & adhortemur.”

N^o II.

LET him remember, in how tender a Manner he
 “treated one Offender, who was accused by the
 “Rector and some of the Fellows, and had it fully pro-
 “ved on him, that he several Times cry’d out, within the
 “Walls of *Exeter* College, *King James for ever*. He
 “condemned him to beg Pardon in the Convocation
 “House, with which Sentence the Rector expressed him-
 “self very well satisfied, weakly imagining the Punishment
 “was to be publick and exemplary. But so was it con-
 “trived, that this should be done in the most private Man-
 “ner, in an ordinary Congregation, at Ten in the Morn-
 “ing. Nor had the Rector himself any Notice given him
 “of the Time, till after the Bell was down, and the
 “Congregation ready to sit; when the young Man was
 “sent to him with a bit of Paper in his Hand, containing
 “some *Latin* Words he was to pronounce, by Way of
 “Acknowledgment of his Levity.—And thus had the
 “poor Rector the Mortification to find himself, in the
 “modern Phrase, *humbugg’d*, that is, if I understand the
 “Word, trick’d and made a Jest of. And he was rightly
 “serv’d for his Officiousness.—Indeed it should not be o-
 “mitted, that as an Addition to this Punishment, the

“young Man was order'd by the Vice-Chancellor to ask Pardon of the Rector and Fellows, but this Compliment was declined by the Society, as the Offence was not properly against them, but HIS MAJESTY.”

N° III.

SOME few Days preceding the fourteenth of *February* 1754, an Accufation was lodged before the Vice-Chancellor, by the Rector of *Exeter* College, attended by some of his Fellows, against a young Scholar, a little above two Years standing, for having entered their College about seven or eight of the Clock in the Evening, and having there cried out, more than once, “King James for ever” — The Vice-Chancellor immediately appointed the next Day, for hearing the Matter of the Accufation at his Lodgings, and desired the Rector of *Exeter*, and the Governour of the College, to which the young Scholar belonged, would be present upon this Occasion.

ON the next Day the Vice-Chancellor, in the presence of these Gentlemen, examined the Merits of the Complaint. The Fact was expressly sworn to by the Porter of *Exeter* College.

College. The Accused made no other Defence, than that He had not *intentionally* offended; but that falling into Company with some Acquaintance, on the Day that was charged in the Complaint, He was unhappily so disordered in Liquor, as to be utterly incapable of recollecting either This or any other Transaction that passed that Evening. This Account of his Intoxication was in some Measure allowed by the Porter himself; but more strongly confirmed by the Evidence of a Gentleman, who had no previous Acquaintance with the Delinquent, but, finding him in the Street in so very unbecoming a Condition, had out of Compassion led him home to his proper College.

THE Vice-Chancellor, having heard the Evidence, desired the Opinion of his Brethren above mentioned, Whether the Offender should be bound over to the Sessions or Assises, and publickly prosecuted for a Misdemeanor. But this being declined by common Consent, and an Academical Punishment being judged more eligible, in Consideration of his Youth, and the Circumstances of himself and his Friends, the Vice-Chancellor repeatedly desired the two Gentlemen present to propose some suitable Penalty. But They referring it entirely to his Judgment, the Vice-Chancellor then proposed, "That the Offender should
 "make a publick Acknowledgment of his Crime in the
 "Middle

“Middle of the Convocation House, upon his Knees, “begging Pardon for his Offence, and promising Amendment for the future. — And that, as a further Mark of “Ignominy, He should be suspended from his Bachelor’s “Degree for one Term.” This Sentence was unanimously agreed to, as a suitable Academical Punishment. And the Governour of his College added, That He would also impose him, as a Piece of Collegiate Discipline, a Translation of Cæsar’s Gallic War; and the Vice-Chancellor farther enjoined him to ask Pardon of the Rector and Fellows of *Exeter* College, at such Time and Place in the said College as the Rector should please to appoint. And this Sentence, thus settled, then appeared to be entirely approved by the Rector.

A Congregation * being appointed to be held on the fourteenth of *February*, the Vice-Chancellor, as a Point of

* The Convocation and Congregation are two distinct Assemblies; but both held in the same House, before the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors; the former composed of all Doctors and Masters in the University; the latter of all Doctors, and such Masters as are styled Regent; that is, all who are under two Years standing, and such others as are, for the Time being, Heads of Houses, Professors, Deans, Censors, and Masters of the Schools. In the latter all regular Degrees are conferred; which occasions the Confluence of young Persons as Spectators, and for Business, to be usually much greater to this, than to the other Assembly. This therefore seemed the more proper Place for inflicting an Act of Discipline.

Civility,

Civility, ordered the Delinquent to wait upon the Rector that Morning with an Account of the Time, and a Copy of the Acknowledgment He was to make. This, it seems, He did, just as the Congregation Bell was down ; that is, at half hour after Nine of the Clock ; and no Objection was then made to the Form or Time of his Submission. And accordingly the same Morning, about Eleven of the Clock, He in a full Congregation (before a much larger Assembly, both of Masters and young Gownsmen, than appeared at either of the two subsequent Convocations) recited aloud upon his Knees in the Middle of the House the following Latin Form ; which was entered (with the Offender's Name at length) among the Acts of Congregation, as a perpetual Testimony of his Crime and Punishment :

“CUM inflatus Vino graviter peccavi, Academiae
 “ Pacem & Disciplinam violando, & Verba in
 “ Principem perfide effutiendo, quorum omnium
 “ ex Animo me pœnitet pudetque ; Veniam itaque,
 “ Academici, humillime Vos oro atque obsecro :
 “ Spondeo itidem & polliceor, quod in posterum
 “ nefanda hæc peccata cum modestia in Academiam,
 “ & Fide in Regem nostrum *Georgium*, pro virili
 “ compensare conabor.”

* * * * *

“ DIE

“DIE *Jovis*, viz. decimo quarto Die Mensis *Februa-*
 “*rii* 1754. in frequenti Congregatione Magistrorum
 “Regentium, * * * * *, Scholaris Facultatis
 “Artium è Collegio * * * * *, superscriptum,
 “flexis Genibus, publice legit, in præsentia mei”

“*Henrici Fisher* Not. Pub.

“Regii Universitatis *Oxon.*

THE Offender is likewise suspended from his Degree for the abovementioned Term; and has also performed the Exercise imposed on him by his private Governor.

Nº IV.

“**D**E Amicis nostris—Hæc hæctenus: De Inimicis u-
 “tinam vel penitus tacere licuerit, vel detractis
 “Larvis quales revera sunt in publicum producere, &
 “commonstrare. Non hic intelligo quotidianos istos in-
 “cautos & temerarios Inimicos, Quales profecto sunt To-
 “gatorum Quotquot Desidia, Petulantia, Moribus discinc-
 “tis & vulgaribus, vel Famæ Loci & Honestati quoquo
 “modo officiunt & nocent, vel Exemplis & Hortatu Mo-
 “destiores & magis Sobrios sui similes efficere fatagunt.
 “Talia Honestatis nostræ Vulnera Indiciis notioribus ple-
 “rumque patefiunt, & Disciplinæ severioris Remedio faci-
 “lius sanantur.

“S I