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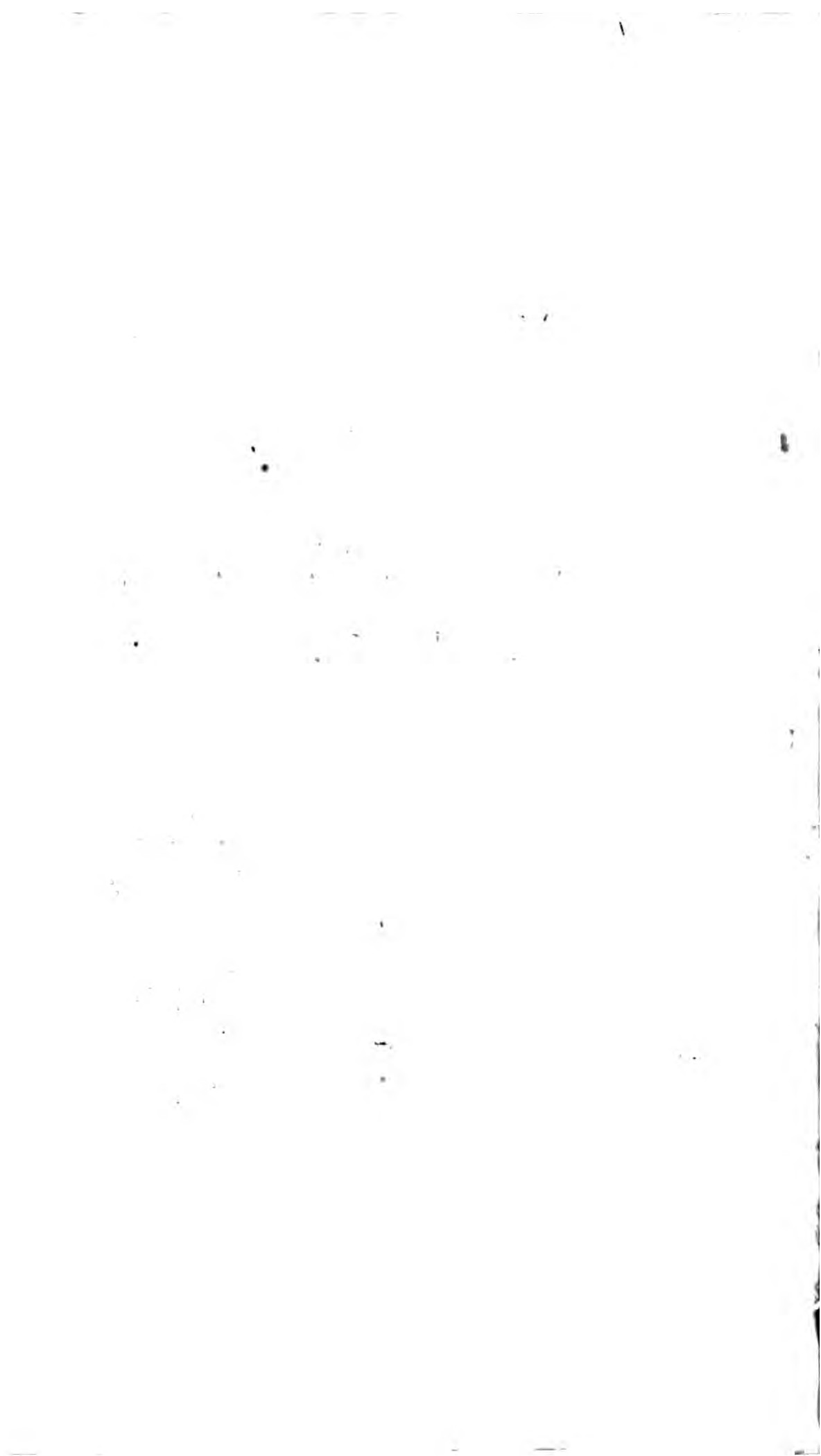
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THE
OCCASIONAL WRITER.
Number III.





THE
Occasional Writer.

N^o III.

To the same.

— *Quis te, Juvenum confidentissime, nostras
Fussit adire Domos? Quidve hinc petis inquit, at ille
Scis Proteu, scis ipse, neque est te fallere cuiquam.*
Virg.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

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T H E
Occasional Writer.
N^o III.

To the same.

Most Noble Sir,

HEN I writ the Postscript to my last Letter, I believed firmly that the Answer to the *Occasional Writer*, was neither writ by you, nor publish'd by your Order. Many Considerations determin'd

termin'd me to this Opinion : For instance ; I could not think, that in order to vent your self in a fit of Railing, you would draw a Picture out of your own Imagination, which cannot pass for that of the Person who writ to you, even in the low and vile Character he assum'd, and which you will hardly venture to own that you meant to be the Resemblance of any Man in *Britain*. I could not persuade my-self that you would give Occasion, as I apprehend very much that you may have done, to the drawing of another Picture *after the Life*, which no one will mistake, and which you will not be curious to place in your Collection of Paintings. I have, with the rest of Mankind, a great regard for some of your Friends ; but I have with the rest of Mankind likewise, a great regard for your particular Enemies, among whom it seem'd impossible to me that you, who know them so well, should pretend to find either Slaves, or Criminals,

nals, or insolvent Debtors. I dare affirm, that there is not one of them who ever *Mortgag'd his Estate for more than its value, or reduc'd himself near the necessity of living by Contribution.*

THESE are some of the Motives which induc'd me to acquit you of the Scandal, as I then thought it, of writing this Paper. But upon better Information, and further Reflection, I have changed my Opinion; and I see nothing inconsistent with my respect for you, in believing that you did write it.

AS great an Advantage as it is in all the Affairs of Life, for a Man to keep his temper, it is often excusable, and perhaps sometimes even Praise-worthy, to lose it. When a Minister is contradicted in matters relating to his Administration, and when busy People shall presume to ask his Reasons, instead

stead of submitting to his Authority, can We wonder if his Passion transports him into Rhodomontades, and if he behaves himself a little wildly ? But when the Virtue of a Minister like you, whose whole Life has been one bright Example of publick and private Virtue, shall be suspected, so far as to be tempted to Passion ; who can refuse him even Applause, if his generous Soul, transported with a just Indignation, breathes forth such Expressions, as might, upon a less occasion, pass for indecent Ribaldry ?

THIS was your Case, most noble Sir, in the Trial which I presumed lately to make, with too much boldness perhaps, but surely with a very good design. A Man writes to you from his Garret, describes himself as a prostitute Scribler, and offers you the Service of his Pen ; this, and this alone appears to you ; upon which a noble Indignation seizes you, and you strike
boldly,

boldly, tho you strike in the dark : there is really somewhat fine in this fall of Resentment, and it confirms in the highest degree the Sentiments I have long entertain'd of your Integrity, of your Ability, and of a certain Grace which accompanys, and gives a Lustre to every part of your Conduct.

THE Share I have had in this Adventure affords me great Satisfaction : Your Anger fell on a feign'd Character, and hurts me not ; but the honour of having drawn an Answer from a *First Minister*, and an Answer *in print*, accrues to me, and is such a one, as the greatest of our weekly Authors cou'd never boast.

GIVE me leave therefore to be transported in my turn, but to be transported with Joy, and to insert an Abstract of your Answer in this Paper, as *Balzac* placed at the head of his Works, a Letter from the Cardinal de

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Richlieu.

Richlieu. I consult my own honour, it must be confess'd in doing this, but I consider still more that just Applause and Admiration, which I, with the rest of the World, am oblig'd on this occasion to give you.

TO those parts of the *Occasional Writer's* Letter, which shew that you are at this juncture in want of such Services, as the Scoundrel he personated might be fit to do, you make no reply: The Want you seem to admit, but the Offer of Service you reject; let the Publick hear in what manner.

Abstract

Abstract of the M——r's
ANSWER to the Occa-
sional Writer.

Pag. 1. “ **T**H O you have not sign'd
“ your Name, I know
“ you. Because, a Man who is without
“ all Principles of Honesty, who in no
“ one thing can be rely'd upon ; a Be-
“ trayer of his Friend, a Traitor to his
“ Prince, an Enemy to his Country, a
“ perjur'd, ungrateful, unfaithful Rascal,
“ must be *You* ; one who is a Compo-
“ sition of all these can be only *You*.

Pag. 2. “ **Y**O U are an infamous Fel-
“ low, who make a Reputation of doing
“ Mischief ; and *Herostratus* and *Nero*
“ were not greater Villains than You.

“ **Y**O U are of so profligate a Cha-
“ racter, that in your Prosperity, no body
“ envy'd

“ envy’d you, and in your Disgrace, no
“ body pitys you.

“ YOU were in the Interest of *France*,
“ and of the *Pope*, as hath appear’d by
“ your Writings, and you went out of
“ the way to save your self from the
“ Gallows.

Pag. 3. “ YOU are a Fellow who have
“ no Conscience at all, or a damnable
“ complying one; and if you would lend
“ it to me, it *would be of no use to me.*

“ YOU have *no Abilitys*; you are an
“ *emancipated Slave*, a proscib’d Crimi-
“ nal, and an *insolvent Debtor*; and I am
“ not in such a desperate forlorn Condition
“ to employ a Fellow who hath *no Talents.*

Pag. 4. “ YOU have been a Traitor,
“ and should be us’d like one. And I love
“ my Master so well, that I will never
“ advise him to use you, *lest you shou’d*
“ *jostle me out of my Employment.*

“ THE

“ T H E Majority are of my Opinion.
“ One side rails at you, the other dislikes
“ you : and that *Palinurus* would deserve
“ to be drowned indeed, who let you
“ have the Rudder, if he could help it.

Pag. 5. “ I D O not value what *You*
“ or *your Company* say of me ; neither
“ am I to be frighted with a *Parliamentary*
“ *Scrutiny*. You rail at me because you
“ envy me ; and I despise all that a Man
“ in the Impotence of Disgrace can do
“ against me, who could never terrify me
“ in the Zenith of his Power.”

Then follow these admirable
Arguments.

Pag. 6, 7, 8. “ I. Y O U may talk
“ what you will of *France, Spain,* and
“ the Emperor. Power is fluctuating, and
“ perhaps I know who is *Britain's* Ene-
“ my as well as another. II. Tho we
“ did

“ did lend the Emperor a helping hand,
“ we are not to let him do what he plea-
“ ses ; and when we set him up, it was
“ good Politicks, and now 'tis equally
“ good to take him down. III. *I don't*
“ *question* but we shall humble him. IV.
“ I must tell you plainly, You and I, as
“ to *foreign Affairs*, *differ widely in Opi-*
“ *nion*. V. When our Neighbours grow
“ faucy and encroaching, 'tis high time
“ to look about us, and not to be taken
“ *napping*. VI. I know you like the
“ Emperor, because he is like your self
“ in Ingratitude ; and you hate our Friend
“ *France*, because you were well received
“ there.

“ If any Body says any thing of me,
“ pray, tell them ALL THESE
“ THINGS. But for all that, I will
“ not *give you an Employment*.

“ I know you to be so hot-headed,
“ that when you have read this, you
“ will vent all your Malice against me.

“ But

“ But I do not value it ; for I would
“ rather have you my Enemy than my
“ Friend.

“ Change your Names, and be as abu-
“ sive and scurrilous as you please, I
“ shall find you out. I am *Aristæus* ;
“ you are *Proteus*. You may change
“ to a Flame, a Lyon, a Bull, or a Bear,
“ I shall know you, baffle you, conquer
“ you, and contemn you. All your
“ Opposition will redound to my Ho-
“ nour and Glory. And so, Sir, I scorn
“ your proffer'd Services. Sir,

“ *Your most, &c.*”

HOW great ! how free ! how bold !
how generous ! Well may those who
have the Honour of a near Approach
to you, extol the noble Openness of
your Nature, which displays it self in
this uncommon manner ; and think that
Temper in a Statesman truly admirable,
which

which loses it self so gloriously. Did ever Minister speak so plainly, or lay himself so open to any Man, and especially to such a Man, as you supposed your self writing to at that time? Far from discovering Hatred and Contempt of such Wretches, Persons in your Situation have generally encourag'd, and even feared them: Nay, they have sometimes aspir'd to be themselves of that Class; and *Seneca's Apocolocyntosis* upon *Claudius*, is not the sole Instance of Ministers who have dipp'd their Pens in *Satyr* to rail at the Memory of a dead Prince.

But now, after this honourable Declaration which you have made, after this great Example which you have given, let every mercenary Scribler, every Tool of secret Service, tremble and despair. Long may you live, most noble Sir, the just Model of a Minister, who scorns the Assistance of Flattery, Falshood, Artifice, or Corruption.

I have devoted my self to your service, and shall certainly attend you thro' every Stage of your Fortune ; as long as we both draw vital Air, you shall feel the Effects of my Zeal in your Cause, and I promise you very solemnly, that from henceforward I will live for no other Purpose: so that I am persuaded, you will hear with pleasure the *three Engagements* which I think it proper to take with the Publick and with You.

THE first is, that my Pen shall constantly preserve Decency and Good Manners ; and shall never be stain'd with any Abuse of particular Persons. I will chastise Vice, I will expose Folly, and I will combat Error, wherever I find them. But I will never touch upon any unalterable Defects in Figure, in Family, in Birth, in any kind whatsoever : Much less will I allow my self to hint at any particular Scandal, or

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even to mention any real Misfortune, which may equally befall the best and the worst of Men; unless I am forced by my Subject to it, and unless I can soften the Evil by the very manner of recalling it to Memory. To attack a Vice, a Folly or an Error, is Correction. To attack the Person is Defamation. He who writes an Invective does a silly thing, because he loses his End; and the wisest of Men has said, *He that uttereth Slander is a Fool*. Even Truth loses its Force in an Invective, as it does in a Panegyrick. In one it is thrown into the Lump with Malice, in the other with Flattery; and he who is guilty of the first, that is, he who writes against the Man, not against his Crimes, his Follies, or his Errors, seldom proves any thing more than his own Envy, and the other's Superiority. To conclude this Head, he who writes an Invective, does a base and wicked thing; because his Design is to disturb the Quiet, and destroy the Peace of another Man, but
not

not to reform him, or to serve the Publick. The Pen of such a Writer, like one of those Scourges of which the profound *Meibomius* has writ so learnedly, while it chastises the Person, serves only to provoke the Vice.

THE *second Obligation* which I lay my self under, and which equally becomes a Man who writes in the Cause of Truth, is that of intire *Disinterestedness*.

I KNOW the Generosity of your Nature, I know what Places and Pensions have been the Rewards of some very mean Performances in Verse and Prose; and that R. R. State-Writer, of whom we are obliged to ask Blessing, is most certainly not at the Head of our Profession. These Examples, and a due Consideration of the Importance of my Services, teach me sufficiently what Expectations I might entertain, without any Risque of a Disappointment. But

I have neither Ambition of this kind nor Avarice. My Fortune is above wanting the Necessaries, and my Philosophy above wanting the Superfluities of Life. I therefore discharge you from all Obligation of rewarding my Services; and I wish for the sake of your Ease, your Honour, and your Safety, my Example was likely to be followed.

WHEN we behold a great Man among a Croud of disinterested Friends, we know that they follow his Virtues, and his Merit: when we hear an Orator bring over the Majority of an unprejudic'd Audience to his Opinion, we must impute it to the force of his Eloquence. But surely it is as rare for a Minister to have disinterested Friends, as an unprejudic'd Audience, so that a number of Followers can be no proof of his personal Virtues, or a Majority of his Eloquence.

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THE Antients placed great Happiness in their *inemptæ dapes*, I would rather you should place yours in the *inempti amici*. But alas! Sir, as Amiable as you are, this Happiness will hardly fall to your Lot, in our degenerate Age; and I know not whether to maintain your Power, you may not be forc'd to tarnish the Lustre of your glorious Administration. The *King* has indeed the Hearts of the People: his Service will always be supported by a National Concurrence, because his Views are always directed to the National Good. This part is easy and secure, but when once Men come to distinguish between the *King's* Service and yours, there will arise another part not so easy nor secure: You have blended them pretty artfully together hitherto, but I doubt the Discrimination is at hand. When that comes you will be reduc'd to a melancholy Alternative; which I beg you to think of, and to prepare for. To quit
your

your Power and your Pretensions, and to quit them before you have establish'd in your Room that dear B—— of yours, who does you so much Service at home, by tiring the ——, and the Nation so much Honour abroad by diverting the C— of F—, would indeed be hard. But on the other hand, be pleas'd to consider that this Nation has gone very far into Corruption already, that there is a Point of Corruption, to which no Nation can arrive and recover their Libertys, if they are lost; or even preserve them, if they are not lost, according to *Matchiavel's* Observation; and that whoever is the Instrument of plunging his Country irretrievably into this Abyfs, I use a word you seem fond of, will fall into a terrible Abyfs himself, and have no Superiority any where, but where the *Briber* stands before the *Bribed*, as the *Devil* stands before the Sinner.

YOU see, Sir, how my Zeal transports me, and carries me upon the least
Hint

Hint which may be improv'd to your Honour or Service, even out of my Subject. I return to it ; and the *Third Engagement* which I take, is to observe a strict Impartiality.

TO do otherwise would be to act contrary to my Nature, and to the Dictates of my Reason. I have a natural Abhorrence of Injustice, and I consider'd when I first drew my Pen, in how particular a manner it behoves us Political Writers, to be on our Guard, against falling into any Partiality. The Judg is circumscrib'd by Forms, to the Observance of which he is bound ; he has the Law open before him, the Partys on whom he sits in Judgment, are generally indifferent to him, and far from having any of his Passions awaken'd, the whole Man is sometimes prone to Sleep. When there is room to suspect a Judg of Partiality in a particular Case, 'tis agreeable to the Practice of some Countrys, that he should decline presiding

ding at the Trial, or be oblig'd to withdraw at the Requisition of the Party. With all these and many other Precautions, which wise Constitutions have establish'd, it is neither easy nor safe for the venerable Sages of the Law to exercise Partiality. But we Political Writers are not under the same Restraints, and are expos'd to strong Temptations. No Forms are prescrib'd to regulate our Proceedings ; no particular Laws adapted to the particular Cases which may occur ; lie open before us. The general Law of Reason is the only Rule we have to follow ; the Application of this Rule requires the most nice exactness, and We are oblig'd to make this Application often, in pronouncing Judgment on Men and Things, when we are the most warmly engag'd in those civil Contests, which the Duty of our Profession exposes us to, and even when our Tempers are ruffled by Opposition. From which Consideration the difficulty of preserving a strict *Impartiality*, may evidently

evidently appear : give me leave however to illustrate this matter a little further.

IN the *Athenian* Commonwealth, the Citizen who took no side, was deem'd indifferent to the publick Good, and was branded for his infamous Neutrality. Now if such an Obligation as this lay upon every private Citizen in that *Democratical* Government, it is certain that We publick Persons, at least, ought to think our selves under the same Obligation, even in this limited Monarchy of ours. Indifference must be a Crime in us, to be ranked but one degree below Treachery, for deserting the Commonwealth is next to betraying it. Our Duty must oblige us in all publick Disputes to take the best side, and to espouse it with Warmth : this Warmth will beget Warmth, for *you know*, Sir, that the worst side is not always the worst defended. Provocations will multiply daily, and we may be attack'd in

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the

the most sensible Parts. You, Sir, yourself, may for ought I know be insulted, and your spotless Character may be defil'd by some saucy Scribler: in this licentious Age, nothing is held sacred; under the specious Pretence of Free-thinking, the Providence and the very Being of God, have been openly called in Question, and Reflections on your Administration may possibly steal into the World.

SUPPOSE, for a Moment, that any thing so monstrous as this should happen, that you should be directly inveighed against, or which perhaps is more poignant ironically commended, and then consider how difficult it would be for a profess'd Admirer of you, heated in the Contest, to keep his Temper, and to preserve his Impartiality; you must agree with me the Task would be extremely difficult.

BUT I am sure you will agree likewise, that as difficult as it would be,

a conscientious Man ought to impose it upon himself.

THE ill Effects of Partiality in us Political Writers, when it carries us to give unjust and false Representations of Men and Things, will not be thought of little Moment by you, who labour for Fame, and expect a great Part of your Reward from Posterity, as Posterity is to receive a great Part of the Advantages which your *wise and virtuous Administration* procures, in *reviving, supporting, and extending Credit*, in *opening so comfortable a Prospect of the Payment of our Debts*, in *strengthening us abroad by so many beneficial Alliances*, and *above all in amending our Morals, by the total Discouragement of every kind of Artifice and Corruption.*

THE Civil Magistrate may give away a Man's Estate, or take away his Life; but we can do, and often have done more; we set the general Characters

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and

and particular Actions of Men in what Light we please, and deliver them down, sometimes very unjustly, under the most amiable, or the most hateful Colours to future Ages, for the rash Sentence we pronounce is eagerly receiv'd, and as eagerly transmitted by those who are animated with the same Passion.

IN this manner are unjust, and even false Representations establish'd. They become the general Opinion of Mankind, and then, altho our Works should grow out of date as fast as a Gazette, which it must be confess'd happens very frequently ; yet still the Mischief is done, the Historian perpetuates the Slander which the Politician broached, and triumphs in the Cotemporary Authority upon which he writes to serve the present Turn, or to satisfy Resentment of Party ; such Persons as have no other Crime but that of differing in Opinion from us, and such Events as have no other Demerit but our dislike of the
Persons

Persons who bring them about, are loaded with Infamy : Posterity is impos'd upon as well as the present Age, and the Children continue the Fathers Vengeance, without having the Fathers Provocation.

THIS faint Sketch of some Consequences that follow the Partiality of Political Writers, and of the Danger wherein we all stand of being transported by our own Passions, or hurry'd by those of other People, so far to be answerable for such Consequences ; may suffice to shew how much Reason there is for a Man who undertakes the Career I am entering upon, to be watchful over himself, and to lay himself under as strong a Restraint as I do by this solemn Engagement.

INDEED as the World goes, it is only by running into Extremes that a State-Writer can effectually please his Party, or serve himself ; the Eye of
Party

Party sees nothing but quite white, or quite black, observes no degrees between them, and can distinguish no middle Colour that partakes of both. The greatest Genius in Writing may be exposed to share the Fate of the greatest *Genié* in Painting. *Annibal Carache*, who follow'd Nature and Truth with the utmost Exactness, found his noblest Works discountenanc'd and neglected: He thereupon advis'd *Guido* and *Caravagio*, his two favourite Scholars, to take quite another manner, to trace nothing faithfully, but to outrage all they represented, the one by painting in the darkest, and the other in the lightest manner. By these means both of them were sure of Admirers, and both of them grew rich.

TO imitate these Painters, is all our Party-Writers aim at: Whether their manner be black or white, Satyr, or Panegyrick, no matter. Their Principle is to lay their Colours on thick, and
to

to be equally in an Extreme. But I hope for my own part, to prove that I am not of this Number. On the contrary, I will endeavour to excel in a much more difficult way, in Softenings and middle Tints; and yet by these to form a Manner so strong, as shall be sufficient for my own Reputation, and for your Service. To You, who have so fine a Taste in Painting, this Attempt will, I flatter my self, be agreeable, and will secure the Continuance of your Favour to,

Most Noble SIR,

Your Honour's most

Devoted Servant,

Febr. 13.
1726-7.

The Occasional Writer.