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U I M I I

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Redmond Simpson

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A N S W E R

T O

Mr. Fitzgerald's Appeal, &c.





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Mr. Fitzgerald's Appeal

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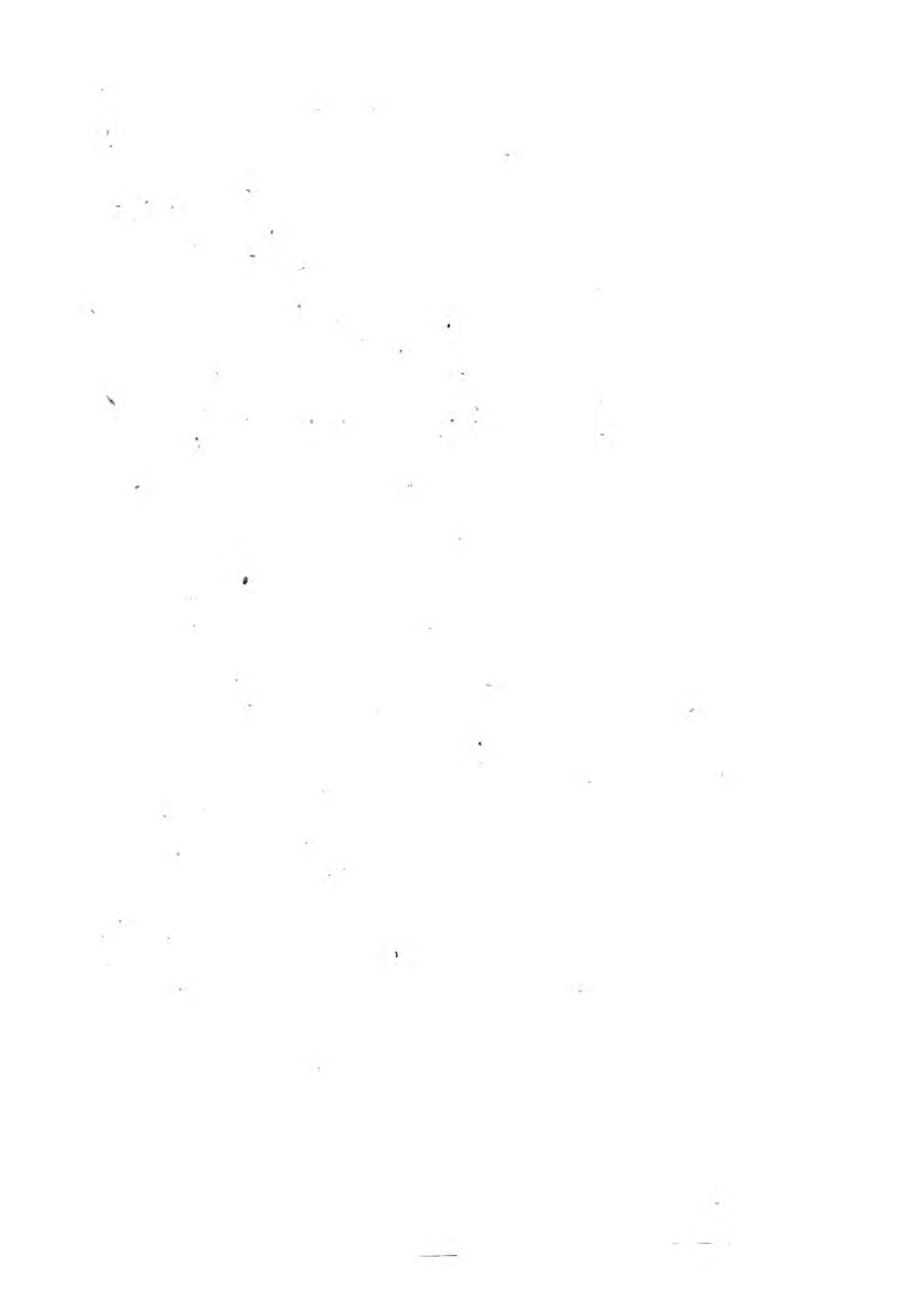
T H O M A S W A L K E R, Esq.

Nec timide, nec temere.

L O N D O N :

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M,DCC,LXXV,



TO THE
GENTLEMEN
OF THE
JOCKEY CLUB.

IN ANSWER TO

Mr. FITZGERALD'S APPEAL to
them, lately published.

S I R S,

I SHOULD consider it as an inexcusable affront, if in consequence of a *public* appeal to you, on a *private* occasion, I was to obtrude on the town the particulars of a transaction either foreign to the subject on which your ap-
B pellant

pellant has wrote, or that reflected any thing but truth on the dark shade of his extraordinary purpose. The making a reply to Mr. Fitzgerald's *story*, I am convinced, would be wholly unnecessary in me, provided it reached not the tables of those who are strangers to me. Among those who know me, I trust I have many friends ; and was it confined to their knowledge only, it would be almost a fault in me to recognize it.

Perhaps Mr. Fitzgerald drew this conclusion, before he attempted to address himself to you, and therefore determined to mortify me (if possible) in public, by endeavouring to disturb my tranquillity from that repose in which he had ever found it. I am happy, however, in declaring to a tribunal of gentlemen, that neither menace, or any thing from Mr. Fitzgerald, shall ever remove in me that long fix'd resolution of acting as becomes the gentleman, the man of honour, and the common friend.

Though

Though Mr. Fitzgerald's address to you is one of those pieces of authorship which carries with it more uneducated gall, than a conviction of his own rectitude ; yet, as there may be men, who, from false prejudices, are ever ready to swallow tales *de parte*, and take things for granted, on a partial recital, which they wish to be true, though never so false, I presume to think I am well justified, in thus reluctantly coming forward in defence of an injured reputation.

When madness has wrought the human mind to a certain degree of distraction, the body attracting our surprize, influences for a time the humanity of our souls; but when the paroxisms of rage burst forth with an evil, prejudged intention to do us harm, the hand is sacred that snatches the power from an insane object, and blunts the spiculæ of its poison.

But let it not be thought that this is my task!
—No! for however difficult it may be to win

Mr. F. over to reason, and deliberate manhood ; and whatever opinion his conduct by me has confirmed in my mind, in respect to his **WHOLE SELF**, I shall leave to the judgment of others, more materially connected with him.

In return for all *his* buffoonery, I shall relate simple facts ; and for his malignant zeal to harass me into a compliance with his pecuniary request, I will repay him with my calmest wishes, that time may change him from what *he is*, and that his mind may, from reflection, bring him to an invariable sense of his injuries to me.

Let who will have credit for the penmanship of Mr. Fitzgerald's appeal, I cannot but remark, that had he ever paid a proper respect for the doctrine of its first paragraph, we should not behold him in that deformed shape he now appears, nor would Fame have cause to blow its hollow trump against him.

Without

Without enlarging on the laws of honour, I shall only here observe, that as I have already acted consistent with the wishes of my friends, and as I sincerely believe that you, gentlemen, form collectively a court of real justice in matters of this nature, I rely intirely on your judgment so far as the competency of my case may appear to you, not doubting but it will, like all your other decisions, afford general satisfaction:—I am sure it will be impartial, consequently at the call of truth, I submit the following

R E C I T A L.

I shall not trouble you with the course of life, which, from a state of affluence had greatly impaired my fortune, as I have the honour of being known to you. The reproof is mortifying, when I recollect that you have been too frequently the witnesses of my folly. In excuse, I have to offer, that a juvenile fancy encouraged an early fondness for sport; and that the gratification, accelerated the necessity of my quitting this country before I came of age—an early period, you will all allow,

low, considering the large property that devolved to me on the demise of my relation. My mind, though young, on this occasion was much distressed, and by the advice of my guardians, I repaired to France, in order that they might come to a true knowledge of my shattered circumstances; to avoid also the horrors of an impending confinement, and by reflecting on past irregularities, to prepare myself for all the accidents of futurity.

On my departure, not a tongue from a single creditor (of honour) dealt invective parsimoniously—I was sorry, because I could not prevent it.—I had nearly lost my ALL, and as I imagined, was totally ruined; for what could a minor think, when he had brought all the money lenders to a total stand-still—himself nearly penniless—overwhelmed with innumerable debts, and in disgrace with his guardian!—Thus circumstanced, gentlemen, I repeat, I was obliged to, and did---RETIRE.

Among

Among other obligations, when the situation of my circumstances made it necessary for me to withdraw from this kingdom, I left undischarged my note for 3000l. in the hands of a gentleman, (not Mr. Fitzgerald). My absence became the conversation of the town—My fortune was every where considered as ruined, and I had too much reason to feel the truth of the conjecture—My engagements on the turf were much above the wreck of my finances in case of loss; and many other things made it absolutely necessary to adopt some mode of accommodation. This was premised by the general voice of my friends—as I had no alternative, my concurrence favoured their endeavours, and from their friendship, I had the opportunity of returning again to England, after a few months absence.

I had not been many days in town before I received a visit from Mr. Fitzgerald. His company was entirely unexpected—As I was a stranger to his having any demand upon me, I must take leave to rectify the mistake with which he *accidentally* begins his appeal, where
 he

he says, "that among my other creditors, I applied to *him*, and that my tale was pitiful"—If I deviate from truth, that epithet will be pointed; but when I remind him that I knew nothing of his having my note, until the day he made me his visit, he will be convinced that his imagination has been too prolific, and his ill-timed farcisms must recur.

When he first presented the note to me, observing that it was not indorsed, I declined giving any immediate answer to his demand, and expressed a desire of seeing the gentleman to whom I had given the bill. The matter rested in this situation for a few days, in which time I had the opportunity of informing myself of the negociation which brought my note into *the bands* of Mr. Fitzgerald; for under the cloud of misfortunes which surrounded me, and the unpromising state of my affairs in my minority, when I was reduced to the necessity of being a declared bankrupt in the world of play, I knew that no person would venture to give a consideration of much value for any personal security of mine. The simple fact is, that

Mr. Fitzgerald gave for it a bill of little or no value, which he might have had returned him, if he could have found any inducement to call upon the gentleman with whom he had made the exchange; but small as the pittance was that could be expected from my broken fortune, it was wisely preferred to the holding a bill, which never has, nor probably ever will, produce a single shilling.

As I was at this time wholly under the direction of my guardians, at their desire I begged the favour of a friend to wait upon Mr. Fitzgerald with proposals for exonerating his demand.—Five hundred pounds were offered, and (after a deliberation of two or three days) on a second interview with my friend, acceded to—the note was on payment of the money cancelled; and it was understood by all parties concerned, that the obligation entirely ceased. The idea of any other claim on me was never divulged, nor can I apprehend it had existence even in the whimsical imagination of Mr. F. himself.

I have avoided inserting the names of the gentlemen concerned in this business, because I should be sorry to give any offence by making them the subjects of this reply ; but any private enquirer may be satisfied with the truth of my assertions, on a personal application to me.

Mr. Fitzgerald, in his Appeal, has introduced me in several conversations with him, although I never was in his company upon the business of the note after his first visit, and he has made me speak a language, foreign to *his* usual style—he has also bewildered his author in error, by his misrepresentation of facts.

It will appear somewhat extraordinary, gentlemen, when I inform you a whole year elapsed after compounding for the amount of the note with Mr. Fitzgerald, before I heard any thing of his new demand. We met frequently at public places, when the common ceremonies of politeness passed as usual. The fluctuating state of his finances, to which you are no stranger, will countenance my opinion, that however *innately tender*

tender he might be, his circumstances were often such, as would have led him to make a demand, had he thought me his debtor; nor will you readily attribute to his politeness a *silence*, to which, from necessity, he could not have consented.

I shall not attempt to expatiate on the multifarious manœuvres of my accuser, but his accosting me on Guildford race ground, and making a demand for a note that had been settled and cancelled a year before, was extravagant, ridiculous, and altogether unexpected. He took the opportunity, attended by a friend and his servant, of desiring me to ride with him some small distance on the course from the company assembled, and then prefaced his conversation, by saying, he heard I had won 20,000*l.* and that, though I might consider every obligation with him discharged, he should insist on a further consideration. My reply was comprised in a few words, that he was wrong informed, and that in his demand he would be disappointed, for that he could have no claim, in reason or honour, upon me. His chagrin

was visible—he had meditated an effort which failed, and he could not stifle his rage—Some secret cause, to which I am a stranger, might have induced him to the attempt.

It is plain Mr. Fitzgerald had greatly mistaken my character, by his endeavouring to intimidate me into a contribution, to which he had no pretence. The laurels he has gathered in the field, vainly flatter'd him, and he denounced his threats with a deportment and tone that might have excited my laughter, but not my fear.

He talked of giving me a public affront, if I had not been meanly screened under the protection of the law. Whoever has seen my antagonist, will want no conviction from me that I had nothing to fear from *him*. His menace like his slander is not to be dreaded. I soon removed his doubts of my situation, by telling him, I should take no ungentleman like advantage of any thing he might chuse to do. I must confess I did not suppose he would debase himself

self to the behaviour of a porter, or that I should find the Prince of Duelling exercising the weapon of the rabble ; but on a sudden Mr. Fitzgerald turned his horse about, and swung his stick, which struck me in the face. The blow was by surprise, and before I could turn round, my hero, with his companions, rode off towards the company, with whom they mixed, and I saw no more of Mr. Fitzgerald at that time.

A moment's reflection convinced me of the impropriety of following him to return the affront in the way I received it, and that it would be only making a conversation for the vulgar ; for, however Mr. Fitzgerald, actuated by *his internal monitor*, might conduct himself, I thought it my duty, in this particular, to act with the approbation of a friend, and therefore after staying some time on the course, I came away for London, and waited Mr. Fitzgerald's return to town, which was not so soon as I expected.—The morning of his arrival, and not before, I called upon Capt. Gwynn, and asked him as my second to carry a letter, which I had

in my pocket, containing a challenge addressed to Mr. F——. He obligingly delivered it, and an appointment was returned me, to meet Mr. F—— in Cavendish Square the evening of the same day at eight o'clock.

In consequence of this I was punctual to the time on the spot appointed, in company with Captain Gwynn, and after waiting a short time, we were spoke to by Captain Garstin, who soon discovered himself to be Mr. Fitzgerald's second. On some conversation between him and Captain Gwynn (whom he called aside) the latter informed him, that I would by no means refer the difference in question to the judgment or further umpirage of any one; concluding, that as Mr. Fitzgerald had most grossly affronted me by his blow, he could make me no satisfaction, but in the most public manner; which Captain Garstin hearing, said, could not be done, unless I came into terms respecting the note, and desired we would follow him and Mr. F—— to the ground, which we accordingly did.

At

At the instance of Captain Garstin, it was concluded we should stand at the distance of twelve paces, and that as I had received the offence, I should discharge the contents of the first pistol. Mr. Fitzgerald and myself took our ground, and then loaded in the presence of our seconds.

Mr. Fitzgerald cannot, with any degree of reason, but say, that my readiness to agree to the distance measured by his own second, together with the very spot of ground we were to combat in, was every way polite and obliging in me, as it undoubtedly gave him all advantages, and perhaps enabled him to prove himself that exact marksman he so much boasts of. The seconds having stepped aside, we presented our pistols: I fired the first shot, and instantly expected a return from Mr. Fitzgerald; but instead of this, he changed his position, and addressing himself to me, said, he was sorry for having struck me, and begg'd ten thousand pardons for the insult.

I must

I must not here omit, that as Mr. Fitzgerald is a professed master of the etiquet in duelling, he certainly was happy in having the opportunity of expressing himself in this manner to me; I say in this manner, because from the well-timed occasion of shortening his person as low as possible, he most likely avoided, what *most* he feared, or why did he at the moment of my firing, sink his attitude, and directly after recover himself to look erect, and beg my pardon? This operation might not be unfair, though it was what I was not at all acquainted with, till I observed it practised by my opponent.

He now hoped he had given me satisfaction, and consented that the seconds should make his concession public. This was deemed sufficient, and the insult was then removed; but, nevertheless, Mr. Fitzgerald keeping his ground, made a demand on me for 2500 l. in a peremptory cadence, which he insisted I should pay, or leave the merits of my refusal to the arbitrament of a third person. My reply to this sudden request was, that I did not deem myself at all his debtor.

On

On this he demanded satisfaction, and in a very self-sufficient manner presenting his pistol, declared to our seconds, he would bett 1000 l. he hit me. Whether this was done in terrorem or no, I will not say—but after a long parley, he very deliberately took his aim at me; the pistol missed fire; which, with some *gentlemen*, would have been considered as a shot. While he was repriming, he again offered to refer the difference to arbitration, still urging with a seeming confidence his former bett of 1000 l. he hit me. What to ascribe this curious behaviour in Mr. Fitzgerald to, is beyond my skill. If this, gentlemen, was not an effort to dragoon me into his own measures, in the name of real honour what was it? but this is digression.

Mr. Fitzgerald fired, and I received the ball on the bone of my right arm, about two inches below the shoulder; from the quantity of powder which produced it, it did not penetrate my furtout. Mr. Fitzgerald perceiving I had been shot, quitted his ground, and run up to me, (very improperly, unless he concluded the duel was ended) saying, he hoped he had not hurt
D me.

me. An extraordinary epithet, indeed, for a man, who had but a minute before offered a bett of 1000 l. he hit me. Can the wonderful Mr. Fitzgerald himself think he had any concern whether I was hurt or not, when the whole tenor of his conduct by me, speaks and largely testifies the contrary? On my saying I was not materially hurt, and could still keep my ground, he looked round, and observing the surgeon and two gentlemen, Capt. G—h—n and Sir Robert W——, his acquaintance, he insisted to know whether the wound was mortal; I repeated it was not; and the surgeon coming up to me, opened the breast of my coat, and applied his hand to the part where the ball struck me, but gave me no answer of the effect, and begged me to adjourn with him to his house. I had now lost the use of my arm—I could not raise it at all; and Captain Gwynn seeing several people gathering near, chose we should quit the field immediately; saying, it would be highly improper to stay a moment longer.

On

On our way to the surgeon's carriage, Mr. Fitzgerald malevolently urged, I was paper'd— I answered, if he entertained any such suspicion, he might accompany us, and satisfy his curiosity; not in the least doubting, but Mr. Tomkins, who was in the field at Mr. F——'s request during the whole transaction, would readily refute any opinion that might then, or since have been formed, from the comical *paper-building* Mr. Fitzgerald has erected. At Mr. Tomkins's house, my arm was examined, and he applied what was necessary to its cure.

The ludicrous and improbable account of my being paper'd, I treat with all requisite contempt; and should remain silent upon it as a contrivance known very likely in the theory of duelling, and introduced by Mr. Fitzgerald, but that *he* might thence conclude, and his superficial readers be led to believe, that this offspring of his fancy was founded on some share of certainty.

While I was taking leave of the surgeon, Mr. Fitzgerald entered his house, in company with Captain G—h—n, and affected to feel, or, in reality, felt the sting of self-conviction, for the illiberal language he had used in the field against me. He made many apologies for the groundless suspicions he entertained ; asked my pardon for the accusation, together with my permission to enquire my health, which he did the day after ; and, on the following one, he called at my house for the same purpose,

I now considered the matter as ended, and in a few days, my arm being recovered, I went out of town for a week. In this unlucky interval, (for such I must call it by Mr. Fitzgerald) some sad catastrophe—some new misfortune, rekindled his ardent desire to draw a new subsidy from my pocket, and relieve his pecuniary wants ; for, on my return to town, I received a note, left by Captain B—y, requesting me to see him on particular business ; and, on my interview with him, in consequence, behold, gentlemen, Mr. Fitzgerald was again—the subject.

Captain

Captain B—y is mentioned as Mr. Fitzgerald's second, though he was not in the field. If he, or the real second, Captain Garstin, or either of Mr. Fitzgerald's attendant friends, had been consulted, or given an account of the transaction, it would have prevented many awkward and lame circumstances that have *perchance* crept into his narrative, and I had escaped the compliment of refutation.

Captain B——y delivered himself with propriety—He made me acquainted with Mr. Fitzgerald's intentions, and, after receiving my final determination, took his leave. I will not here comment on the improbability of the conversation introduced by Mr. Fitzgerald, in his Appeal, between Captain B——y, and myself.—It may be enough to observe that, *that* gentleman could not so far forget himself, as to become the tool of Mr. Fitzgerald's petulance.

I had now taken the advice of a numerous and respectable acquaintance, (for the affair was generally known) towards regulating my conduct

duft therein—Their voice was uniform—They insisted I should not obey any further call from Mr. Fitzgerald ; for, that having sufficiently evinced my courage, my honour was clear from any imputation his madness, or disappointment, (call it which you will) might encourage him to cast upon it.

I took this advice, and from the unexampled behaviour I had experienced in Mr. Fitzgerald, I concluded he was, for the moment, either a madman, or an assassin.

To indulge the rancour of Mr. Fitzgerald's heart on every occasion his necessities might prompt him to, would subject me, no doubt, to a like censure ; and I should with him merit a cell in the noisy mansion of Moorfields.

Mr. Fitzgerald, in his Appeal, wishes further to have it understood, that my declining to refer the propriety of his demand to you, gentlemen, was a proof of the error of my conduct, and strives to alarm me with the apprehension,
 2 that

that whenever he met me afterwards, he would insult me. He then proceeds to say, because I happened not to see him for some months, that I purposely avoided him, and fled to France under a fictitious name.

He may amuse himself as he pleases under these idle and vague conjectures, but truth supports, (and I am sincere in averring it) that for him I have neither fear nor favour; and that my pursuits in business and pleasure are not, nor ever have been, the least diverted from their usual course, on account of that Leviathan, the *valiant*—the enthusiastic Mr. Fitzgerald.—I feel myself well protected against the fury of his temper, by the consistency of my own behaviour; and until he gives me reason to expect a secret clandestine mischief from him, I shall continue to hold him in that state of poor indifference which his language and manners by me so justly merit.

He says he has been in chace of me ever since my refusal to refer, what has been finally settled

fettled, to your decision, but that I have studiously kept out of his way. He says too, that being confined by indisposition on hearing of my being at the Pantheon, his disorder took a sudden turn, and enabled him to apply to my house in search of me.

There is something truly merry in this, and I do not wonder that his blood, heated to the highest pitch, by his money fever (for that appears to have been his real complaint) raised him from his melancholy pillow, and hurried him in a second delirium to my house for the—
GOLDEN PILLS.

Your eccentric appellant has taken the happy opportunity of introducing in his address to you, his knowledge of the languages.—He has quoted from different authors, and appears as thoroughly acquainted with the expressions of a bear garden, as with the reasoning of Socrates.—He takes the liberty to attempt an affront to a Lady for being seen in my company, and modestly recommends himself to the suffrages

frages of the fair, as a man of approved courage—*true honour and polite literature.*

It would be wandering from my intention to dispute these points—hence I shall leave it to be determined by the perusal of a late publication called *The Vauxhall Affray*.—I have no wish to frustrate his pursuits in matters of gallantry, nor will I interrupt the amusement of any Lady that can be happy with so trifling a gratification.

Having thus punctually recited my case, I shall take a cursory review of some of the *superingenious*—thoughts Mr. Fitzgerald has been pleased to throw out in his pamphlet against me.

Among other extraordinary passages, Mr. Fitzgerald tells us, the language of the eye is intuitively expressive, and is the only universal language of mankind. If we were to accede to this axiom, how dangerous would it be to Mr.

E

Fitz-

Fitzgerald? We might then justly read in him the most sanguinary disposition imaginable, and discover, that he is either *feræ naturæ*, or ferocious from habit.

In another part he says, my tale was wondrous pitiful, and that I had always comported myself with an overbearing haughtiness to such gentlemen as had been my debtors. This I deny, and I attribute the charge to some of the many reveries in Mr. Fitzgerald's mind, which has carried him to say further, with the same false, feminine, and consumptive sentiments, that I was elate, and held myself above reproof. To him I undoubtedly was, and always shall be so, and it would be a meanness I should be sorry to betray, to have it understood, that the self-denominated, formidable Mr. Fitzgerald, aided by his dexterity in arms, blood and violence, had cause to reprove me, or that he ever presumed to do so by me without chastisement.

I cannot with decency pass over in silence the conduct of Captain Gwynn, whose interference

ference in the field, with the whole of his behaviour, will bear an examination of the severest retrospection ; and, Gentlemen, it is no compliment for me to assert, that his general character is too well known to suffer the smallest spot from an ill-natured obliquity.

If Mr. Fitzgerald's behaviour by me was not one of his terrific strides to obtain a large sum of money from me by playing on my courage, what in the name of common sense was it ? If I had indulged him with standing his second fire, after I had been disabled by his first, I conceive, unless that had taken a mortal effect, he would have remained still insatiate ; yet, notwithstanding this, he says, he had no intention to give me a mortal wound : Why then fire a second time at me ? In short, his words and actions are so contradictory, that, to the former, I am forced to apply a continued negative—to the latter, an indignant derision.

To the remaining part of his sneers, insinuations and inuendos, (in the gross I answer)
I
they

they are ungentlemanly, because they are vulgar ; they are ill-founded, because imaginary ; and lastly, they are mean, because absolutely estranged from any purpose, except that of labouring to take my money by putting me in fear, while my free consent was wanting.

Mr. Fitzgerald, after having *delivered himself* of large portions of insignificant irony, is pleased lastly to sport with me on the dreadful apprehensions he erroneously thinks I had of him, on my recovery from the contusion by his pistol, and seems happy in the conceit, that I have fled from him thro' fear. This mistaken opinion can only be class'd among others which collectively prove in him the malicious mind, and that he is capable, with the assistance of a literary friend, to perplex the truth, and draw a veil over his peculiar artifice and design.

With every respect, however, for the opinion of you, Gentlemen, whom Mr. Fitzgerald has adopted as his judges, I shall now
briefly

briefly observe, that this reply to you and the public is extorted from me, by nothing but the sense of an injury intended against me without provocation. I have no interested motive—no view to serve, nor wish to gratify, but that of removing every unjust censure, which you, gentlemen, and the public might cast upon me if I remained altogether silent on the present occasion—My opponent's literary essay is manifestly calculated to impose on the town, a very imperfect and false account between me and him; and considering the necessity there is for me to come before the public, I need make no apology for it—particularly as Mr. F. has forced me to it much against my will.—Had he been actuated by prudence, I should have been silent, and he perhaps would avoid many unpleasant things which deliberate people may reflect on his conduct.

Mr. Fitzgerald has studied to traduce me, because he found me fixt to my purpose; and as to his published threats to attack me wherever he meets me, I shall neither seek him to
put

put him to the trial, nor shall I studiously avoid him; but if accident should throw him in my way, and he should force me, in defence of myself, to exercise a power which may produce disagreeable consequences, I have the happy conviction, that I shall unite to a self forgiveness your approbation, and the acquittal of every other person.

On this firm basis I build my future conduct. To those, who from any false idea of me, may be inclined to condemn me, I answer they either know me not, or condemn from a partial bias. I wish to be on good terms with all the world; but if I do not succeed, I am not alone. Like other men, I must expect enemies; but I live with the pleasing hopes, that a deserved good opinion in many friends, (with the common allowances for human imprudences) will more than repel all the little acrimony of a censorious few.

If I am not fortunate enough to possess that kind of address which engages on a first interview,

veiw, I flatter myself, that from a nearer knowledge of my principles, I shall insure the material friendship of those with whom I wish to be particularly connected.

What has passed between me and Mr. Fitzgerald, I have endeavoured simply to relate without disguise; but as I do not mean to anticipate any opinion hereon, I now, with infinite pleasure, submit it to a tribunal of Gentlemen, whose decrees, in cases of honour, will hand their wisdom to posterity, with those posthumous laurels which ever attend the adjudication of upright judges.

T H E E N D.