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A FULL and IMPARTIAL

ACCOUNT

Of all the late

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE

Univerſity of *Cambridge*

AGAINST

Dr. *BENTLEY*.

Nunc animis opus, Ænea, nunc pectore firmo. Virg.

He tibi erunt artes; —————

Parcere ſubjectis, & debellare ſuperbos. Virg.

————— Quæ bellua ruptis,

Cum ſemel effugit, reddit ſe prava catenis? Hor.

By a Member of that UNIVERSITY.

L O N D O N,

Printed for J. Bettenham at the Crown in Paternoster-Row, 1719. (Price Six Pence.)

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
ACCOUNT

Of all the late

PROCEEDINGS, &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 abus'd, 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
B Case,

Cafe, (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 nowhere repose our selves 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 my self 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,

plaints, that they are govern'd 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 allow'd as a Present on this Occasion; he absolutely refused to create any Doctor till this Fee, as he called it, was paid
B 2
him.

him. A Demand so unexpected occasion'd a long and 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, publickly 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 *Sydney 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 *New-Market*, 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

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* condemn'd 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 publick 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 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, endeavour'd to extend this something farther, and claimed the same Fee from some Doctors
who

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

And besides in the Institution 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 condemn'd as unlawful in a Speech made to the University, out of which I have subjoin'd ^e two memorable Citations.

But

^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 religiosis iptorum

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* the 8th, 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 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.*

rum 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. Bucerii.*

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

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 or Equity to support his Claim to it. The University, as far as their Authority reached with him, overruled 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 Tendernefs 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
C
quiet

quiet and amicable End to this Dispute, he has been repaid for his Civility with the odious Charge of a suspected Judge: 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.

“ **O**N *Tuesday* the 23^d of *September*, I
 “ waited on Dr. *Bentley*, and told
 “ him I had Orders from Mr. Vice-Chan-
 “ cellor to arrest him at the Suit of Dr. *Mid-*
 “ *dleton*; he asked me why I came so late,
 “ that he had expected me all the Afternoön,
 “ designing to write by the Post to the King
 “ about it; I told him I brought it soon af-
 “ ter 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, on-
 “ ly let me peruse it; then he took it, and
 “ said it signify'd nothing, because there was
 “ not the Consent of nine Heads; and ad-
 “ ded, that the Vice-Chancellor us'd him
 “ worse than he would any common Doctor
 “ of the Town; that the Vice-Chancellor
 “ was not his Judge, *and that he should find,*
 “ the

“ the King alone was his Judge, as he was
 “ his *Regius Professor* ; that the Vice-Chan-
 “ cellor should not think that he would be
 “ concluded by what he and four or five of
 “ his Friends determin’d 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 satisfy’d 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 wou’d
 “ give it me whenever I call’d 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 far-
 “ ther occasion for it, and could not part with
 “ it ; I told him he broke his Word and Pro-
 “ mise with me, and press’d 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 *Friday* was over ;
 “ I said, he dealt uncivilly by me, and would
 “ put me upon Difficulties ; but he absolute-
 “ ly refus’d 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 wou’d
 “ not see me, and I was refus’d 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. Simp-*
 “ *son* left me, and went to the Vice-Chan-
 “ cellor’s; not long after *Dr. Ashenburst*,
 “ *Mr. Lisle*, and *Mr. Witton* came in to me:
 “ *Mr. Lisle* ask’d 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 believ’d
 “ I cou’d 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 Hun-
 “ dred Pounds go; I said, if *Dr. Bentley*
 “ wou’d give it me I would thank him, but
 “ wou’d receive it from no other Hand; they
 “ stay’d some time longer with me, and then
 “ going out, *Dr. Ashenburst* said, well, *Mr.*
 “ *Beadle*, if you wou’t go out of the Room,
 “ I’ll lock you in, which he did, but soon
 “ after return’d and open’d it; a while af-
 “ ter this, the Master’s Servant came in and
 “ desir’d 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
 “ lock’d upon me for two Hours at the least;
 “ after six of the Clock I knock’d, and the
 “ Door

“ Door was open'd to me, not long after
“ which Mr. *Simpson* came and call'd me
“ away.

“ Upon *Saturday, September* the 27th at
“ Night, I went again to Dr. *Bentley's*, Mr.
“ *Witton* came out and ask'd my Business;
“ I told him, I came to speak with Dr. *Bent-*
“ *ley* from the Vice-Chancellor; he came
“ out again and said the Doctor was busie,
“ and had nothing to say to me; I told him,
“ I wanted my Decree, 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 promis'd; 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 wou'd be ar-
“ rested 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 præ Script. esse vera Ju-
ram^o ei delat' per me Robertum
Grove, cui Dm^{ns}. Procanc. Potestat'
dedit Juram^{um} in hac parte de-
ferend'

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. *Bently* 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 turn'd as usual upon some gross Raille-ry on the Heads, with Nick-names for such of them as happen'd to be least in his Favour. To Dr. *Sherlock* 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 College amongst us whom he has not distinguish'd by some Name, either ridiculous or scandalous: But for the Right Reverend Dr. *Bradford* Bishop of *Carlisle*, whom till
 very

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;

Τὴς ἄλλας ἐνάειζ' ἀπὸ δ' Ἔπυρος 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 design'd 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

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, ^s and the Practice of the Court, no 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 ^h 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 look'd upon as convict, and censured accordingly.

Dr. Middleton therefore, after Leave granted

^s *De Procuratoribus Litigantium, & Decr. Sen.* Principales personæ factum ipsum per se proponant, viz. Actor per se suam actionem, & Reus suam defensionem, nec Procuratores admittantur pro iisdem, nisi adversâ valetudine, vel aliâ legitimâ causâ per Dominum approbandâ, sint detenti, quò minus in Judicio sui præsentiam possint exhibere, de quo in principio fidem faciant juramento: si verò præsentem Actore, Reus absens fuerit, Procurator ejus non admittatur.

^h *De Advocatis.* Quod si Actor contra tenorem præmissorum Advocatum aliquem procuraverit, causam suam hoc ipso amittat, Reus verò similia faciens pro convicto habeatur.

ed him, appointed Mr. *Cook* his Proctor; who having enter'd 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 Gour, sent his Deposition already mention'd, 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 design'd Insult to his Authority and Jurisdiction. He had declared, we see, that he should not be his Judge; and was resolv'd to be as good as his Word, at least to protract the Cause, till it should expire with his Magistracy.

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, pro-
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nounce

nounce 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 Authorityⁱ. 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 endanger'd by it: This very Instance we are speaking of, sufficiently shews how useful and necessary it is to curb the Insolence of such a
mongst

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

mongst us, who make no Scruple to trample upon Privileges which they are solemnly ^k engaged 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

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most

* *Ex Statutis in admissione Graduum legendis*—— Postremò, cautum est, ne quis hic ad gradum aliquem admittatur, nisi se Obedientem fore Cancellario, aut ejus vices gerenti juraverit; seque sua privilegia renuntiaturum, in quantum privilegiis & Statutis Universitatis contrariantur.

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 offer'd it self, 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 for having hinder'd 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

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

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 remember'd by the Letter-writer by way of Sneer, I guess, upon him, for having threaten'd 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 obtain'd 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

^m *Ibid.* Quos vel Doctores Theologiæ vel Baccalauros ejusdem facultatis 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 infamia notatus.

which never came to a Sentence, has left the Marks of such an Infamy upon him, as by all 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 mention'd 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 resentted; it is not in his Power
to

to withstand one, whenever statutablely 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; tho' he had defied 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

^P See the Pref. to Bentl. *Dissertation upon Phalaris*.

no Advantage of his *Utri creditis*: In the Practice of all Courts, *Credendum est Ministro* is receiv'd as a Maxim, but *Credendum est Bentleio*, 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 tho' his Judge he had heartily contemned) was pleas'd, 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, tho' 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 my self to be serious upon it; for I am well inform'd, that no other Court in *England*, upon a manifest and apparent
Contempt

Contempt of it's Jurisdiction, confirm'd 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 ^f 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:

E Yct

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

^r Summarie.

^f *Omni Juris Solemnitate semotâ.*

^t *Solâ facti veritate inspectâ, &c.*

Yet he of all Men living has the least reason to claim the Advantage or plead the Necessity of it: For tho' 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 Centures he has inflicted, there is not, I dare say, one Instance of his having ever cited and convicted the Party he punished: When the want of a Citation has been sometimes objected to him, *would you have me*, he used to say, *come to sending and proving*. But to give one Example out of many, of his way of dispensing Justice in his College: He expell'd 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
put

^u Si confessus fuerit aut idoneis testibus convictus Collegio privetur.

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 a raising to blind the World withal, till he cou'd 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 tho' 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 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 publish'd before the late Act of

Grace, reflecting on the Honour and Privileges of the University. He offer'd 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 question'd 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: Tho' 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, contemn'd our Jurisdiction, and as an unworthy Member was deservedly cut off from the Body. But now that this has happen'd to be his own Case, tho' 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. *Ashenhurst*,
(whose

(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 them; but tho' 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 continu'd, the Ministry happen'd 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 skreen himself from Justice by assuming that Character: And his Dedication to the Earl of *Oxford*,

^w See the Pref. of his printed Letter to the Bishop of Ely.

ford, is hardly more aukward in its Panegyrick upon his Patron, than severe in its Satyr upon the Whigs.

The Controversy still out-liv'd the late Queen; the Fellows renew'd 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 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 remember'd to his Honour, that he was willing, if there had been Occaſion,

^x *Remarks on Free-Thinking.*

sion, 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:

versity : 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 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 explain'd to him to be an Acknowledgment of his Offence, an asking of Pardon, and a 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

After these Courts the Vice-Chancellor call'd 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 Complement 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 too dangerous to be allowed in an University. Contumacy, which was evidently the Crime here committed, is punishable by our Statutes^z

^y Hinc tradunt Doctores communiter, qui citatus responderet nolle se comparere, verè & manifestè contumax efficitur; atq; pœnam veræ & manifestæ contumaciæ meretur, etiam si semel & non peremptoriè citatus sit. *Vid. Reyer in verbo Contumacia.*

tutes ^z with the severest Penalties: It can no more be endured with us, than Mutiny in an Army, without dissolving our Discipline and our Government: And indeed the Nature and Necessity of Things require, that in all Societies an obstinate Contempt of Authority must end in a cutting off from the Body.

At this Meeting therefore, it was proposed to expel Mr. *Bentley* the University: But tho' they were all unanimous in the Opinion that he had statutablely deserved it; tho' there wanted neither Precedent nor Power, nor Consent for the doing it: Yet as the old Statutes ^a generally direct, that Offences of a high Nature or Cases of Importance should be brought to the Hearing and Decision of the Body; they resolved to take this Method, as being open and publick, and therefore least liable to Exception; and the Vice-Chancellor was accordingly desired to prepare a Grace for the Degrading him to be proposed to the Senate.

In the University of *Oxford* they have a Statute ^b which literally describes our very Case:

^z *De Rebellantibus Cancellario.* — Contra Cancellarii quoque prohibitionem colluctantes & alias sibi inobedientes & contumaces, sine differentia Personarum, simili pœnâ, viz. expulsiōe ab Universitate, coërceantur.

^a *De Potestate Cancellarii.* — Cancellarius vel Vicarius per se tantum (si voluerit) causas Scholarium universas audiat & decidat, nisi Facti atrocitas vel Publicæ quietis perturbatio Magistrorum requirat Convenientiam & Assensum.

^b *De iis qui de se Justitiam fieri non permittunt.* — Si quis

Case : That if any Member, who is to be arrested, shall, upon the Beadle's shewing him the Warrant of the Vice-Chancellor, refuse to surrender himself immediately, 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 tho' we have not this Case in any single Statute, yet it is easily to be collected from many of our scatter'd ones ; 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

F 2 read;

mandato Vice-Cancellarii per Bedellorum aliquem arrestandus, Bedello Warrantum Vice-Cancellarii monstranti, protinus sese haud dediderit; si Scholaris fuerit, Banniatur, & si Graduatus fuerit, Gradu privetur.

c De Pœna impedièntium 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 impederit, &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.

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 comparandum & 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 Parliamenti stabilitam pro nihilo habendam esse declaraverit; cumq; idem Richardus Bentley super his causis ab omni Gradu suspensus 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

The *Caput* mention'd 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 propos'd to the University, the Vice-Chancellor always being one: Every Grace, before it can be offer'd 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. *Ashenburst* and Mr. *Bull*, who came to require of the Vice-Chancellor that the Oaths might be tender'd to Dr. *Otway*, then a Member of the *Caput*, while it was actually assembled and attending to this Grace which was a reading to 'em.

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. *Ashenburst* 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

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 of 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 unparallell'd 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; tho' 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

and content my self 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 whisper'd 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

ment 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 involv'd him in: By an easy and perhaps private Submission he might have saved himself the Shame of this publick 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 Divûm 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

^d Cartwright.

his Lecture, expelled the University and *Trinity College*; another great and learned one 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 Repentment 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 doctiores, tantò te geras submissiùs.
Cic.

He has acted just the reverse of this good old Precept, which we learn with our *Grammars*; and his great Learning is the only Excuse we ever hear 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

G

rious

^c Peter Baro.

rious 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 distinguish'd by his Learning and Preferments,

it

it must be remember'd 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 'em: To observe a Decency and Complaisance towards him who 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.



POSTSCRIPT.

AFTER I had sent my Papers to the Press, I met with the following Extract of a Letter taken from the *Flying-Post* dated *Novemb. 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*
 “ *Novemb. 4.* has zealously propagated the
 “ common Cant of the *Danger of the*
 “ *Church*, for which we have paid so dearly
 “ already.

“ It

“ 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 a-*
“ *void 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 Prede-*
“ *cessor,* who could not escape a disdainful
“ Lash of his Pen, tho’ now at rest, for de-
“ signing to expel the Doctor for ruining one
“ of the best of our learned Societies.

F I N I S.

