

MR. HALL,

AS long as An Examiner confined himself principally to strictures upon a foible, which he so eminently possessed, and which, if proved against me, was in no wise dangerous to the publick, I acquiesced in the advice of some very respectable characters, by not answering his pieces; regarding the effusions of his malice as unworthy of particular notice, & expecting that in time, the motives which actuated him would clearly appear to be such as proceeded from private pique and ambitious designs, and as such would not receive the public countenance or confidence. His remarks on raising the Legion, and the manner thereof, betrayed ignorance and malevolence, whilst his misrepresentations in former numbers, and his constant endeavours to put the worst construction on the motives of my publick conduct, have been so glaring, as to strike every impartial person of understanding, with his perversion of understanding, and have brought on him contempt, whilst it has raised to me unknown friends. It has been referred for No. 3, to close the season of forbearance, and draw from me a reply, by its presenting to the publick as complete a string of falsehoods and misrepresentations as ever man had attempted to attempt to deceive them with, and which in position can answer as well as a single, as a mass of fact come in question. The opportunity is very short for the purpose of a reply; as by my distance from Wilmington, it was some time after its publication before I received the paper, and I am obliged to leave my present residence early to-morrow; the public therefore, will I hope, excuse inaccuracies or deficiencies, in an answer drawn up under such disadvantageous circumstances, and regard truth and substance, more than form.

Without shame or remorse, this writer acknowledges in his number 3, that "he has no personal knowledge of ANY of the facts mentioned;" thus shewing that he volunteers in spreading slanders, without running the risk of the greatest infamy from the detection of falsehood. But it is presumed, that those whose hearts and minds are the happy and honourable reverse of Examiner's, will see but little difference between the inventor and the willing propagator of falsehood. That Examiner had it not in his power to discover the untruth of at least some of the information, and did not know the impropriety of some of his statements, few will believe.

He acknowledges his piece is to answer six different purposes, 1st he only desired the publick good, and regarded the cause of truth, why did not he, or some of his patriotic friends, make the charges against me long ago? Why did he reserve them to the last paper before an election? but to deceive the people; knowing that many of them are easily alarmed by charges against the servants of the publick—that in the hurry of election there is no time for cool deliberation. Hoping that the false accusations could serve his turn, and trusting to his saving clause that he has left an opening for himself after the election was over, and the People galled by his corrupt certificates, to save the tattered remains of his credit, by acknowledging that he has since found the information upon which his charges were grounded, to be false or improper. Certainly such conduct must expose the man to contempt and abhorrence from every virtuous mind. If any thing but his own writings were necessary to convict him of a malicious disposition to misrepresent my conduct most grossly, it is hoped every impartial person will be convinced from the following statement of facts, the truth of which can in many instances, be proved from the most authentic documents.

To begin with Examiner's first "It is said," and follow him in order. I never absented myself from home nor failed going abroad to any part of Brunswick county, in the most publick manner, from apprehension of civil process being served on me; nor do I believe that any Sheriff thereof ever neglected such process (if any ever existed but in an Examiner's prolific brain) agreeably to the laws of the state.

one from which I received half the profits of this unpropitious child's labour." A boy of the name of Huff is, or was in the service of the man who keeps the ferry above me, on my making enquiry about him, I was informed that he had been bound by his father to the keeper of the ferry, and do now believe the father is alive.

I give no credit to the assertion, that "it was generally understood" before the Court at which a new Entry-taker was appointed, that the former one had resigned, for he did not sign his resignation, which was recommended and drawn up by me, till a few hours before the Court, and then gave me a discretionary power to deliver it or not, as I thought proper: nor do I believe it was proposed in Court to appoint a new Entry-taker on that ground, but on the opinion that he was displaced by law. Knowing the law to be otherwise, I thought it my duty to produce it to the Court. That duty coincided with my inclination to prevent the feelings of the old Entry-taker from being injured by a precipitate and irregular dismissal. The Court were sensible of the propriety of following the mode prescribed by law. Till their assent to this mode, by ordering notice to issue, I thought it more for their credit, as well as that of the old Entry-taker, not to present his resignation. When it was produced, I do not recollect that a single Justice, who was originally present, had left the Court, except the one who wished for the appointment; & so far from watching an advantage at the absence of him or any of his friends, on finding that he was about to depart, I actually observed the delicacy and candour of informing him that my intention was to propose the appointment of another Entry-taker, and that I possessed the resignation of the former, ready to produce to the Court. My own brother (another Justice) was present, and became security for the new Entry-taker. The books were kept in my house for some time after the appointment of the new Entry-taker, because he lived with me, but I never made an entry with him in the office during the whole time of his being Entry-taker.

Regarding the "It has been said" about Col. Porterfield; he is dead, and therefore I cannot call on him for an explanation of what is alleged—I shall therefore, only at present observe, that had I received from him many thousand bushels of corn, they would not indemnify me, for losses sustained by him; that it is presumed any one who knew him, cannot be so ignorant as to believe he was silly enough to give 100 bushels of corn for the privilege of entering land he had a right to claim in a publick office, which was open to every citizen, and the exercise of which right no officer dared refuse to him.

The causeway and ferries opposite Wilmington were granted to the proprietor of my plantation long before I owned them. The laws passed afterwards, were 1st. At the recommendation of Brunswick Court, when I was but little known in the county, and not a member of the Court, 2dly. and lastly, by application from the member of Assembly representing Wilmington, by instruction from his constituents, assembled in Town-meeting, of which instruction, I had neither knowledge or information till after the meeting of the Assembly. The law now in force was recommended by a committee appointed of ALL the members from the district. They particularly desired I would be one of the sub-committee to draft the bill; I positively refused till they agreed on and dissolved the rates at present established, and as well as I recollect, on this point they were unanimous. It is doubted whether any one who ever saw the condition of the causeway before I undertook to repair it and rebuild the bridges, will credit the Examiner's statement, that "the labour was short & trifling," or that it is not a matter within "his own personal knowledge," and not "from information."

I did enter western lands with an intention of purchasing from the state, believing her title to be good. Immediately after, I heard that the lands were in possession of the Indians. The state ceded her right in the sovereignty of the territory, to the United States. She thus put it out of her own power to give me possession, or guarantee the use of it.

Congress has declared by the most solemn act, that any person settling on lands thus situated, shall be subject to the tomahawk and scalping knife of the Indians, that is out of the protection of the United States. Indeed Federal troops have been sent to drive settlers from the lands, of which they took possession under the title of the state. Between individuals, I believe no upright Judge or Jury would make a man pay for a paper right to land which the seller could not put him in possession of. It is the opinion of able men, the state has no right to recover license from me; but rather than have a dispute or law suit, I offered long ago, to settle with her according to the same rule she has prescribed to herself by a formal act of Assembly, to pay certificate debts due from her to the citizens for land entries. This fair offer has not been accepted; some members of Assembly desiring, contrary to every principle of equity and justice, to make me pay at the rate of twenty shillings in money, for every twenty shillings said to be due in certificates. An Examiner mentions that I purchased western lands from the state to the amount of £. 2000. Why did he not state the full amount of £. 20,000—Probably because he knew the other £. 2000 worth, went in a donation to the University of North-Carolina, for which I received the thanks of the General Assembly and Board of Trustees. Let him take this as an answer to his insinuations that I am interested and fond of money, and tell us whether he and all his confederates who join in the cry, ever contributed half as much voluntarily to publick purposes.

Much is said respecting the letter intercepted whilst I was in Charleston, during the siege—I will only reply that it was entrusted to the person of one of the first characters on the continent, who unfortunately was captured—that I believe it was of no use to the British, because they knew all it contained respecting our situation, by despatches, and only got possession of it a very few days before our surrender—that they garbled and published it so as to appear very differently from the original, and that in it I give the reason why I should return home and not take an active part—Because my situation would prevent it, viz. that of a prisoner on parole. An Examiner states that the capitulation confined me to my plantation, but that I went to Wilmington and even to Charleston. I did go to Wilmington after negroes that had ran away from me, which instead of asking for as a favour, I demanded as a right under that capitulation. I obtained leave to go to Charleston for the recovery of my health from a very severe indisposition. That my inclination to serve my country ceased when I had power to do it with honour, is not true; for as soon after the exchange as I heard that the corps to which I belonged, was collecting, I took the first opportunity of informing my commanding officer, that I was ready to join him at a moment's warning. The corps not being re-established so as to go into field service, I tendered myself to Geo. Moultrie, who appointed me his aid-de-camp; but he likewise having no active command before the evacuation of Charleston, did not call for my attendance—We however corresponded—I went to S. Carolina ready to perform service if any offered, and entered Charleston as the British evacuated it.

My wealth is frequently brought forward—the insidious design of which is easily to be perceived. If I employ such resources as a kind Providence has been graciously pleased to bestow on me, by improving the appearance and resources of the state by agriculture and building—if I always subscribe liberally to useful publick institutions—if by that I am enabled to assist and do good to those who are in necessity, whilst by the haughtiness of others, they are kept at a chilling distance, it cannot be said with justice, that my fortune is not beneficial to the publick, that I am not an active and useful member of society, or that I hide my Talent in a Napkin. Whether any part of this picture be true, let the impartial judgment of those who know all the parties determine—I shall rest with cheerfulness on their decision. Again a return is made to my military character—it is with the publick to ascertain its merits. The Examiner acknowledges "I made haste to join my country in defence of my native city." This

was travelling 130 miles to perform a dangerous duty, no of a day, but for weeks. What did he or his nearest friend do when his country was invaded? Did either of them risk his life in one battle, & where? Did either of them stay to defend his native country, which they now want to rule? On the contrary—Was not many 100 miles travelled from the post of danger, and both family and country left exposed to insult and degradation?

An Examiner returns to his story of the ferry, and tells us about a toll bridge. The representation that "I got a toll bridge to myself where there used to be a public one, and a ferry established where there used to be a publick bridge," is not true. Passengers paid at bridge and ferry long before I purchased the lands to which they belong, nor did I directly or indirectly assist or utter the false suggestions insinuated to be mine, viz. that "The sacred trust committed to a magistrate for publick purposes, is lost in the claims of private friend-ship."

Respecting the large entries of lands in Brunswick county, it is well known that those in which I was individually interested, were made in such manner as to interfere as little as possible with the claims or wishes of the inhabitants thereof, and that the surveys were directed to be conducted carefully to avoid the smallest cause of controversy, and in fact to render valuable services to many people, by which they acknowledged they were obliged. It can easily be proved that many persons and particularly the poor, were protected and benefited; when it was in my power to injure them, and that such power would have been assumed by others if I had not taken it. The full amount of the entry money long since has been paid, but the laws of the state sanctioned and does now permit indulgence, as well as I recollect, to the end of the present year—The law is easily to be turned so. Had An Examiner been careful to discover the whole transaction respecting my bond as he called it, he would have found that instead of being constrained, I of my own accord mentioned that the payment for certain entries not in my name, might be taken as mine or for my benefit, and desired the persons to remember that I acknowledged myself answerable for the payment. One of them proposed I should give some bond to that effect, I readily gave an acknowledgment that I was answerable to the Entry-taker for the payment of lands entered in the names therein mentioned, or would be security for the payment to the publick. This is an exact statement as nearly as I can bring the circumstances to my mind. On those entries the sum of £. 1000 were paid years ago, and above £. 400 some time since. Examiner's arithmetic may now ascertain the mighty balance on the £. 1500 he states that I owed. At length I have gone through all Examiner's heavy bear-fay charges. What apology he can offer the publick for taking up their attention so long, when he acknowledges not one of the facts stated are of his own knowledge, remains for him to shew—but his vanity must have led him astray when he supposes facts retained from report will be more easily believed by his relation than that of persons who pretended to know them, and that vanity will lead him still further astray if he expects to influence the election. I have been informed by several discerning and respectable electors, that they despise his efforts, and amongst those some of the nearest relations of my opponent. Should I lose it, and I by no means say it is impossible, those who judge fairly will remember that the man who opposes me has the greatest family connections in the county—that he lives in, or in the neighbourhood of the most populous part of it, which has seldom been visited by me, and which I have not been for nearly two years—a part that is further from information, & from its great water courses, not always easy of access. The opposition has been carried on with art and secrecy—Thus have my friends and self been lulled into security till a very short time before the election.

Examiner must rely much on his left-handed ingenuity if he thinks it possible to persuade the publick his motives are free from private pique, malevolence and resentment. To do this it is apprehended he must declare that neither he nor his intimates have any controversy or difference with the object of their remarks, & he must convince the publick that his charges have been brought forward with candour & well-timed, to ascertain the truth. That his writings are not tainted with the utmost corruption of heart and understanding—but have been couched in the language of an honest upright man, and that he does the STATE a service by assisting as far as his venemous efforts have any influence, the Election of a man in my place, who has been actually convicted in the Superior Court, of a wilful and corrupt malice of his office as justice of the peace. To shew that he has no political or private interest in the business, let him declare whether he does not think I am in the way of both, or may balk the political and interested views of himself or nearest friends. His writings and my answer are before the publick, and with a mind conscious of truth and rectitude, I feel no uneasiness as to the determination, for I believe the great majority of society are too just to commit a wilful error of judgment, and too enlightened to be duped by the artifices of any party.

BENJAMIN SMITH.
August 2, 1799.
As I esteem some of the most respectable friends of Col. Wingate, and know from their own information that they have endeavoured to persuade him not to offer as Senator, in opposition to me, I think it proper to assure them, that it is with pain on their account, I publish the above information.

WILMINGTON, August 8.
We have authority to say from the friends of Mr. WRIGHT, that he will represent this Town in the next General Assembly, if elected.

Port of Wilmington.
ENTERED.
Sch'r Rebecca, Barlett New-Provi- (denon)
CLEARED.
Sch'r Sally, M. L. Henry, Charleston: Hope, A. Kinson, Jamaica:

SHERIFF'S SALES.
NOTICE is hereby given That the following Lands, situate in the county of Jones, were not given in by any list or lists exhibited in said county, for the year 1798, agreeably to law; so that so much of the same as will satisfy the tax due thereon for said year, and all charges, will be sold at the Court-House in Trenton, on Monday the 30th day of September next.
670 acres, the property of the late George Mitchell, Esq. in the Whiteoak peccan.
620 acres, the property of Waightstill Avery and Wife, on Trent river, called the White Rocks.
640 acres, patented by James Taylor, lying on Whiteoak, near John Jones' land.
100 acres, whereon Jas. Harris now lives.
80 acres on Deep Gulley, entered by Edward Wherry, Esq'r. now said to be Eustace Crutchfield's.
320 acres, said to be the property of the heirs of Martin Wardley, whereon James Wills now lives.
150 acres patented by Thomas William, on or near Island creek, said to be the property of Hardy Bryson.
BENJAMIN BROCKETT, Shff. of Jones county.
August 2, 1799 35-6w.
THE subscriber takes this opportunity of informing his former liberal customers, and the public in general, that he is just arrived, and intends to stay, to follow his business as a Taylor, at the store lately occupied by Mr. A. T. Browne—I will endeavour to satisfy all those who may employ him, both in new and old-fashioned.—He has on hand a general assortment of DRESS GOODS, viz. Broad Cloths, Castimere, Irish Linen, Sherry, Calicoes, Chintzes, Dimities, Merinos, Gold and Silver Laces, Thimbles and Buttons of all kinds, &c. &c. he will sell at very moderate prices.
PETER WILSON
August 2.