

*all the Business of it, Dilates of Honor, Con- of your Country, her gra- s, and Liberties." that the Affair between a oner and a Reverend Di- a peculiar Negotiation, o an Issue; as the Evidence produced on the Occasion ch a Scene of Place selling to the World and bazard the Numbers that are both in the gentlemen Clergy, and of the County of Devon, o the General Meeting, at burfday the 5th of October,*

*ulgrave, Physician at Ply- eriff having summoned a of the county, in order to etition for the redrels of ink it incumbent on me, ny country in general, to a transaction, which, I es juster grounds of com- hensions than any thing ublic. Having long had ine, that the nation has d fatally injured in a way e suspect, I have ardently day, when my imperfect ould be superceded by evi- ainty. That day, I flatter f approaching. And that now appears among the bear down every obstacle own in the way of open nquiry.*

*emind you gentlemen, of dignation and abhorrence, e conditions of the late ved by the independant on. Yet such is the can- g nature of Englishmen, who condemned the mea- bute it to any worse mo- manly impatience under e war, and a blind head- relieved from them.*

*onceive that persons of bounded wealth, could d to betray the interests and surrender advanta- s of so many heroes had sacrificed to purchase, unhappily for us, is incredible. The im- disclosed to me in the my residence at Paris. ou with a detail of the in- took in the affair, which time, I shall most ful- ver. It is sufficient to oth of May 1765, by Blackstone, I waited*

was polite but evasive. When I pressed him in a second interview to enquire into the truth of the charge, he objected to all public steps that might give an alarm, and asked me whether I could point out to him any way of prosecuting the enquiry in secret, and whether in so doing, there was any probability of his obtaining positive proof of the fact. [It was so much the dupe of his artifice, as to believe that he had given him, tho' his discourse plainly pointed that way.] It appeared by the sequel, that I had judged right. For having four days after given a direct and satisfactory answer to both his questions, he then put an end to my solicitations by a peremptory refusal to take any steps whatever in the affair.

It is here necessary to explain what I mean by inquiring into the truth of the charge. In the summer of the year 1764, an overture had been made to Sir George Younge, Mr. Fitzherbert, and several other members of parliament, in the name of the chevalier d'Eon, importing that he, the chevalier, was ready to impeach three persons, two of whom are peers and members of the privy-council, of telling the peace to the French. Of this proposal I was informed at different times by the two gentlemen above mentioned. Sir George Younge in particular, told me that he understood the charge could be supported by written as well as living evidence. The step that I urged lord Halifax to take was to send for the chevalier d'Eon, to examine him upon the subject of this overture, to peruse his papers, and then to proceed according to the proofs. In such a case a more decisive evidence than the chevalier d'Eon could not be wished for. He had himself conducted the negotiation on the part of the enemy, and was known to have in his possession the dispatches and papers of the Duke de Nivernois. This Gentleman so qualified, and so disposed to give light into the affair, did lord Halifax refuse to examine; whether from an apprehension that the charge would not be made out, or on the contrary that it would; I leave you, gentlemen, and every impartial reader to judge.

It must not be understood, that I can myself support a charge of corruption against the noble lord named in my information, my complaint is of a different nature, and against a different person. I consider the refusal of lord Halifax as a willful obstruction of national justice, for which I wish to see him undergo a suitable punishment. Permit me to observe, gentlemen, that such an obstruction not only gives a temporary impunity, perpetually destroying or weakening the proof of their guilt. Evidence of all kinds is a very perishable thing, living witnesses are exposed to the chance of mortality, and written evidence to the not uncommon casualty of fire. In the present case something more than ordinary accidents might with good reason be apprehended.

When I tried to ... an, and ... ry off his papers. Though this second attempt failed it does follow that these important papers are still secure. I was informed by Mr. Fitzherbert, so long ago as the 17th of May 1765, that he had then intelligence of overtures making to the chevalier d'Eon, the object of which was to get the papers in his hands in return for a stipulated sum of money, this I communicated the following day to lord Halifax, who still persisted in not exposing those precious documents to so many complicated hazards. I say precious documents because should they be unfortunately lost, the affair must be for ever involved in uncertainty, gentlemen, which may be productive of infinite mischiefs to the nation, and cannot tend to the advantage or satisfaction of any but the guilty.

Lord Halifax, in excuse for his refusal, will probably alledge, as he did to me, his persuasion that the charge was wholly groundless. I need not observe how misplaced and frivolous such an allegation is when applied to justify a magistrate for not examining evidence. But I will suppose, for argument sake, the persons accused to be perfectly innocent: Is it not the interest and wish of every innocent man to have his character scrutinised while facts are recent, and truth of consequence easy to be distinguished from falsehood? Is there any tenderness in suffering a stain to remain upon their characters till it becomes difficult or even impossible to be wiped out? Will therefore these noble persons, if their actions have been upright, will they, I say, thank lord Halifax for depriving them of an early opportunity of establishing their innocence? Will they not regret and execrate his caution, if the subsequent suppression or the destruction of the evidence should concur with other circumstances to fix on them the suspicion of guilt? How will lord Halifax excuse himself to his Sovereign for suffering so atrocious a calumny to spread and take root, to the evident hazard of his royal reputation? And what amends will he make to the nation for the heart-burnings and jealousies, which are the natural fruit of such a procedure? Yet, these gentlemen, are the least mischiefs that may be apprehended from his behaviour upon the footing of his own plea.

I will venture however to assert, that, as far as hitherto appears, the weight of evidence and probability is on the contrary side. Now, supposing the charge to be true, there can be no need of long arguments to convince you of the injury done to the nation, by suffering such capital offenders to escape. For what is this but to defraud us of the only compensation we can expect for the loss of so many important territories, a loss rendered still more grievous by the indignity of paying a pension, as we notoriously do, to the foreign minister who negotiated the ruinous bargain? Yet even those considerations are infinitely outweighed