

Your enemies were violent in their censures; the public did not hesitate to pronounce your condemnation; and even your friends appeared weak in their wishes to vindicate you, and certainly were awkward in their attempts.

Your speeches in parliament had contributed but little to restore your fame. But men of liberality felt for your misfortunes, and were willing to hope, that the importance of that Assembly, the awe which it is apt to inspire, and perhaps, your talents not exactly fitted to parliamentary debate, were hitherto the causes why every public attempt to justify yourself had been attended with inconsiderable success. You have now affixed your name to a formal vindication of your measures; not a few incoherent sentences provoked from you by illiberal reproach; pronounced under the awe of a public assembly; delivered under the agitation which unqualified censures upon military honour must necessarily occasion in every military mind;—but a deliberate recital of your proceedings; a cool avowal of your motives; and a studied justification of your conduct.