

cause they were said to be the King's measures; Ministers were traduced merely because they were Ministers; the object of the Opposition was to storm the Government, reckless of consequences—but, what grieved him more than private persecution or public accusation, the dearest interests of the country were sacrificed in the conflict. He trusted, however, that the good sense of the nation would see that such conduct flowed from party rage—the result of political despair and factious disappointment."

The Duke of Richmond retaliated, alluding to the time when Lord Bathurst was in opposition:—

"The noble and learned Lord speaks from long experience. His early struggle was tedious and mortifying—full of disappointment, and clouded with despair. No man is a better judge of the various operations of the human mind under such circumstances. So he concludes that a wicked, corroding ambition, whetted and inflamed by unavailing attempts, and ending in a state of political despair, is accompanied with malice and personal enmity, and 'that worst species of corruption—a corrupt heart.' But the noble and learned Earl is a Tory; he was then in opposition to the Whigs. Whoever opposes *his* friends, whether in or out of place, must act from factious motives and a *corrupt heart*."

Lord Bathurst did not reply, nor afterwards venture to stand forward as the champion of the Court.

We next find him, while carrying through a Government bill for imposing a stamp on almanacs, engaged in an altercation with Thurlow, the Chancellor, who seems always to have thought that he had a privilege to oppose the measures of every Government with which he was connected, and to assail any of his colleagues. The Chancellor complained bitterly of the manner in which the bill was worded, saying that "several clauses were contradictory and unintelligible."

The Lord President tried to explain and defend them:

Lord Chancellor: "I am very sorry to say that the explanation of my noble and learned friend affords no satisfactory answer to my objections. Indeed, I am so dull of apprehension as to be unable to understand him. I do

¹ 21 Parl. Hist. 1013.