

count, or any person whatever, or any prejudice against Williamson (having never before seen or heard of him), to induce us to pronounce the sentence against him : That we did it purely, as what we judged material justice to vindicate the character of those we believed to be innocent, and were unjustly reflected upon ; and that whatever in the sentence appears to their Lordships to be either oppressive or illegal, proceeded entirely from error in judgment, and not from any sinister design : So that however far the sentence has been wrong, we are ready most freely to make any declaration that may be necessary, that it proceeded from the most innocent intention.

Under these circumstances, you will easily perceive how much we were surprised on reading yours, giving account of the sentence against us ; and how hard a thing it is to be decerned to pay a sum of money, as a fine, for doing what we considered to be our duty.

You will therefore lay this before the lawyers, in order they may the better form a reclaiming petition. We must think our case very hard, if their Lordships do not grant us redress in this matter.

—We are, &c.

W. DAVIDSON,
JAMES JOPP.

This letter, however, did not avail their cause. It was in vain to deny their being in the knowledge that such an illicit species of traffic was carried on by some of the merchants in Aberdeen, when it was done in so public a manner, that the meanest resident in the city observed it ; when the *fama clamorosa* of KIDNAPPING overspread the whole country, so that the poor people, whose business led them frequently to town, were afraid to carry their children along with them, lest they should

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