

your very original and entertaining idea of imputations on the conduct of your troops.—Had you at any time condescended to inform us from whom these pretended imputations originated, by whom they were propagated, or in what they consist, we might indeed have inquired whether this was the proper mode to be employed in defence of your troops; we might have doubted how far your conduct had been really actuated by zeal for their honour, but we should at least have allowed you the merit of some art in connecting the cause of your army with your own. But since the aspersions you mention were perhaps never heard or dreamt of by any man living but yourself; since the convention troops (especially the British) have invariably received the applause due to their intrepidity, and perseverance; we must of necessity ascribe all that rhapsody about “*innocent men, base and barbarous aspersions, malignity and power,*” to the vanity of exhibiting an image of creative fancy, or displaying a period of tuneful composition.

It is unnecessary here to repeat the remarks on your disobedience of his Majesty's order, or on the pretences by which that disobedience is attempted to be justified. They may all be comprized in these three propositions: that the convention troops are in the state of absolute prisoners