

rality. Many pens, I have no doubt, are at this moment employed in the same task, guided by persons of genius and talents far superior to what I can pretend to. I have therefore to intreat those who may think proper to read this book, to look upon it with an eye of lenity ; on this ground, that in the affairs of the commonwealth the sentiments of the meanest capacities may sometimes be of service to the *general good* ; and in order to encourage every individual to contribute his mite to the common stock, the proof of *good intentions* should be allowed to compensate for deficiency of ability ; and zeal for the public service, to supersede the fascinating blandishments of flowery periods and splendid diction. *Non omnia possumus omnes*—and he who voluntarily stands forward, in the hour of public calamity and general delusion, to strip hypocrisy of its cloak, and deception of its veil, though he may not do it with the hand of a master, is certainly entitled to “ stand in some rank of praise ” for doing that which he would have done better if he could.

When I reflect on the high ground you, Sir, have long occupied in the REPUBLIC of letters—that you are complete master of the *sublime* and *beautiful* in the English language, and, in addition to those, even of the *vis elegantiae* of BILLINGSGATE itself—I tremble lest I should be accused