
General Reflexions upon these LETTERS.

NEITHER in the Petulance of attempting to be a Wit, nor for the *poor Renown of being smart*, nor yet to vindicate, as may possibly be suspected, my Reason by my Risibility, did I assume the Tone and Air of Pleasantry. The right honourable Person has made his Appeal to the Publick, and every Individual of that Publick is authorised to deliver his Sentiments upon it, in his own Manner, according to the Measure of his knowledge, his Abilities and Understanding. For my own Part, I was determined to try the Gentleman's Conduct by every Kind of Proof, even by that of Ridicule. If he sinks under this Proof, which is generally allowed to be no mean Test of Truth, his Resignation is blameable; and then it is of little Importance, by what Forms of Trial he stands condemned. If he can stand this Process, he will come forth from it, like Gold from the Furnace, brighter and purer, and heavier.

SOME Expressions in these Papers may possibly be taxed with too much Levety, and others charged with too much Severity; yet when, in the first of these Letters, whoever *withdraws his good Opinion* from the right honourable Person is rated for a *Credulity, weak as injurious*, I presume in common Sense he means unjust; when, in the second Letter, all, who differ from the Writer's Sentiments, are frankly called Fools and Knaves, surely such Coarseness of Expression will justify all Kinds of Language in return.

I do not make any over-earnest Professions of my own Impartiality, I do not think myself exempted from that common Lot of all human
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