

*Copy of a Letter from William Davidson and James Jopp, late Bailies of Aberdeen, to Walter Scott, Writer to the Signet.*

SIR,

*Aberdeen, February 4, 1764.*

WE are very sorry to find by yours of 30th past, that there is a sentence pronounced against us in Williamson's process, whereby we are decerned to pay to him a very large sum out of our private pockets.

We think it necessary to inform you, that our conduct and intentions, with regard to our sentence against him, have been entirely misunderstood. We can with the greatest integrity declare, That, at the time of pronouncing that sentence, neither of us knew, directly or indirectly, that Walter Cochran, the depute-clerk, was any ways concerned in transporting boys to America, or that there ever was in being the book he produced in the proof: That neither of us had ever any interest or concern in such trade: That we never knew, and did not believe, that any men and boys were ever transported from Aberdeen to America contrary to law: That we considered the paragraph in Williamson's book, respecting the merchants of Aberdeen, to be a very calumnious and reproachful aspersion on them, which they did not deserve: That Williamson himself had the appearance of being an idle stroller, and could give no good account of himself, and had procured this pamphlet to be composed for him, of such shocking circumstances, in order the more easily to impose upon, and draw money from the credulous vulgar: And, upon the whole, That we had no motive of interest, either on our own ac-

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