

Burke find^d of his support of trade of Ireland,
had displeased a great part of his constituents
resolved to decline stand^g for Bristol. Pre-
siously to if Election he made every masterly
week.

I decline, said he, if Election. It has ever
been my rule through life to observe a pro-
portion between my efforts and my objects. I
have never been remarkable for a bold ac-
tive sanguine pursuit of advantages if are per-
sonal to myself. I have not canvassed for the
city in form but I have labored such a
great deal, as satisfies my own mind. If
I will not ultimately fall upon me.
Your city gentlemen is in a state of serious
distraction & I am resolved to withdraw,
whatever share my pretensions may have
had in its unhappy divisions. I have not
been in haste. I have tried all prudent means
I have waited for if effect of all contingencies
if I were fond of a contest, by the partiality
of my numerous friends, to you known to be
among if most weighty & respectable people
of the city, I have the means of a sharp one
in my hands. But I thought it far better,
with my strength constant, to my reputa-
tion undiminished to do early, before fore-
sight that I might be obliged to do from
necessity at last.

I am not in if least surprised
or in if least angry at this piece of things.
I have read the ~~whole~~ book of life for a long
time & I have read other books a little. No-
thing has happened to me but it has happened
men much better than me, in times & cir-
cumstances full as good as the age & country
we live in. To say that I am too young con-
sidered, to be neither decent nor true there
representation of Bristol was an object on ma-
ny accounts dear to me; & I certainly shd
by far prefer it to any other in if Kingdom.
My habits are made to it, & it is in general
one unpleasant to be rejected after long
trial than not to be chosen at all.

But, gentlemen, I shd see nothing except
former kindness, & I will give way to no o-
ther sentiment than those of gratitude. From
the bottom of my heart I thank you for what you
have done for me. You have given me a long
run & it is now expired. I have performed all
conditions & enjoyed all if profits to the full; & I
now surrender if estate into if hands, without
leaving in a single tale or a single stone, impaired
wasted by my use. I have served if public
15 years. I have served you in particular