

characters, one need only take one of those drawn by Lord Clarendon, with his subtle delineation of every feature, and compare it with the slight and general (but masterly) touches of Mr. David Hume. In my humble opinion, one need only look at this strong characteristic of an Historian, to form a very just idea of the respective abilities of these two writers of the actions of the Stuarts; and, as they are both equally loyal and good men, altho' one of them lived in the times whereof he wrote, and was of the cabinet, and the other 100 years afterwards, and is but just emerged from the circle of his private country friends, and now no more than a private Secretary to an Ambassador at a foreign court; yet, as he is a philosopher by disposition, and therefore more knowing and more impartial than a mere Statesman, I think I do no injustice to any party or nation, by making the comparison of the one with the other. And having thus pitted these two Royalists, I must resume my expostulation with the *Loyal Briton*, to tell him, that I really do not recollect when it was that Queen Elizabeth made any promotions of Ministers, disgraced any author of national conquests, or concluded any peace, that occasioned such writings or libels as drew down the vengeance of the Crown upon them; although, I believe, Queen Anne, in more recent times, did something like it: but, as he has, probably, read no author of English History besides Mr. David Hume, and his pen has not got down so far, the *Loyal Briton* may, perhaps, find some instances, as pat to his purpose, in the reigns of the James's, or Charles's, that followed Queen Elizabeth, and to them I refer him. Thus far

*I. to Lord Herford at Paris*