

iv D E D I C A T I O N.

for Veracity and Candour, on the Opinion which you may be pleased to give of them.

I HAVE not the Honour of being known to your Grace; and I have taken every Precaution I could think of, to prevent my being known to the Publick. For altho' I have not advanced one Fact, which is not of publick Notoriety; altho' no private Character can be affected by any Thing I have related; tho' I am persuaded no one Person, mentioned in these Papers, will be offended at what I have said of him; yet, as I have spoken, and I could not help speaking, of Faction, with some Warmth, I may possibly have given Offence to those, who have not been considerable enough to find a Place in this History; to the lower Tools, who are generally more jealous of the Honour of their Masters, and of the Reputation of their Party, than they are of their own; to Men, whose Friendship is of no Avail, and yet whose Enmity is dangerous.

I MUST, therefore, be excused, if I never own myself the Author of this History; if I should even (were there Occasion) deny that I know any Thing of it; this, my Lord, is the only Falshood which I think I shall ever be guilty of, but it is of that Kind of Falshood which the Casuists call officious, and which they tell us may sometimes be used, as when the Questioner has no
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