

Mr. Burke got up, but Mr. Hastings said he had been long used to the abuse of THAT Manager; that he threw himself upon their Lordships; he had carefully studied to avoid one word that would be disrespectful to their Lordships, for whom he entertained every sentiment of veneration; and of the last and present House of Commons he wished to speak in as guarded a manner as he could, taking care, however, that the broad and striking facts of which he had to complain, should be known to their Lordships and to the world.

He was immediately allowed to proceed to complete the sentence we have given, though Mr. Burke again attempted to interrupt him.

The next strong complaint was personal against Mr. Burke. Their Lordships would recollect, said Mr. Hastings, how the Manager had opened this prosecution; that he told you of certain horrible cruelties committed by Deby Sing, which inspired every hearer with horror. The Manager knew, that if all these stories had been true, it was impossible to affix the criminality upon me. The fact is, my Lords, that I had entertained an unfavourable, possibly an unjust opinion of Deby Sing, and when the districts of Rungpore and Dinapore were farmed to him, I yielded my opinion to that of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Shore, who had better opportunities of knowing him. When complaints were made against him, I was the first to propose the most rigid enquiry into his conduct, and I verily believe it was from me that Mr. Paterfon imbibed an ill opinion of the man.

Mr. Paterfon, with whom the Manager wished to go down to posterity, has with a generosity that did him honour, expressed the sincerest concern that his reports should have operated to my prejudice, and he expressed his conviction that I acted as a man of humanity throughout the whole business. A most strict and solemn enquiry was instituted into the conduct of this man during my government, but not completed in my time. I have since read the proceedings, and though Deby Sing was not innocent, yet his guilt bore no sort of proportion to the magnitude of the crimes alleged against him; but neither his guilt nor his innocence could in any degree affect me. Your Lordships know, that the Manager was urged and pressed in the strongest possible terms, to frame this accusation into a charge, but he declined it. Your Lordships know the impression which this atrocious calumny made against me, and the effects it produced in this place upon the audience. This is another

of the heavy grievances of which I have so much reason to complain.

The close of Mr. Hastings's speech was one of the most impressive compositions we have ever heard, and proves that he still preserves that distinguished feature in his character of rising with the difficulties with which he has to contend.

He said he had gone through his observations upon Charges, the evidence adduced upon which filled seven folio volumes. That to do this properly, taking in the labour of abbreviation, would have required months. He was conscious, therefore, that he must have omitted to notice many material points, and he added the following passages, as nearly as we can recollect them, in these words:

*'I most reluctantly press upon your Lordships time, and shall hasten to conclude with a few general observations upon the nature of this Impeachment, as it relates to these principles which constitute the moral qualities and character of all mankind. If the tenor of a man's life has been invariably marked with a disposition to guilt, it will be a strong presumption against him, on any alledged instance, that he was guilty. If, on the contrary, the whole tenor of his life was such, as to have obtained for him the universal good will of all with whom he had any intercourse in the interested concerns of life, the presumption will be as well grounded, that he was innocent of any particular wrong imputed to him, if those who are the alledged sufferers by that wrong, make no complaint against him. But what shall be said of complaints against a man who was in trust for the interest of the greatest commercial body in the world, who employed and directed the services of thousands of his fellow citizens in great official departments, and extensive military operations, who connected Princes and States by alliances with his parent kingdom, and on whose rule the peace and happiness of many millions depended? of complaints made in the name and on the behalf of all those descriptions of men, who all unite their suffrages in his favour. Such complaints, with such a presumption against the possibility of their truth, may have existed in the history of mankind; but the history of mankind cannot produce an instance of their being received on such a foundation, until the late and present House of Commons thought fit to create one, in my Impeachment.'*

*'Permit me, my Lords, to retrace the principal events in the public life of that man, whom the Commons have brought, and have so long kept on a trial before you.'*

*'With the year 1750 I entered into the service*