

Here is a letter under the Earl of Chatham's hand, vouched to be such by the authority of his family, imputing to Lord Bute those counsels, which Lord Chatham says (whether justly or erroneously, is not the present question) have ruined the King and kingdom. Every reader will at once have understood this imputation to be founded on Lord Chatham's opinion of Lord Bute's secret influence (as it is called) by which he has been imagined to dictate or controul the measures of the Cabinet ever since the Earl of Chatham left it. Lord Bute has not been ignorant of the long prevalence of that error, having seen himself most injuriously treated in consequence of it, for many years past, by writers of pamphlets, news-paper essays, and political paragraphs; all which he passed over in silent indignation and contempt: but when he sees the same cruel mistakes advanced and countenanced by such an authority as the Earl of Chatham, he thinks he should be wanting to himself if he did not encounter it with the best evidence that can be supposed to lie within his reach.

There are but two persons in the kingdom who are capable of knowing the negative of that opinion with absolute certainty. One of them is of a rank too high to be appealed to, or even mentioned on this occasion; the other is himself. He does therefore authorize me to say, that he declares upon his solemn word of honour, he has not had the honour of waiting on his Majesty but at his levee or drawing-room,
nor