

## The Introduction.

reflected on, and some Years since persecuted with great Heat, for Victualling the Fleet in the Mediterranean, and necessitated to obtain a Privy Seal for passing his Accounts; which notwithstanding, could not shelter him from the Reproaches of his Enemies, who pretended to assert, that he had unjustly gained great Sums thereby, to enrich himself; and so far prevail'd, that a Vote passed the then House of Commons, importing, *That no Admiral, Commander in Chief, or Captain, ought to concern themselves in the Victualling any of the Men of War: But only the proper Agents and Purvers appointed for that purpose.* And since a Person of his Rank and Merit could not escape evil Tongues, nor the violent Attacks of an irritated Party, how should I expect to fare better? And therefore I am not so much surprized at all the unreasonable Calumnies raised against me by prejudiced People, and received as Truths and just, amongst such who are altogether unacquainted with Naval Affairs; but that the Lords of the Admiralty (with and under some or most of whom I had so long served in the Navy) should be so violently piqued at me, as to leave me out of the Half-pay List, without the least previous Notice, or any just Reason assigned for so doing, was what I never expected.

That Clamours and Complaints have been frequent against most, if not all, and some of the best of the Flag Officers of the Royal Navy, is too well known, by every one who has served in the Fleet, to want Proof. But that ever any Flag Officer has been laid aside without a Hearing before the King and Council, and the King's Order thereupon, alledging the Grounds for such a Disgrace; or without a Pension or Superannuation, I dare be bold to say I am the first, if not the only

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