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threw me in the way of a Gentleman versant in the Law, a Gentleman of knowledge, character, and integrity, by whose advice I was conducted, and by whose interest I was supported, from the infancy to the conclusion of my process. On a fair relation of my grievances, the injuries I suffered appeared to him so flagrant, that he did not hesitate a moment to declare his opinion, That I was not only entitled to ample damages from my prosecutors, but that the Court of Session would find no difficulty to award these, with full costs of suit. It is unnecessary here to take up the Reader's time in running over minutely the different steps of the process from the beginning. Suffice it to say, that a process of Oppression and Damages was commenced at my instance, against the Magistrates of Aberdeen, wherein the Lord Ordinary allowed both parties a proof of the facts alleged on either side. And accordingly a Proof was taken, partly at Edinburgh, and partly at Aberdeen, which the Reader has seen a specimen in the preceding pages. I shall only observe here, that my personal presence being necessary on this occasion at the last-mentioned place, I set out from Edinburgh for Aberdeen in September 1760, and though I had not the least knowledge of, or connection with any single evidence I might bring, yet the trade of Kidnapping was so flagrant in that country, and had left such an impression on the minds of the people, that I was under no difficulty to bring a complete proof of the practice, by a number of persons who had suffered by it, being deprived of their children.

And here I cannot forbear doing justice to the conduct of the Gentleman whom I named as Commissioner, to take the depositions of the witnesses on the part of my Opponents. During the various steps of procedure in leading the Proof, wherein I met with all the obstructions that the malice of