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PREFACE.

TO THE PUBLIC.

It has been seen with what unparalleled inhumanity I have several times been dragged before your tribunal.— Although each time I have confounded my enemies and doomed them to the severe loss of your confidence and esteem, preserving to myself unimpaired the inestimable trophy of your good will; it is nevertheless irksome to a feeling mind, to be the constant butt of malicious and designing men.

The attack which has lately been made upon me in the House of Assembly from a quarter, whence as it will be clearly seen, I had the least right to expect it, is known to all. To every man whose reputation is assailed, will ever be accorded by a generous public, the privilege of self-defence, the first great principle in nature. With truth I can aver, that in no instance have I appeared, but when goaded into your presence by the lash of calumny. If in repelling the wanton injuries with which it has been attempted to overwhelm me, I have inflicted some incurable wounds, who is to blame?

I trust that the reprehensible doctrine advanced by Mr. Nichol in the House of Assembly, that “the respectable and honorable character” of a man (and without examination as to the reality, or factitiousness of such reputation) will have no weight with you. Admit such a principle, and the equality of justice is subverted. Then indeed shall *“we have fallen upon times, in which venality no longer skulks in the dark, but snatches the bribe in public; when rapine preys on mankind without opposition, and perjury betrays it without enquiry.”* May the purity of your Constitution be ever guarded by men who have a full acquaintance with its principles, and steady minds to maintain them; and may it ever be your happy lot to know, how to discriminate between the pouncing hawk, and the harmless dove; the gaunt Wolf, and the prizeable watch dog.