

arises not from that cause, but from the desire of not being deemed more culpable than I am; and of defending myself from such calumny, as no man, the least susceptible of the emotions of an honest heart, can suffer to remain unanswered, without being justly charged, either with an unpardonable insensibility to the claims of character; or with an impossibility of obviating the accusations which are laid against him. For although no man of sense will think it either necessary, or even prudent, to reply to the obloquy and invectives of anonymous writers, who may have defamed him by a relation of circumstances that never existed; by misrepresentations of those which have, when they are not of an immoral nature, and of no concern to the public; yet does it sometimes happen, although the accuser withhold his name, that the facts on which he grounds his accusations may be incontrovertible, notwithstanding the manner, in which they are represented, imparts a falsehood to all that he relates; and the nature of them may be so criminal, that to abstain from attempting a refutation, would be justly considered as a concession to their truth, and adequate to self-condemnation.

Innumerable are the instances of the former kind of publications against me, to which I have never given the least reply. Of the latter, there has appeared a paper, in the Public Ledger, of the 10th of August, which no man, who is not dead to every laudable sensation, can suffer and remain in silence. The malevolence it contains is directed against the most estimable part of every man's character, his integrity. It is solely on that account that I am induced, in this manner, to make my appeal. And I would willingly