

it should, he thinks it necessary to answer all the above insinuations and assertions, from whatever quarter they may come, in the following manner :

That Sir H. Clinton had issued orders of similar effect to those of Lord Cornwallis, of Dec. 23, 1780, as far as respects the Commissary General's department, and the delivering captured provisions to the troops *gratis*, and saving the Crown rations to the Public in 1776 and 1777, even before he commanded the army : that in July 1779, he appointed Commissioners of Captures (totally distinct from the Commissary General's department) and for the above purposes ; that it had been reported to Sir H. Clinton, by the Deputy Commissary General, that near a million of rations had been saved to the Public while he remained in South Carolina, and his orders were attended to ; during which time Lord Cornwallis was under his immediate orders, and Mr. Stedman was acting as Deputy Commissary of captured forage, by Sir H. Clinton's orders of February 1780. Sir H. Clinton perfectly agrees with Lord Cornwallis, the Commissioners of Public Accounts, and Messrs. Stedman and Ramsay, that infamous abuse and peculation might have existed, but takes leave again to assert, that he issued orders, soon after he came to the command, most effectually to prevent it ; nor could it well have existed to the northward, at that time, for to enable Lord Cornwallis to act offensively, Sir H. Clinton had reduced the army under his immediate orders to a strict defensive. There needs no other proof when and where this peculation was effectually stopped, than the following letter from Mr. Robinson, written by order of the Lords of the Treasury, approving Sir H. Clinton's having established Commissaries of Captures *for the purpose of supplying the army gratis, and saving the Crown rations to the Public.*