

the crown to bestow. To have refused, would have been insult. Next day an annuity of 3000l. was settled on him, and a title was conferred on his lady and her issue. Never was a pension so well bestowed, nor nobility so truly merited. It is a shame any vindication should be necessary for the acceptance of the reward. He did not take it as pensions are commonly taken, as a bond for the receiver's future conduct. He is by it under no obligation; it is no tie upon him. It was given as a recompence for his great services. What man of sense or gratitude would not have blushed for his country, if such a minister had retired unrewarded? The sum was inadequate to his merit; but the quantum was regulated by his moderation. When this was settled, his enemies, the enemies of their country, with their numerous adherents and desperate assassins, collected and poured forth all their scurrility and abuse, in which they infamously traduced his reward into a bargain for deserting his country*, in order to
poison

* In order to clear his character from this imputation he sent the following letter to his friend in the city of London.

" Dear Sir,

" Finding to my great surprise, that the cause and manner of
 " my resigning the Seals, is grossly misrepresented in the city,
 " as well as that the most gracious and spontaneous marks of
 " his Majesty's approbation of my services, which marks follow-
 " ed my resignation, have been infamously traduced as a bar-
 " gain for my forsaking the public, I am under a necessity of
 " declaring the truth of both these facts, in a manner which I
 " am sure no gentleman will contradict. A difference of opini-
 " on with regard to measures to be taken against Spain, of the
 " highest importance to the honour of the crown, and to the
 " most essential national interests, (and this founded on what
 " Sp in had already done, not on what that Court may farther
 " intend to do) was the cause of my resigning the Seals. Lord
 " Temple, and I submitted in writing, and signed by us, our
 " most humble sentiments to his Majesty, which being over-
 " ruled by the united opinion of all the rest of the King's Ser-
 " vants, I resigned the seals on Monday the 5th of this month,
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