

doms used, any just offence (*humanum est errare*) is given to person or persons, it shall be candidly rectified.

The writer with candour acknowledges that in the affair of commodore Knowles's impress in the harbour of Boston, Nov. 1747, there was somewhat of passionate warmth and indiscretion, merely in affection to Boston, and country of New-England, his altera patria; but not with rancour or malice, having no personal acquaintance nor dealings with Mr. Knowles; therefore from common fame, he (as historians do) only narrates his peculiar temper, his severity in discipline, and not so much regard as some other sea commanders have for the mercantile interest, by impressing their men, when he thought the publick service required it: his general courage as a sea officer is not questioned; the insinuation concerning his personal courage, has been construed amiss; the refusing of passionate challenges from private masters of merchant ships, whose men he had impressed, which perhaps might deprive the nation of his service, is no slur.