Gentlemen, shall first by a solemn vote discharge one of their members as *a rascal*, and in a short time after, *place him at their head*. That such a case has actually happened, appears upon record.

In the year 1711, the House of Commons resolved, " That *Robert Walpole, Esquire*, having been this " session of parliament committed a prisoner to the " Tower, and expelled this House for *a breach of* " *trust* in the execution of his office, and NOTORIOUS " CORRUPTION, when Secretary at War, was, and is " incapable of being elected a member to serve in " this present parliament." Such an expulsion would for ever have bolted him out of any society but a British senate. In 1715, when a new parliament was called, he resumed his seat. He rose superior to competition; and the end of his career was worthy of his outset. Yet his character can lose nothing by a comparison with that of his constituents, the burgesses of Lynn, who attempted instantly upon his expulsion, to return him a second time as their representative, but their choice was rejected. Nor was it because Walpole had pilfered five hundred guineas that he was expelled and sent to the Tower. He was a *Whig*, and at that time the majority in the House of Commons were *Tories*. This was regarded as the true cause of his sentence*.

The Earl of Wharton, *another* WHIG, was fined in a thousand pounds for an outrage too gross to be repeated. This did not deprive him of his seat in

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* George the Second, on his accession, had resolved to dismiss Walpole. The minister offered on condition of keeping his place, to obtain an addition of an hundred thousand pounds *per annum* to the civil list, and a jointure of an hundred thousand pounds to Queen Caroline. His terms were accepted. It is impossible for the human mind to conceive a more sordid transaction. Edmund Burke, in what he calls an appeal to the old whigs, has gravely assured us, that " Walpole was an *honourable* man, and " a *sound* WHIG. He was not a prodigal and *corrupt* minister. He " was far from governing by *corruption*."