

sake, to suppose the existence of such a man as a true patriot; he attempts in vain to express himself, acquiescing and well satisfied with his proof of the negative—*that he knew not one*\*!

To quote and expose the scurrilous and exceptionable passages which have appeared in the several political publications of this author would be a tedious and invidious task—But I cannot help applying one of his own sentences to the circumstances and style of himself and of his party, as peculiarly descriptive of them; and then I take my leave of him for ever.

“ Among the disturbers of our quiet are some animals of greater bulk, whom the power of roaring persuaded us to think formidable, but we now perceive that sound and force do not always go together—The noise of a savage proves nothing but his hunger †.”

It is from the adoption and prevalence of the principles and doctrine, and from the insinuations of such authors, that the British nation have been almost brought to avow corruption, and to adopt it as a necessary and active spring in the several motions of government.—The excess of it is perhaps even *now* punishable; but when the principle is once acquiesced in, the measure of its agency must be determined by opinion—by necessity—by the circumstances of the persons, and the habits of the times; and what in 1779 may be excessive, and therefore to be reprobated in an *elector* of Great Britain, may, perhaps, in 1780, be pardonable in a *first minister of the country*!

\* “Patriot” published in 1774, at the eve of the general election.

† Falkland’s Islands, p. 141, last edition.