

Having premised thus much, I hasten with pleasure to the field of action, and hope, before I quit it, to leave my adversary prostrate.

But before I advance further, and in order to clear the way as we go, I entreat permission of my readers to state here once for all the *principal* point of the argument on which we are at issue. You, Sir, have asserted, “*that your services to this country deserve the remuneration bestowed on them by the PENSION you receive*”—this I deny. This is the main question, and it is on your *own* merits alone that it can be fairly tried. The very modest comparison you, Sir, have drawn between these merits, and those of the illustrious House of RUSSELL; and in which, acting both as judge and juror, you have ingenuously obtained both a verdict and the judgment of the court in your favour; together with several other matters contained in your Letter, are merely collaterals, which I shall from time to time use in elucidation of my argument as occasion may require.

And now, Sir, as the facetious Count Hamilton says in his Fairy Tales, “*Je commencerai par le commencement, si vous plait.*”—I will take you up in the year 1766, when you first appeared in public and in Parliament, as the confidential and private secretary of the Marquis of Rockingham, then just appointed FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY.

You