

who have held that I cannot have a court-martial to vindicate myself to my profession ; and who have done all they could do, to prevent me from vindicating myself to my country by a parliamentary enquiry ; are now very systematically desirous of burying my innocence and their own guilt, in the prisons of the enemy, and of removing, in my person, to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, the means of renewing parliamentary proceedings which they have reason to dread.

Those extraordinary attempts to oppress in my person the rights of all subjects, and to pervert every idea of military obedience, by directing it, not to the service of the public, but the ruin of officers, justified me to my own conscience, in the part I took under the conditional order, referred to in your letter. I found the same inward justification in requiring in the most public manner, at the close of the late session of parliament, a clear, peremptory order, in case the ministers persevered in their intention of surrendering me to the enemy.

I have received no order ; had an order been sent to me framed in any manner that I could have acted upon it consistently with the existence of character ; I might have made a protest against the precedent, I might have enquired of you, Sir, by what probable means in the present posture of affairs it was to be executed. But in deference to the King's name,