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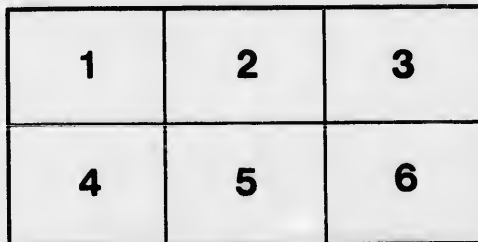
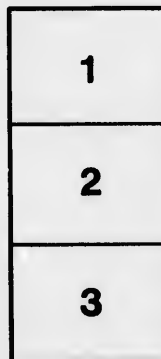
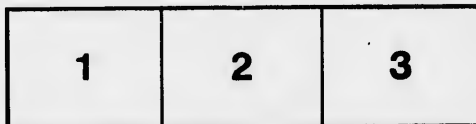
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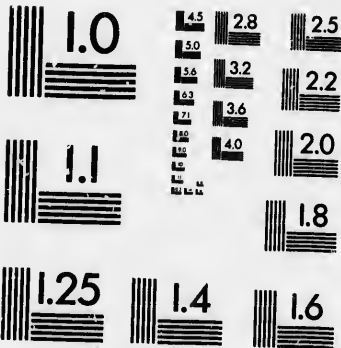
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A NARRATIVE
OF
FACTS.



IT is the right of the unfortunate to complain, and of the injured to seek redress; being unfortunate sufficiently apologises for the address, and being injured justifies the appeal. If juvenile dissipation is a sufficient condemnation, I submit to a treatment due to criminality; but whilst I can lay my hand upon my bosom, and with the firm confidence of conscious truth assert, that I have never acted unbecoming the honor of a man, or the character of an officer; though destitute of a friend, and the butt of calumny, firm in the assurance of my own rectitude, all I ask—all I require, is an open declaration from mine enemies of wherein I have offended. In vain have I represented the real situation of my affairs to individuals; they have heard me it is true; but from their conduct towards me, the credit of my complaints, the belief of my injuries rested but on my asseverations; and whilst *power* on the one hand, and a *combination* on the other, secretly diffused the poison of malice and calumny, all my efforts have proved ineffectual. Determined to persist in the assertion of having been *unjustly* used, because this assertion is the truth, I shall primarily state the unfortunate circumstances which first gave rise to a *cruel and illiberal persecution*, and afterwards demand of those who are my accusers, if I have extenuated or diminished ought in the detail of my conduct. Though these may affect contempt by silence, it will be the contemning of truth, and I trust will vindicate my honor, and clear my character from every unjust aspersions. There is a secret shame; the constant attendant on guilt, to which I am a stranger; for was I not, I should avoid a boldness of expression my wrongs teach me as the language suited to the complaints of *injured honor*. Was it an individual who injured me, the redress would then remain at my own disposal; but it is the *many*, influenced by whom I know not, and for what I know not, except that which to the world I can justify, and being justifiable, it cannot be incorrect.

In the month of August 1795. I quitted England with my wife, having at that period incurred the displeasure of my friends through a thoughtless extravagance, the effects of dissipation, prior to my marriage. On our way to Halifax, we unfortunately were captured by a French Squadron, cruising on the banks of Newfoundland. Being detained prisoners six weeks, we were liberated on our arrival at New York. We lost all our baggage, and the expences incurred at New York obliged me to draw at two different times on the Agents, Messrs Cox and Greenwood. These Bills were

indorsed by Major (now Lieut. Colonel) Hodgson. I was ever accustomed to draw on the Agents, and advising my Mother of it, she had hitherto taken up my Bills; I therefore, as usual, confidently drew on them, and more securely, as I doubted not, but that my Mother, in consideration of the losses sustained, and the expences incurred by our capture, would not hesitate paying those sums. On our arrival at Quebec (after having made some stay in Montreal) being in want of money, I applied to the merchants for cash on a Bill, but their requiring an endorsement, and being an entire stranger, I mentioned this circumstance to Lieutenant Brooke (whom I had two years prior to this period, been acquainted with in England) he offered me his endorsement; I drew a Bill for one Hundred Pounds on Messrs Cox and Greenwood in favor of Messrs. C. C. Hall and Co. Mr. Brooke put his name to it, and I received the money. Two or three months after this transaction, Colonel Hodgson sent me a message, requesting to speak a few words with me. On my waiting on him, he informed me, he had received a letter from Messrs Cox and Greenwood, wherein they mentioned that one of the Bills I drew at New York, having been noted, they had paid it, in consequence of his name being on the back of the Bill, and that the other probably would share the same fate. This rather surpris'd me, but flattering myself it was occasioned by accident, and that my Mother would pay the amount; in which I was confirmed from the silence of the Agents for two or three succeeding months, when I was roused from my security by the return of the Bill endorsed by Lieutenant Brooke, and given to Messrs C. C. Hall and Co. Shocked at this unexpected stroke, having received letters from my Mother in answer to those I wrote, entreating her to take up my Bills; which letters were written in her usual affectionate style without noticing money matters, from whence I concluded all was right. The morning this unpleasant intelligence arrived, I was on guard, and did not hesitate what measures were to be taken, but clearly comprehended my Mother's resolution, not to pay my Bills. For the purpose of tranquillising Lieutenant Brooke's mind, alarmed by these accidents, I gave my resignation into the hands of Colonel Hodgson, determining to go home, and if possible reconcile my friends, and persuade them to enable my acquitting these sums without the loss of my Commission; but in case their resentment rendered entreaty ineffectual, to immediately sell out. With this intent I engaged a passage in the Fame, and as there were several little debts I had contracted in town, I requested Lieutenant Brooke as a friend, to endorse me another Bill for the purport of settling my accounts with the tradesmen. This request I made, confident, on my arrival in London, to have prevented all the ill-consequences resulting from a non payment. But fortune was determined to persecute me; the very Saturday preceding the week we were to sail, brought the English Mail with another Bill of mine under protest. This Bill Messrs M^rNider and Mitchell had in their hands. In vain did I endeavour to compromise matters with these merchants. In vain, did Mr. Oeber, a partner of Messrs. C. C. Hall and Co. exert himself in my behalf, endeavouring to persuade them to take his security for half of

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the amount, and trust to my honor for the other half. They persisted in their demands of the whole, either in a Bill endorsed at their pleasure, or my paying them the money immediately; all the favor I could obtain, was their accepting the joint security of Mr. Osber and Lieutenant Brooke, that I should not quit the Province before they were satisfied. My baggage, which was on board the Fame, I ordered on shore, and was necessitated to satisfy the master of the vessel with whom I had engaged, by giving him £10 10s. My resignation was gone home, and Lieutenant Brooke's second Bill left to its fate; not but that I wrote immediately to Messrs Cox and Greenwood, forcibly representing my situation, and earnestly entreating them, on the security of my Commission, to pay the Bill when presented. My furniture was sold, and a house, more expensive than my circumstances permitted me to keep, relinquished. What was to be done? I procured lodgings, and waited the events of this unhappy business, relying on the regular payment of my subsistence, until accounts were received from England of my being out of the army. I applied to Colonel Hodgson to have my leave of absence recalled, that I might resume my duty, and enjoy my rations and fuel, which were new to me, momentous objects; but Col. Hodgson informed me, he could not comply with my request, as I might be out of the army, and an impropriety attached itself to my sitting a member on Courts Martial; satisfied with these reasons, but depending on my pay, I determined to manage as well as I could. On the arrival of the 24th October, when the Paymaster paid the Regiment, on my application to him, never was I more astonished than when he informed me, that having closed my accounts he could not give me a six-pence. In vain did I represent my situation—In vain was it for me to tell him I had a wife to support, and that wife in the last stage of pregnancy—that I was friendless in a strange place, and if denied my subsistence, God Almighty best knew how I was to live. Such arguments availed nought, and thus wretched, I knew not where to seek a saving place, or a place of shelter. I had not a shilling, and this was the first moment in my life I had ever wanted one. I saw, as partner in my want, a young and adored wife, whose goodness deserved ten millions times more love, tenderness and attention than I am capable of bestowing. As the injury my credit sustained from these protested Bills, exempted me from drawing my pay, and as I could not ask the favor of endorsement without risk, I am indebted to Mr. Osber's goodness, who although an inconsiderable creditor of mine, generously advanced me the monies, I from time to time stood in need of. One day mentioning my hard and peculiar situation to Lieutenant Shackleton of the Fusiliers, with a never to be forgotten proof of the goodness of his heart, after having encouraged me by saying it would be impossible for the Agents to refuse my Bill for subsistence, he kindly agreed to endorse me one of £15 sterling on Messrs Cox and Greenwood, in favor of Mr. John Lynd. This Bill returned protested, the Agents refusing it, saying they had no effects. If imagination could frame expressions sufficiently energetic to paint the agitation of my mind on this occasion, I might then chance to convey to the world an idea of those emotions.

tions.—I dare not attempt it ; for such is the conscious languour of my diction when compared to the state of my mind, that I throw down and re-sume my pen a hundred, and a hundred times over, convinced of the elaborate task of attempting to transplant my feelings into the bosoms of those, who, little concerned with an individual's misfortunes, and who borne away by the stream of detraction, consider me as culpable. Mr. Shackleton was gone to Halifax—what must be his surprize at this unexpected event, I know not. He perhaps condemns me ; but whatever may be his opinions, he, with the rest of the world, will be convinced of my integral innocence ; and confident of this, in the midst of misfortune, I receive an inexpressible consolation. Fortune determined still to treat me with her utmost rigour, soon brought back my second Bill endorsed by Lieutenant Brooke. I had partly anticipated this evil, but, situated as I was, could devise no means to prevent an inconvenience attending Mr. Brooke : all I could, and what I considered myself bound to do, was to acquiesce in any measures he might propose for his own security, and this I did without consulting self interest : I gave him a legal writing empowering Messrs Cox and Greenwood, the Agents, to stop the amount of those two Bills with whatever damages, interest, &c. may be accumulated on them.

At this period I began to perceive an alteration in the behaviour of my Brother Officers, from a coolness, an interruption of all acquaintance and connexions took place, conscious of my own innocence, I could not help attributing this desulcation in their conduct to ungenerous and illiberal motives—My doors had ever been open—My table had ever been spread, for all who chose to enter and partake, and I too late found, that the men who were most ready to drain my last bottle to the last drop, were the first in the hour of distress, to reprobate and desert me ; perhaps they were more conspicuous, as their behaviour was magnified by ingratitude; pride taught me to resent ungenerosity, and I believe it was the resentment of a friendless, and forborn bankrupt created and increased the number of mine enemies, and in return my expressions of indignation were retorted in the language of calumny; or probably their anger had so distorted reality that I might appear in their eyes, the very monster of their description—I still retained the friendship of the other Corps in Garrison, but this friendship was on its decline, and the golden opinion of my acquaintance began to lack its lustre from the corroding influence of those who were already my enemies—The attention of the Officers of the 26th Regiment, their politeness to me, is too deeply impressed on my memory for time or situation ever to erase, these too withdrew themselves, and I, like a wounded Hart, beheld the whole herd of Society fly at my approach ; one or two acquaintances for a while resisted the torrent that had swept away my social comforts, and of an evening would help us to solace a few Winter's hours. With calmness I endured this desertion, and began to be tainted by cynicism; but still a novice in the cynic arts, I could not overcome my native unsuspecting disposition, had not an event roused me from this affectation of sophisticated philosophy, and taught me a lesson, I had been happy to have known long ere
now,

now, "that malice, detraction, envy and littleness of soul, can creep into the bosom of a soldier, with as little difficulty as into the breast of any other member of society." An officer of the 26th Regiment, whose friendship I boasted as unalterable, suddenly withdrew himself; this alarmed me more than the defection of all my late ephemeral friends; I knew not what to imagine, or how to account for his behaviour; I retraced my former conduct; I re-examined all the past actions of my life; not one appeared culpable—not one raised the blush of shame upon my cheek. In this retrospect I saw many follies—many indiscretions—many errors of youth—but not a single crime—unless the want of what hath when in possession of, ever led me into error, is to be accounted one. In full conviction of my right to draw on the Agents for my subsistence, and induced by hard necessity (the Bill endorsed by Lieutenant Shackleton not being yet returned) I had requested Lieutenant _____ to endorse me one of £10. He refused, but his refusal was what convinced me of his sincerity. A few days after, calling at his quarters, I discovered a manifest change in his behaviour; a warmth of expression gave place to a formal coolness, approximating rudeness. I had hitherto with secret and indignant pride beheld the ingratitude of men, but this last instance subdued by spirits—I had neither power to demand an explanation, or sufficient resolution to quit his apartment: I remained for some time tortured by all the internal war of passions. I returned to my own lodgings. To encrease the anxiety of my poor wife's mind, would have been but adding fuel to the griefs that preyed on mine. I disguised my agitation, but took the first opportunity of writing to Lieutenant _____. What was my astonishment on the receipt of his answer! Here the first dawn broke on me, as has since proved so clear, that I am the victim of atrocious calumny. He informed me in his letter, that the Officers of the King's own Regiment had refused doing duty with me, that Lord Dorchester approved of their measures, and that until such time as I cleared my character from the stigma this attached to it, he must relinquish all farther acquaintance. Just and Great God! thou alone knowest all the horrors which then distracted my mind. My reputation blasted—most infamously blasted—every bright prospect gay hope had delineated for the enjoyment of futurity, snatched in one moment from my view, and plunged from the heights of anticipated happiness into a black abyss of real misery. I flew with this letter to Colonel Beckwith, then Adjutant General, to enquire of him the causes of this my treatment, and if Lord Dorchester had indeed expressed satisfaction and approbation of my Regiment's conduct. I acquainted him with my real situation; but he, with an unbounded prostitution of civility, refused to interfere in what he pleased to call a private affair; said he was totally unacquainted with any misconduct of mine meriting such treatment: He told me I had much better wait on Colonel Hodgson, who was the properest person to give me the desired satisfaction; as for himself, he lay under so many obligations to Colonel Hodgson's family to prevent his interference in a dispute of this nature; so that his *private obligations* running counter to his *public duty*, denied an officer

fier that redress his injured reputation justly demanded. I immediately waited on Colonel Hodgson and acquainted him with this information, entreating him to inform me, if any part of my conduct deserved the reward of infamy? he told me the Regiment was much displeas'd with my behaviour to Lieutenant Brooke respecting the protested Bills, having used an artifice by which Mr. Brooke imagin'd, when endorsing the second Bill, he was cancelling the first; and that he had got renewed my leave of absence. P^{ty} first information was to me of much more consequence than the last, the irregularity of which I then paid little attention to; I endeavour'd to convince the Colonel of the facility of these reports, but he seem'd unwilling to regard my remarks. From his quarters I repair'd to Lieutenant Brooke's and acquainted him with what the Colonel had told me; he seem'd much surpris'd, and acknowledging his ignorance of the matter, convinc'd me the report had not arisen from him; but his demonstration had little effect on my Brother Officers, and I plainly perceiv'd a determination to avoid all means of reconciliation. I have since reflect'd on Colonel Hodgson's precipitancy in renewing my leave of absence without my knowledge, and presume it rather exceeds the bounds of military regularity, having prior to this express'd my wish of doing duty, which would certainly have been insisted on, or a Court Martial, had I been acquainted with the motives for extending my leave. Although I wrote several times to the Colonel, I could never obtain else than vague and unsatisfactory reasons, or more properly no reasons from the Officers of the Regiment explanatory of their conduct. My pecuniary difficulties encreasing every day, and Mrs. Sorel being at the final term of her pregnancy, the indispensable expences at these seasons oblig'd me to have recourse to the Colonel, and once more endeavour obtain- ing the pay of two or three months, in part of what was then due to me; the Colonel I suppose in consideration of my domestic situation, agreed to endorse me a Bill of £10 on the Agents on account of subsistence. This supply my circumstances soon exhausted, and I again prevail'd on him to endorse another for the same amount on the same account, though what was due to me exceeding the amount of both Bills, I was still happy in obtaining a part. In a short time I began to feel the pressure of an evil never before experienced, and want, worldly want stared me in the face; I again request'd Colonel Hodgson to assist me in procuring my subsistence, but he absolutely refus'd. Involved in my miseries, I beheld a woman whom I lov'd to madness, an infant boy who though he bless'd us with those tender emotions parents alone feel, and which our mutual love heighten'd, yet would the little innocent at times rack my soul with anguish, as he smil'd at the tear of sorrow which oft stole down my cheeks. Whilst my heart bled from ten thousand wounds, I was oblig'd to mask my aspect with serenity and peace. The susceptible bosom of my Eliza throbb'd with too many cares, and her delicate frame could ill sustain the shock of those evils that so furiously attack'd my repose. I combat'd and still struggle to keep those ills from her—may Heaven inspire me with sufficient force ever to do so. Though the generous assistance of a friend procur'd me a bare sub-

assistance, the expences of a long winter, when fuel was excessively dear and my allowance cut off, drove me to many shifts. Under various excuses I stripped my poor wife of such valuable trinkets as were the fond remembrancers of respected friends. My books, the sole resources I found at times to sooth my cares, went next, and I gladly received shillings for a support, for what I had given pounds as an amusement. These scanty supplies soon failed—nothing remained but Hope, and unaltered love—that with the thoughts of my wife and helpless boy, deterred me from an act, reflection bids my soul shudder at. I now began to know the world; the mist which softened the harshness of mankind was dispelled: yet I am no cynic in affirming, that to one noble and perfect being, whose soul is actuated by principles of humanity and whose heart is the abode of generosity, there are ten thousand who disgrace that nature their Creator gave them souls to animate, to exalt and to adorn. In the vale of misfortune I met some of these exalted beings; they found me wandering alone and forsaken; they poured the balm of consolation, dictated by disinterested friendship, on my smarting wounds: These Heaven rewards with a conscious and elevated pleasure unknown to the vulgar crowd of sensual and ignoble minds. Thus environed with distress—where to fly—whom to apply to, I knew not. Acquaintances, like flowers that shrink within themselves on the going down of the sun, withdrew their smiles as assistance and ease retired. This framed an excuse; that told an idle tale; one was distressed through travelling in all the extravagance of dissipation; another's family prevented his desire to lessen the embarrassments of a friend—all had sufficient for administering to their own pleasures, none a surplus to relieve my sorrows. It is to Mr. Odber, to Mr. Winslow, to Mr. Young I am indebted; more by gratitude than means; for if fortune ever showers down on me her profusest favours, would they be insufficient to gratify my strong desire of returning their disinterested kindness. Misfortune and detraction go hand in hand; to be unfortunate with the many is to be criminal, and wherever aspersions lack a foundation, calumny supplies her with one; I was assailed from all parts with arrows winged by falsehood, and envenomed by malice. In the height of my distress, his Excellency Lieutenant General Prescott assumed the command, and Lord Dorchester quitted Canada—a happy change for me. It may be improper to animadvert on the conduct of Lord Dorchester, justice it to say, I sought for redress of wrongs, but never obtained it. My situation was now almost past bearing, and in the anguish of my mind, Hope determining to abide by me in this extremity, suggested an application to His Excellency the Commander in Chief. I presumed to write, addressing myself to the Adjutant General, Lieutenant Col. Dalton (N^o. 1.) and received an answer (N^o. 2.)—but such an answer—so replete with humanity, benignity, politeness and friendly condescension as at first to render me doubtful whether I was awake or dreaming: Yet why was I thus credulous? an exalted mind ever hearkens to the voice of injured innocence, and ever ready to relieve its sorrows, guided by these god-like motives, will descend even from a throne. His Excellency graciously promised:

mised, on the arrival of Colonel Hodgson, who was expected shortly in Quebec, to inquire into the causes of my Regiment's conduct respecting myself; I having in person explained to Colonel Dalton the whole of my transactions with Lieutenant Brooke, and Colonel Dalton appeared, and I have every reason to believe was perfectly satisfied that I have done all a man of honor in my situation could do, and far from criminating my misfortunes, by his polite behaviour has generously alleviated them. A few days after this interview, an officer in the street informed me news was arrived at the Chateau, with accounts that Colonel Hodgson was dying at Batiscan, on his way to Quebec. I thank Heaven among all my foibles, a little mean animosity (however hardly I may have been dealt with) is not mixed with them; and, forgetting my distresses, which it was in Colonel Hodgson's power to have mitigated, his alarming situation entirely occupied my mind; I had however sufficient knowledge of mankind (who having frequently heard me declaim on the injustice done me) to know that the motives of my journey would be ascribed to the effects of a self interested and fervile disposition; I therefore waited on Colonel Dalton, who approving of my reasons enjoined my departure instantly. I quitted Quebec about two o'clock in the afternoon and arrived in twelve hours at Batiscan, where I found Colonel Hodgson out of all danger, and in two days after arrived with him in Quebec. His Excellency the Commander in Chief having made inquiries of Colonel Hodgson, concerning my affairs, gave me the pleasing satisfaction of an exculpation from whatever constructions a vindictive spirit may ungenerously attach to them, and I had a transient hope of receiving part of that pay which by an unaccountable and mysterious management, has been so long withheld me—but alas! whatever hopes Colonel Hodgson might have flattered his Excellency with (who I am proud to believe was interested in this affair) he refused the only mode of my attaining this money, and quitted Quebec, leaving me in the same sad predicament he on his arrival found me in. To endeavour lessening these mortifications, His Excellency's goodness again ordered me the payment of my lodging money, allowance of fuel, &c. which from August 1795 had been suspended. At this period I received a letter from my Mother, who having applied to the Agents on the subject of my subsistence, was informed by them, it remained with the Commanding Officer of the Regiment in Quebec; on this I wrote to Colonel Hodgson which produced his answer (N^o. 3.) to which he added an account received by him of my being out of the Regiment; since which period no other advice has arrived, either private or official, though I have received several letters and should naturally imagine, had a matter of this moment taken place, my friends or the Agents would assuredly write me word. The Light Company of the King's own Regiment had been long expected from Halifax to join the Battalion; it arrived at this juncture under the command of Lieutenant Shelly: As far as circumstances permitted, I paid him those attentions due from one officer to another; he soon became acquainted with my embarrassments, and the distress I at that moment experienced, from the pressing importunity of a creditor,

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who not only threatened, but had commenced those legal measures so dreadful in their consequences; and with a generosity, which should be the leading feature of every soldier, extricated me from a dilemma though at a great inconvenience to himself. The August packet brought me a letter from a particular friend in London, that I had desired to make inquiries concerning the detention of my pay: in consequence of the extract (N^o 5) from his letter, I applied to Major Story; Pay Master of the King's own Regiment, from whom I received the answer (N^o 6) My embarrassments were daily encreasing—obligated to accumulate debt upon debt, in consequence of the mystery which envelopes my affairs, and which is beyond my penetration to unfold. The prospect of literally starving presenting itself to my view in all its haggard horrors—enduring every hardship, and tormented by every mortification—a long winter to struggle through—friendless with a wife and child, I determined to state my situation to Mr. Young and request of him to advance me a few Pounds, to quit my lodgings which were, too expensive and retire in the Lower Town, from society and the prying of curiosity—Mr. Young's generous and friendly disposition feeling for my distress with a ready acquiescence alleviated those pangs and removed the horrors that distracted my imagination. His friendship has smoothed the roughest part I hope, of my journey, and softened the rigours of a penurious Winter.

Such have been the miseries and vexations I have endured for more than twelve months, and yet the malevolence of mankind, not content with these sufferings, must add fresh tortures to my mind, and attack my reputation. I can forgive cruelty—I can even forgive ingratitude, but the detraction, which sullies my honour, is too notorious; to pardon that would bespeak mental debility. It is but lately I was informed, reports were in general circulation injurious to my character, as an officer and a gentleman; the untruthfulness of this information occasioned me, absorbed for a time all the hardships and cruelties I laboured under, and it seemed as if every worldly evil was accumulated in one enormous mass, to crush and annihilate me; but reflexion roused my attounded senses; conscious of mine innocence, my soul assumes a dignity and exaltation, none experience but the purest holoms. Though I feel the powerful attacks of an *illiberal* many—Though from cowardly concealment they shoot their envenomed arrows; though I am conscious they wish to league all mankind against me; and that men are ever ready to ally themselves with power, wealth and pleasure, in the destruction of misfortune however honourable and pure. The more formidable these efforts appear, I feel an herculean strength and vigour to oppose their attacks and wiles, and firm in this confidence, I dictate the language of unshaken honor.

To Lieutenant Brooke I consider myself bound by obligations the more compulsory, as they involved him in an inconvenience of which I was the sole though unintentional author; I here condemn myself in saying, I ought to have had more than the reliance on my mother, ere I had asked a friend to become responsible for a Bill; yet as an accident had never before befallen

me, the inconsiderateness surely must lose much of its culpability, and though I may not stand intirely exonerated from thoughtlessness, who will dare openly avouch or presume to accuse me of criminality? if even Lieut. Brooke. whatever may be the obligations I confess due to him, ungenerously (as has been suggested to me) ever so slightly encourages such accusations; from that moment I consider all offices of friendship—all demands of gratitude cancelled; and though I may be his pecuniary debtor; my honor rejects him as a friend, and my heart revolts at his insidious baseness. It has been whispered in mine ears through indirect channels that Lieut. Brooke and the King's own Regt gave birth to many scandalous aspersions; as Mr. Brooke was more emphatically particularised, I wrote to him the letter (N^o 7) his answer and conduct (N^o 8) with mine, I leave the world to comment upon; I likewise wrote on this subject to Capt. Eyre, of the 26th Regt. my motives are accounted for in the letter (N^o 9) to which follows his answer (N^o 10.) I have only now to make this query, and then leave my conduct to Public decision.

If a man engages a friend with the purest and most innocent intentions to endorse a Bill, and this Bill by accident should be protested; that he then gives the endorser the amplest security; a security affecting his future provision through life; a security which at once robs him of his fairest hopes of preferment, and all this, without considering himself or family; should this man be criminated and treated as an object of Infamy.—What would be the opinion of honour respecting his crimiators?

Having now particularised the most momentous circumstances of my misfortunes with a candour, that may perhaps draw forth a momentary disapprobation in some instances, yet on the whole, I trust will exculpate me from villainous falsehood, the offspring of malicious calumny, and will wipe off those stains detraction has slurred my reputation with—I now publicly require the person or persons who propagated the nefarious charges which follow this narrative, or any charges injurious to my character; as an Officer and a Gentleman, to stand forth, and I here solemnly and openly declare, that whoever was the first promoter of such mean, scandalous and infamous falsehoods; if an Officer, he should have the coat which he disgraces stripped from his unworthy back, and be exposed as a pest to Society, and an example to deter detraction ever again to venture within the bounds of villainy.

NICHOLAS SOREL,

Lieut. King's Own Infantry.

The following are the infamous reports, villainy hath invented to blast the reputation and honour of an Officer; and which I declare to be the foulest of lies, and the Author of them a Scoundrel.

NICHOLAS SOREL,

Lieut. King's Own Infantry.

1st. That having persuaded Lieut. Brooke of the King's Own Infantry, to endorse me two Bills drawn on Messrs. Cox and Greenwood, these Bills were returned protested, in consequence of which, I gave in my Resignation, (thus far is the truth but no farther) that my flattering Lieut. Brooke
with

with the payment of their amount, for which he was responsible, is a mere subterfuge, I not having purchased my Commission, therefore may not obtain the privilege of selling out.

2dly. That the amount of these Bills was four hundred pounds.

3dly. That when I requested Lieut. Brooke to endorse the second Bill, I used an artifice in making him believe, that, that Bill (the second) was to cancel the first, then returned in the hands of Messrs. C. C. Hall & Co. that he remained in this deception, until information came from home that both Bills would not be paid.

4thly. That I had mortgaged my Commission, to a Merchant of this place, therefore it was probable Lieut. Brooke would be a sufferer.

5thly. That in consequence of this conduct, the King's Own Regiment treated me with a deserved contempt.

(LETTER NO. 1.)

To Lieut. Colonel Dalton, Adjutant General, &c. &c.

SIR,

When necessity, distress and want urge; whatever are the measures, taken to alleviate these ills, by the unfortunate sufferer; so as the measures are consistent with the character he professes; they require little apology; I therefore Sir, shall not encroach on your time, in apologising for an address, nothing but the horrors of penury could have encouraged me to venture.— I presume you are not unacquainted, that there is in Quebec, such a person as myself, or that you are a stranger to the causes of my detention—perhaps you Sir, with others condemn the circumstances that place me in this situation—I confess they were the effects of thoughtlessness and levity, but on my honour, they are not inconsistent with the purest principles. I shall Sir, avoid a particular relation, of what personally I could wish to explain, and now confine myself to a relation, which yourself as a Father, a Husband, an Officer and a man of feeling, must conceive superlatively distressing, to an ingenuous mind.—Twelve months ago I sent in my resignation for the purport of discharging my debts, since which time, I have received no intelligence concerning the fate of my Commission, except that the resignation was come to hand. During this space of time, I have struggled with difficulties, mortifications and hardships, beyond the powers of imagination to conceive; for as my resignation was given in, my subsistence has been denied me, and my sole support, has depended on the generosity of a Merchant of this place, who though I was much indebted to him, has kindly advanced me money from those motives, which my singular situation inspired; this Gentleman has so far exceeded, what I ever could expect, even from an old acquaintance, that I cannot hope, or wish for farther favours from him.—The few trinkets of my poor Wife, the few valuables I had, my very books I disposed of, merely for the purport of purchasing the common necessaries of life; these are exhausted, and to complete my distress the intelligence I received by the May Packet, aggravates my misfortunes, I have now Sir, literally not a shilling to furnish me a days subsistence—har-

haff'd for rent—with a wife—an amiable and accomplished wife, whom I adore—innovent of my past follies, and partly ignorant of my present distresses—whom I have dragged from the domestic comforts of her parents' home, to experience sorrow and vexation, in a strange country.—I have a child, a lovely boy six months old, whose smiles seem to reproach me, for a misconduct that may perhaps embitter all his days—obligated when in the presence of a woman, I love to madness, and by whom I am equally beloved to disguise the anguish of my heart (for you Sir, though not experiencing, must know how hard it is, to render miserable those we love) with a prospect before me, exhibiting nothing but misery; I shrink from the idea of future existence.—Thus environed by distress, one glimmer of hope alone, flatters me with success, and prompts me to apply through you Sir to his Excellency the Governor, and emboldened by this hope, I now venture the application: your kindness with that of his Excellency's may yet save and extricate me, from my present embarrallments; what I solicit, what I venture to ask, is immediate employment, so that I may procure, for my wife and child, if but a bare subsistence, shall be grateful.—I entered into the army with a fervent, and ardent wish of serving my country, and in being useful to Society, by laudable endeavours to become useful to myself; I split on the rock of pleasure and dissipation, the ruin of too many a young soldier, and at the age of five and twenty, friendless and far from home, the prospects of life are disappointment, misery and struggles for support.

To recount to you Sir, the few endowments I possess, and which are owing to the care of a worthy widowed parent, whose attentions heaven knows I have ill requited, might savour too much of self vanity; suffice it to say, I am confident, I could make myself useful, in whatever capacity his Excellency's or your goodness, might generously employ me; nor should assiduous zeal in the employment of these poor abilities be wanting, to prove my gratitude for such saving kindness. It is my earnest wish, to convince my friends and the world, that the follies of youth, are frequently corrected, by the experience of age.—In hopes of being honoured with your answer, and approbation, of my waiting on you, permit me,

Sir, to remain with respect,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

NICHOLAS SOREL.

Lieut. King's own Infantry.

(No. 2.)

Lieut. Colonel Dalton's answer to the above.

SIR,

(Copy)

A feeling mind cannot experience a greater gratification, than that of being able to alleviate the distress of a Fellow creature.—Although I confess myself in some measure ignorant of your unhappy situation, I confess that your elegant and pathetic address to me, has excited that degree of compassion for your sufferings, that must ever actuate a humane breast.—To
flatter

flatter you with success in your application to the Commander in Chief would, from existing circumstances, be a refinement of cruelty, and a Courtier-like policy, which, I am proud to say, is foreign to my heart; To buoy you up with smiling prospects, would be an excess of inhumanity, I therefore am compelled, altho' with extreme reluctance, to avow my utter inability to serve you in the line you point out to me. I speak with that frankness, that one Soldier ought to speak to another, altho' my heart beats high at the anguish of your mind for a worthy wife and helpless infant. Of all these impressions no man under the great canopy of Heaven is more susceptible than General Prescott, but alas! his patronage is circumscribed, and his immediate household remain unprovided for. I shall certainly lay your Memorial before him, altho' I repeat it, I have no hopes of a favourable result, it would give me great satisfaction, should he have it in his power to serve you.—I must beg leave to remark that Colonel Hodgson is shortly expected in town on his way to England, when I shall certainly talk to him about you, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) J. DALTON.

(No. 3.)

Copy of a Letter from Lieut. Col. Hodgson, dated St. John's October 18th, 1796.

SIR,

I am favoured with your Letter of the 12th inst. and acquaint you, the Commanding Officer of a regiment has nothing to do with the subsistence of an officer; Major Story, the Paymaster tells me he has not drawn any pay for you since the 24th August 1795.—I send you the extract of a Letter from General Morrison, "Lieuts. Sorel and Cartwright have sold, and the successions gone in the regiment."

I am Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) J. HODGSON.

(No. 4)

Extract of a Letter from William Fry, Esq. of the Sick and Hurt Office, Somerset Place, London, dated London, 3d August 1796.

"I have just received a Letter from your good Mother: by her desire "I went this morning to Cox & Greenwood to enquire about your not receiving your Subsistence money, they informed me that it is paid by the "Paymaster of the Regiment at Quebec."

(No. 5.)

To Major Story Paymaster of the 4th, or King's own Regiment, in consequence of the above Extract (No. 4.)

Quebec, 3d November, 1796.

SIR,

I have from the period that my resignation was sent in, but once, and that

that was at the moment of my intended departure for England, troubled you concerning my subsistence; the *pleasant* manner in which I was *then* refused it, determined me never more to make the application. Under the extreme pressure of necessity, and persecuted as I am, was I to appeal to the world (which by the bye is my intention) without in the least extenuating, or exaggerating, where calumny had not given birth to prejudice, I must be considered as severely aggrieved. I was informed by you, that my subsistence, from the 4th August 1795, remained with the Agents of the Regiment, of course was confident when I gave Bills on them for that subsistence those Bills were perfectly safe. They have convinced me to the contrary, and that it is to you, as Paymaster of the King's own Regiment, I am to apply for this money, my due. To convince you of which, the following is an extract from a letter a friend sent me by the August packet, dated, London the 3d August, 1796: "I have just received a letter from your good Mother; by her desire I went this morning to Cox and Greenwood, to enquire about your *not* receiving your subsistence money; they informed me, that it is *paid* by the Paymaster of the Regiment at Quebec." In a letter of a later date from my Mother, which was sent by the ships, she therein mentions her having been herself to Cox and Greenwood, and received from them information to the same purport; which I communicated to Lieutenant Colonel Hodgson. I am conscious that regularity in accounts is very necessary; but when *cruelly* accompanies *mercantile* exactness, one officer to another should dispense with these forms. From the Agents information, and your reports, God Almighty knows best what has become of my twelve months subsistence. I have frequently been under the mortifying necessity of placing myself in situations truly distressing to a mind susceptible of feeling, from the want of that which is indubitably my right, and on which I could have comfortably subsisted until the arrangement of my unfortunate affairs. Mr. Shelly (perhaps I am wrong in mentioning a circumstance that may injure him in the eyes of the Regiment, for I believe, to be my friend, is a reprobatory act) with a generosity I have been a stranger to since my misfortunes in the King's own Regiment, extricated me from an unpleasant embarrassment though at an inconvenience to himself, which distress I should not have experienced could I, by any means, have procured my pay. Was I alone the sufferer, I should not have been so passive as I may have appeared to be; but my wife and child are important considerations. I have not a single friend, and my own corps, not content with treating me with unparalleled disrespect, have, with equal generosity, influenced others in garrison; by these methods, where I might have found friends, all hopes are frustrated. It is natural for the injured to complain—I am materially injured—perhaps what increases the poignancy of my feelings, is a comparison I could not help drawing, of my situation in a Regiment where officers studied to make each other happy (and my present one in the King's own); the Regiment I refer to, is the 33d. whose politeness and brotherly attention to me, during the time I remained with them, occasions a regret in reflecting on its short

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short duration: I thought it not improper to acquaint you with what I have heard from Cox and Greenwood, and in so doing, the smart of injury has drawn forth the sentiments of my heart.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
NICHOLAS SOREL,
Lieut. King's own Infantry.

(No. 6.)

Copy of a letter received from Major Story, in answer to mine (No. 5.) of the 3d November, 1796.

Chambly, 8th November, 1796.

SIR,

I received a letter from you, dated 3d November; in it is an extract of a letter, you say, you have received by the August Packet; which extract, as Paymaster to the King's own Regiment, I answer. Extract, "I have just received a letter from your good Mother; by her desire, I went this morning to Cox and Greenwood to enquire about your not receiving your subsistence money; they informed me that it is paid by the Paymaster of the Regiment at Quebec."

Answer to the above.

The first payment, from me to you, was on the 23d February, 1795, after your joining the King's own Regiment. The last, on the 24th June following to the 24th August, 1795. I presume this is the subsistence the Agents allude to. It can be no other. I informed them by letter, the 7th August, 1795, that you had given in your resignation, and that I had paid your subsistence to the 24th August, 1795. They are thoroughly acquainted I have not drawn any subsistence for you since that period, which they must see in every two months accounts of subsistence paid to officers as they have been regularly transmitted to them by me. Your name is not even to much as mentioned in any one account which I have sent them since the 24th August, 1795, therefore they could not suppose I would pay what I had not drawn on them for.

(Signed) JOHN STORY. Capt. & Major, Paymaster
The King's own Infantry.

Mr. Nicholas Sorel, late Lieut.
King's own Infantry.

REMARK.

It is somewhat extraordinary that having explained both to my mother and to Mr. Fry every circumstance relative to my pay, that the Agents on their calling at their office, should not have particularised the subsistence alluded to, and was there any pay of mine in their hands, how happens it they did not mention the causes of its detention? which had they done, either my mother, my friend, or both, would certainly in their letters have made it known to me, nor would any Agent presume to stop an officer's pay on any account, without informing him of it, or without his approbation.

No. 7.

To Lieut. Francis Brooke, King's own Infantry, Montreal.

Quebec, 2d March, 1797.

SIR,

Among the many weaknesses incidental to human nature, of which I am conscious I have my share, that mean one of suspicion is a stranger to my breast; and whatever may be the wrongs sustained by this unsuspecting disposition, I had rather suffer from them, than harbour a thought in my bosom which appeared prejudicial to another. Nothing but a full conviction can convince me a man acts towards me with treachery—that he assumes the smile of friendship, and at the same time is preparing a poison to destroy me. I have for a long time, Brooke, despised insinuations acquaintances have constantly thrown out, whenever I have repeated the obligations by which I considered myself bound in consequence of the unfortunate business I inconsiderately involved you in and have regarded these persons in no better light than busy detractors. Though I was well aware, that numberless cruel reports without any foundation but villainy were abroad; though these reports I found were prejudicial to my honour and character; in vain have I attempted to trace them to their origin, and it was but the other day a strong appearance of your having been the Author of them, determined me to acquaint you of what I trust are but falacious appearances: my opinion though shaken (for I must be candid) still hopes that this declaration will enable us both, to discover the real inventors of the following calumnies.

“ That having persuaded you to endorse two Bills, drawn by me on Cox and Greenwood, these Bills returned protested, in consequence of which I gave in my resignation; but that my flattering you with the payment of the amount of the Bills which you were responsible for, are mere subterfuges; I not having purchased my Commission, therefore, probably may not obtain leave to sell out.

“ That the amount of those Bills was four hundred pounds—*this is Mr. Andersen's information*. That when I requested you to endorse the second, it was by an artifice in making it appear to you that, that Bill (the second) was to cancel the first one, then returned, in the hands of Mr. Osber; and that you remained in this deception until information came from home, that both Bills would not be paid.

“ That my Commission had been mortgaged to a merchant of this place, therefore it was probable you must be the sufferer for your goodness.

“ That in consequence of this conduct, the King's own Regiment treated me with deserved neglect. Are not these vile accusations, sufficient to rouse the most inactive being—Are they not assertions of my being a proper Swindler—O Brooke, if I disturb Heaven and Hell they shall—these villainous detractions must be done away—Am I to be ruined? Is my wife and my helpless boy to suffer through the blasphemous scandal of villainy—Your honor, Brooke, is concerned in this, whatever may be your opinions

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—however you may slight these tales—neither your opinions nor your slights can satisfy or redress my wrongs—I have now discovered the cause of a treatment I have experienced in the garrison, which hitherto was mysterious. You must well remember, Brooke, when I first was informed of that part of this scandal concerning my having deceived you in the endorsement of a second Bill, I called on you at your quarters in Palace street; I then questioned you concerning this report; you knew nothing of it, and I was satisfied it could not have arisen from you—may I receive now the satisfaction in regard to this application. All I have to ask of you, is a question your own honor will suggest, as requisite for you to answer, as for me to make: Do you know any thing concerning the reports herein mentioned? have, or have I not, acted towards you in an honorable and disinterested manner, respecting those unfortunate Bills, and gone as far as I possibly could, to indemnify and secure you. I know well, the inconveniencies they may have occasioned, but I was as innocent as you, and I am the only real sufferer. I must beg of you immediately to answer this letter, for it is an affair of too much consequence, to be trifled with—nor shall it. Excuse this abruptness, and hoping by your means and my own innocence to disperse this black cloud of calumny,

I remain, your ever &c.

NICHOLAS SOREL,
Lieut. King's own Infantry.

(N° 8)

Lieut. Brooke returned my original Letter (No. 7.) with the following answer.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Inclosed I return your letter without making any comment on its contents; when you pay me the money you are indebted to me, I shall answer any questions you put me.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant

FRANs. BROOKE.

(Signed)

Montreal, 6 March, 1797.

I returned Lieut. Brooke the above letter (N° 8) with the following answer at the bottom.

Answer.

Was my HONOUR as safe in your hands, as your money in mine, the questions I made, I should now regard as unnecessary.

SOREL.

(N° 9)

To Lieut. Eyre 26th Regiment; Montreal.

SIR,

That friendship which once existed between us, and which nothing could have interrupted but the villany which has; and which until this moment was to me hidden in the profoundest mystery; begins now to develop itself, and I trust, ere long, to convince the whole world how much I have been injured

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by the most unprecedented and villainous specie of calumny. As I am no stranger to your feelings, I know well you will rejoice at the exculpation of a friend from the horrors of suspicion. I therefore venture to address myself to you, as I have been informed, these are the credited reports concerning my conduct with Lieutenant Brooke.

“ That having persuaded Lieut. Brooke to endorse two Bills, I drew on Cox & Greenwood, these two Bills were returned protested, in consequence of which I gave in my resignation (so far is partly true, what follows is false) “ but that my flattering Lieut. Brooke with the payment of the amount of those Bills, for which he had become responsible, are mere subterfuges, not having purchased my Commission, therefore had no chance of selling it.

“ That the amount of those Bills was Four hundred Pounds (it was originally Two hundred, damages, &c. have encreased their amount to Two hundred and fifty or sixty.)

“ That when I requested Lieut Brooke to indorse a second, I made use of an artifice, making it appear to him that, that Bill (the second) was intended to cancel the first, then returned in the hands of Mr. Odber, and that he remained thus deceived, until information arrived from home that both Bills would not be paid.

“ That I had mortgaged my Commission to a Merchant of this place, therefore it was probable Mr. Brooke would suffer for his friendship.

“ That in consequence of this conduct, the King's own Regiment treated me with neglect.”

I can assure you, on my most sacred honour, these are the most cruel and notorious falsehoods the villainy of man could invent, for no other purpose but the ruin of another's character. And I must beg of you to inform the person or persons who first diffused this calumny in your Regiment, that I say, if they are the original propagators of these reports—they are rascals, rascals, and if Officers, too notorious even for the commonest employments in society.—O Mr. Eyre, what has my poor wife suffered in perceiving me treated with contempt!—What have I suffered in being under the stigma of vile suspicion.—I am sure you will, with pleasure, endeavour to extricate a character you once, I flatter myself, esteemed as worthy friendship. I require it of you even as a duty one Soldier owes another. Who was the person that acquainted your Regiment with any tales injurious to me; or were they differing from those I have explained? Relying on our former friendship, which I now have hopes of seeing renewed, believe me, sincerely, Dear Sir, your Most obedient, &c. &c.

NICHs. SOREL, Lieut. King's own Infantry.

(N^o 10)

From Capt. Eyre 26th Regt. in answer to the above (N^o 9)

(Copy)

Montreal, March 5, 1797.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and as you require an answer, I take the earliest opportunity of complying with your request.

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In reply to your question; who is the person who spread reports concerning yourself, injurious to your character as a gentleman, &c. I assure you I am ignorant of the matter. Whatever I have heard respecting your concerns with Lieut. Brooke, has been a common topic of conversation, and not the information of any particular person. I remain Sir, with respect to Mrs. Sorel,

Your humble Servt.

(Signed) E. EYRE, Capt. 26 Regt.

To Capt. Eyre 26th Regt. in answer to his letter, (N^o 10)

SIR,

I return you thanks for your polite attention in answering my letter by return of Post. I wish to God I could trace to its source; the rise of the most diabolical falsehoods the villainy of man could invent; they must have originated some where or other; I do not doubt your ignorance, for I am confident you would be above screening any *rascal* who wilfully and maliciously traduced the character of a brother Officer. As to my concerns with Lieut. Brooke being a common topic of conversation, the poor people who are so miserably barren of other subjects to make that one, if they adhere to the truth, must soon exhaust their fund of information, when it is all comprised in these few words, "That Lieut. Brooke indorsed Lieut. Sorel two Bills of a hundred pounds each, that these two Bills unfortunately for both parties, were returned under protest, and that Lieut. Sorel gave Lieut. Brooke ample security for their amount, with damages, and that whoever denies these facts has been grossly mis-informed," as Lieut. Brooke as an officer and a gentleman I doubt not joins me in affirming. I therefore repeat, whatever additions detraction may add or blend with the above are errant lies, and hope the common topics of conversation will now flow in another channel. Excuse my having directed to Lieut. Eyre, I assure you I was ignorant of your promotion, and heartily congratulate you on it. Mrs. S— desires her compts. and rest assured when clear of this unpleasant and distressing business, I shall be happy to resume an acquaintance I ever esteemed.

I am Sir, your most obedient and humble Servant,

NICH: SOREL.

Quebec, 9th March, 1797.

Lieut. King's own Infantry.

FINIS.

