A

# CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

## *Richard Wilson, Esq.*

A Magistrate for the County of Tyrone, and late a Member of the British Parliament;

THE

## *Rt. Hon. William Elliot,*

Principal Secretary to His Grace the Duke of Bedford,

AND THE

## *Rt. Hon. George Ponsonby,*

Lord High Chancellor of Ireland:

Relative to the Persecutions of the ROMAN CATHOLICS in his district, by a certain description of ORANGEMEN, and the manner in which the Laws are administred, with regard to the former class of People; with a short Introduction, in which allusions are made to former communications and conversations which Mr. WILSON had with Mr. WINDHAM, LORD ELDON, Mr. WICKHAM, and SIR EVAN NEPEAN, upon the above mentioned subjects.

"Invitus eā vulnera attingo, sed nisi tacta tractaque sanari non possunt."

*Dublin:*

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1806.

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# INTRODUCTION.

IN the following pages, I truſt it will appear that my object *was*, and *is*, rather to ſtop the progreſs of oppreſſion (which I felt perſuaded, if not timely checked, could not fail of being attended with moſt calamitous conſequences,) than to introduce my name to public notice and animadverſion: —if this could have been effected by my private communications and repreſentations to people in Power, I ſhould have deemed my preſent addreſs equally unneceſſary and obtruſive; for I can truly ſay, that the neareſt object of my wiſhes was, to remain unnoticed in my retirement: but failing in my views, I conceived I ſhould deſert the public duty, I have in my humble walk of life, endeavour-



Houses of the Oireachtas

ed to fulfil, if I did not purſue, the only means left me to obtain, not the *nominal*, but the *actual* and *deciſive* interference of government; by endeavouring to engage the public in uniting its efforts with mine, towards attaining this truly deſirable, and neceſſary end.

In the correſpondencies and ſtatements of facts, I am about laying before the public, I am to hope it will appear, that I have not over-rated the neceſſity of government's adopting meaſures, very different from thoſe it has hitherto purſued, with regard to the claſs of people, whoſe grievances have long been the cauſes of my ſolicitude and exertion,—I mean the Roman Catholics.—I am aware that I ſubject myſelf to the reſentment and invective of all thoſe who may conſider themſelves glanced at, by my obſervations, Upon this head I feel perfectly at eaſe, for I can with honeſt pride, challenge the production *of a ſingle inſtance in my political life, of a factious or intereſted nature!* Thus much I hope, I ſhall ſtand excuſed for aſſerting, without ſubjecting myſelf to a charge of diſguſting egotiſm, being only anxious that the public ſhould not withhold from me a portion of its confidence, under a perſuaſion that, *I was actuated by motives ſimilar to thoſe which have fatally governed the apoſtate patriot of the day*, who in his

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progreſs to popularity, *deals out* profeſſions which are not only caſt into oblivion, when that popularity has attained for him his object, but, what is ſtill more profligate, diametrically acted againſt!

Before I ſubmit to the public my correſpondence with the preſent Iriſh government, I ſhall take a ſlight review of what paſſed between me and the late one, ſtating the cauſes which led to it—I am to premiſe that previous to my reſidence in Ireland, (ſomewhat more than three years ſince,) I had frequent converſations with Mr. Windham, (a gentleman whom I felt a pride and boaſt in conſidering myſelf as poſſeſſing no inconſiderable ſhare of his attachment and regard,) upon the ſubject of the Catholic claims, perſecutions, &c. &c. In my laſt viſit to England, I converſed with Lord Eldon (the then Chancellor,) upon the ſame ſubjects, his Lordſhip expreſſed his wiſh to me in our laſt (accidental) meeting, that I ſhould "upon my return to Ire-"land, communicate my ſentiments to his Lord-"ſhip upon the ſtate of that country." This I promiſed and performed,—his Lordſhip being one of my oldeſt acquaintances, for whom I had a perſonal, though not a political eſteem,—what my noble friend thought of my repreſentations, I confeſs I never learned,—I merely advert to my communi-

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cations with his Lordſhip and Mr. Windham, to ſhew that the affairs of Ireland have occupied my attention, long before I had an intercourſe either with the late or preſent Iriſh adminiſtration. I ſhall now proceed with my detail.—Soon after I had ſettled in Ireland, fifteen hundred young Roman Catholics, inhabitants of the pariſh I reſided in, offered through me their ſervices to government, " to be employed " in any part of Europe, *provided I was placed at* " *their head.*" This addreſs I conveyed to the then Iriſh Secretary, Mr. Wickham—in my interview with that gentleman, our converſation being of a confidential nature I do not feel myſelf juſtified in giving it publicity,—the anſwer however he *wiſhed me to convey* to the addreſſers, was to the following purport, viz. " that government had already received " from other bodies of the Roman Catholics, many " ſimilar offers, but that as no deciſion had yet been " made upon theſe previous ones, it could not ac- " cept of this preſent one, and therefore could " only thank the Roman Catholic inhabitants of " Clanfecle for their loyal offers of ſervice, &c."

Some time after this, Mr. Wickham was replaced by Sir Evan Nepean, with that gentleman I was well acquainted and called upon him in conſequence of the following circumſtance. A poor diminutive Roman

man Catholic taylor, ſaw a huge Orangeman unmercifully beating an acquaintance of his who appeared unable to reſiſt him, he implored the Orangeman " to " ſpare his friend," this *outrageous provocation* was puniſhed by inſtantly attacking the little unarmed taylor, whoſe ſkull was ſoon fractured and he carried off without any proſpect of his outliving the night ! Indeed it would have been happy for the poor wretch if he died, as he now lives, or rather exiſts in a ſtate nearly approaching to idiotiſm ! A few days after this, (and during the time the ſurgeon who attended the poor man had no hopes of his recovery,) his ſavage aſſailant was ſeized *in my preſence as a murderer !* Whilſt I ſent to enquire into the ſtate of the taylor's health, I committed his ſuppoſed murderer to the charge of a conſtable, who whilſt he was conveying him to a place of ſafety, *was attacked by two Orangemen in military dreſs, who drawing their ſwords and preſenting a piſtol at his breaſt, ſwore " they would put " it into his heart if he did not deliver up his priſoner !"* The conſtable was obliged to yield him to them, and he was carried off in triumph ! I applied to the then Commanding Officer of the Benburb cavalry to aſſiſt me with a party to ſeize theſe fellows, he anſwered me, that " he was ſure none of the Yeomen " would ſtir as they were not upon permanent duty." I do not think however he made the experiment,

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the truth is, *he knew* there was a more forcible reaſon than " their not being upon permanent duty." What that reaſon was the reader may gueſs, when I inform him that the Benburb cavalry are to a man, I believe, Orangemen!

When I related this buſineſs to my friend Sir Evan Nepean, he appeared both ſhocked and irritated; he, after mentioning many acts of tyranny, *within his own knowledge*, exerciſed by the Orangemen againſt the Roman Catholics, declared " *his* " *determination that nothing on his part ſhould be left un-* " *tried to bring theſe villains to puniſhment :*" he deſired me " on my return to the country, to tranſmit to " him the neceſſary documents with the depoſition " of the conſtable, &c. &c. in order that he might be " enabled to carry into execution his and my wiſhes." I did ſo,—but although I wrote to my Rt. Hon. friend, three official, and as many private letters, from that day to this (the 12th of December 1806.) I never heard one ſyllable from him upon the ſubject, nor was ever a ſingle ſtep taken to puniſh the aggreſſor or his reſcuers! Here ends my intercourſe with the late Iriſh adminiſtration. I ſhall now proceed to my correſpondence with the preſent one,—I muſt however juſt obſerve by the bye, that, *at this very moment*, a man of reſpectable rank in life, is

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aſſiſted by *two* magiſtrates, (one of them bred an attorney,) in oppoſing my execution of a law, which he himſelf *abſolutely inſiſted* upon my puniſhing in poor people who violated it through ignorance, and the *ſupine conduct* of the acting magiſtrate of the diſtrict! *one of the above mentioned two!* My correſpondence with Mr. Elliot the chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, was grounded on the ſtatement contained in the following letter from the Rev. Dr. Conwell, the Roman Catholic clergyman of the pariſhes of Dungannon and Killynan.

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# *CORRESPONDENCE,*

## &c.

RICHARD WILSON, ESQ. OWNA-LODGE.

DEAR SIR, *Dungannon, April 11th*, 1806.

CONSTANTINE O'NEIL, the bearer, is an honeſt induſtrious man, that has often ſuffered great injury, but has been totally ruined within this week paſt. It was heretofore uſeleſs for him to make application for redreſs, for Government was conſidered as encouraging theſe proceedings for political purpoſes, which was evidently the caſe.—But from the great providential change that has happened lately, and from the conſideration that no wiſe policy can direct the adoption or encouragement of ſuch a meaſure at preſent, I now begin to think that the men, who have been ruining this country by fire and ſword theſe ten years, would now experience a check. This poor man is a Hatter by trade, and lived by his honeſt



House of the Oireachtas

earnings, and was every way independent, for he was out of debt, and had ſaved ſome money. But on laſt Saturday night, which was the meeting night of an Orange Lodge, this banditti, who are generally Yeomen, and armed, came to his houſe when he and his family were in bed, and ſetting fire to the houſe, which was a thatched cabin, burned it and all his property to aſhes, except what was carried upon their backs: they fired ſeveral times at himſelf and wife, who both providentially eſcaped with their lives, which are all that now remain to them, for their wearing apparel was alſo deſtroyed.

I requeſt you will be ſo obliging and charitable as to give him inſtructions how to be redreſſed. The Magiſtrates, I know, ought to be applied to in the firſt inſtance; but this meaſure will be unavailing, for the Magiſtrates abetted theſe proceedings from the beginning, and this man lives in the County of Armagh, and accordingly not within the limits of your juriſdiction as a Magiſtrate; hence your charitable advice is all that is wanted, which I am convinced you will not refuſe to give. His ſituation in life is too humble for his addreſs to government to be attended to with effect, when the men againſt whom his charges would be directed are of ſome importance as having authority, " *and there is no good to be expect-*
" *ed from applying to any Magiſtrate except yourſelf in*
" *ſuch*

"*ſuch a caſe as this.*" I have the honour to be, with ſentiments of eſteem and reſpect,

Dear Sir,

Your moſt obedient Servant,

HENRY CONWELL."

As ſoon as I learned that O'Neil himſelf was the bearer of this letter, I ſent for him, and queſtioned him very minutely as to the particulars of the outrage committed againſt him; his detail was ſo ſimple and affecting, that I had no heſitation in promiſing to lend my aſſiſtance towards *prevailing* upon ſome Armagh Magiſtrate, to take his Examinations, he having moſt ſolemnly aſſured me, that he durſt not apply to any of them, leſt his application might come to the ears of the Yeomen and Orangemen, which would be attended with the certain loſs of his life! He added, that "he was perſuaded there was not any Armagh Magiſtrate, who *would* take his depoſition." Of the truth of this, though I, at the time, had conſiderable doubt, I have *ſince* had good ground to be convinced. For the purpoſe above mentioned, I appointed O'Neil to meet me in Armagh upon a given day—When I arrived there, I met, as I then thought very *luckily*, with a Mr. Lawſon, whom I knew juſt enough of to ſtate O'Neil's caſe and ſituation to, for the purpoſe of inducing him to take his Examinations,

&c.

&c. This gentleman, though he lived very near to O'Neil's late reſidence, and though ten days had elapſed ſince the burning of the houſe, yet he declared himſelf " totally ignorant of the matter !" however, ſeeing a man who lived more immediately in O'Neil's neighbourhood, he applied to him for further information,—this man confirmed my ſtatement.—Mr. Lawſon appeared much aſtoniſhed, and adviſed, " *as the moſt efficacious mode for O'Neil to* " *proceed*, to apply at once to the aſſiſtant barriſter, " who was then holding the Seſſions, as he was " aſſured *he* would take *inſtantaneous* means to lay " hold of the incendiaries," &c. &c. This advice appeared to me ſo proper, that I deſired O'Neil to avail himſelf of it, and prepare his Depoſition for the inſpection of the barriſter;—this the poor man immediately ſet about, but unfortunately before he could get the Depoſition written out, the barriſter had left the Court.—This expedient failing, I myſelf ſpoke to a reſident Magiſtrate in Armagh, (underſtanding that Mr. Lawſon had left the town) to take O'Neil's Examinations; his reply to me I confeſs I do not exactly recollect, however I did not conſider it as altogether a rejection; I therefore ſent O'Neil to him, *but he was turned out of doors*, and, by his Clerk, *threatened to be kicked if he did not ſet off*. I muſt juſt here remark, that this very Magiſtrate confeſſed *afterwards* to Mr. Serjeant Moore and myſelf, that, " tho' O'Neil's conduct " had been *extremely impertinent*, yet had it been " otherwiſe, he could not take Examinations againſt

" his

" his particular friends, the Meſſrs. Verners!!!" With this latter gentleman I have done, but I am to requeſt the reader to keep Mr. Lawſon in his memory,—as I ſhall have occaſion to mention that worthy magiſtrate hereafter.

Unſucceſsful in my endeavours to get this unfortunate O'Neil's complaints attended to in the uſual and regular courſe of Juſtice, I did not heſitate to comply with his prayer, " to tranſmit his memorial to government," and encloſed it in the following letter to the Lord Lieutenant's Secretary, Mr. Elliot :

THE RT. HON. WM. ELLIOT, &c.

SIR, *Owna Lodge, April 30th*, 1806.

Though it would be intruding too much upon your time, to detail all the reaſons which have led me to trouble you with a letter, (even if a letter could ſatisfactorily explain them,) yet in the courſe of the one I have the honor now of addreſſing to you, a ſufficiency I truſt will appear, to exonerate me from a charge of impertinent officiouſneſs. — I have taken great pains to ſatisfy myſelf as to the truth of what is ſtated in the encloſed papers, and from a thorough enquiry into the character of the unfortunate ſubject of them, I learn that his *only crime* is that of being a Roman Catholic! a crime which, in the minds of certain men, makes him undeſerving of the protection of the laws! It is with great concern I feel myſelf warranted to declare

clare, that where an Orangeman and a Roman Catholic are concerned, a moſt diſgraceful partiality in favor of the former governs the proceedings of nine in ten of the magiſtrates in the part of the kingdom I reſide in— the numerous and affecting inſtances I met with of this on my arrival in Ireland, (with the earneſt entreaties of the people in my neighbourhood,) induced me to take out a commiſſion of the peace; which (from the part I took) has ſubjected me to great perſonal fatigue, expenſe, and obloquy-— I have, however, the grateful ſatisfaction of knowing that I have often prevented tyranny and oppreſſion, and, to a certain degree, tranquillized a diſtrict, which formerly had contained a neſt of villains, who harraſſed and pillaged the poor without reſtraint or oppoſition! My endeavours to this end obtained for me a degree of confidence with the Roman Catholics, and knowledge of their characters, which I had flattered myſelf would have yeilded ſomething more ſolid than mere local advantages; and, with this view, I had frequent communications perſonally and by letter with your (and as I once thought *my*) friend Windham,— but from what he ſaid to me in his laſt letter, I find he is too much taken up with the duties of his preſent office, to attend to any thing which does not immediately relate to it.—As he was the only perſon in a miniſterial ſituation with whom I had a particular intimacy, and he not appearing to ſet the value upon my communications which I conceived their importance merited, I had determined whilſt I remained

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in Ireland, to confine myſelf to private efforts towards ameliorating the condition of an oppreſſed, inſulted, *deceived*, and baſely miſrepreſented people! nothing could have induced me to depart from this determination, but a *conviction* that juſtice in its *common courſe* could not be obtained by O'Neil. — I broke through my reſolution with the more reluctance, as I had once occaſion to treat with ſome ſeverity the father of two of the alleged aggreſſors, on account of his attempting to prevent the operation of a law, (merely becauſe an Orangeman was the delinquent,) which materially affected the public revenue, as well as the morals of the people.

Although I have not the honor of a perſonal acquaintance with the Duke of Bedford, yet I have ſufficient knowledge of his Grace's private character, to be aſſured that it is in the moſt extenſive ſenſe aimable and reſpectable, yet, Sir, from what I know to be the prevailing ſentiment of the Iriſh gentry, (in this part of the kingdom particularly) with regard to the Roman Catholics, and alſo the views of a certain deſcription of men, who ſomehow or other retain an influence about the Caſtle, I have ſtrong apprehenſions that his Grace's benignant intentions (though aided by your perſpicuity and knowledge of the Iriſh people,) will not have that compoſing and ſalutary effect, which, I firmly believe, his Grace and you have moſt warmly at heart.

I cannot conclude this letter, without broadly and diſtinctly declaring, that, if the ſyſtem with

reſpect to the Roman Catholics is not *materially* altered, and that if the Iriſh gentlemen (the Magiſtrates particularly) do not adopt a very conciliatory conduct towards them, there cannot exiſt a hope of cordially attaching them to the government; and ſure I am, if they were properly and humanely treated, their hands and hearts would unite to ſupport Britiſh independence.— I ſpeak not unadviſedly— though I have lived but a ſhort time amongſt the Iriſh, I have had great opportunities of ſtudying their character, and, as far as my capacity enabled me, with ſome advantage.

I am to hope, Sir, you will have the goodneſs to acquaint his Grace the Lord Lieutenant with the main object of this letter, and do me the honor of informing me of his Grace's ſentiments upon it;—although a journey at this moment would be attended with ſome inconvenience, yet, if his Grace ſhould think that a perſonal converſation (to explain what I confeſs I could not do by letter,) could forward his benevolent and patriotic objects in this kingdom, I will do myſelf the honor of obeying his Grace's commands, as ſoon as you are pleaſed to favor me with them.—I muſt here expreſs my confidence in your candour and liberality, that they will not apply any *other* than the avowed motive to this propoſition.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

To this letter I received the following Anſwer :

RICHARD WILSON, ESQ. OWNA-LODGE.

SIR, *Dublin Caſtle, May 5th*, 1806.

I did not fail to take the earlieſt opportunity of laying before the Lord Lieutenant your letter of the 30th of April, together with its encloſures, and I have received his Grace's commands to inform you, that his Grace has inſtructed Mr. Serjeant Moore, one of the law officers of the crown, to repair without delay to the County of Armagh, for the purpoſe of inveſtigating fully the circumſtances ſtated in O'Neil's Depoſition, and to make a ſpecial report upon the ſubject for his Grace's information.

I cannot conclude without making my acknowledgements for your communication, and I flatter myſelf that the arrangement which his Grace has adopted will ſave you the trouble of a journey to Dublin.

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

WILLIAM ELLIOT.

Within a few days after the receipt of this letter, Mr. Serjeant Moore, accompanied by Mr.

 Hamilton,

Houses of the Oireachtas

Hamilton, Solicitor for the crown, arrived at my houſe.—I confeſs I felt much gratified at finding an old acquaintance in the former of theſe gentlemen; as I conceived I ſhould thereby communicate my thoughts upon the ſtate of the country, &c. &c. with more openneſs, freedom, and effect, than with an entire ſtranger. Our two firſt interviews confirmed me in this opinion—our ſentiments were in complete uniſon, as to the ſtate of the Magiſtracy, and the treatment of the Roman Catholics by the Orange people—latterly we unfortunately differed —the reader will preſently ſee *how* the "*difference*" came to exiſt—he may form his own conjectures—I ſhall ſimply detail facts, and proceed in my relation of them. Mr. Serjeant Moore began the converſation after we had taken our ſeats, by informing me, that "he had waited upon me by order of Go-"vernment, to enter into the various ſubjects of "which my letter to Mr. Elliot related—that it was "extremely inconvenient for him juſt then to leave "Dublin, as the courts were ſitting, and he was "obliged to give his briefs to a friend to act for "him during his abſence, which could not fail "of being attended with conſiderable loſs to him; "but, *notwithſtanding, he did not mean to hurry me* "*—that he was entirely at my diſpoſal, and muſt wait* "*my leiſure, as he had the commands of the Lord* "*Lieutenant fully to inveſtigate the whole of the ſub-*"*jects contained in my letter to Mr. Elliot.*"

I endeavoured to prevail upon Mr. Serjeant Moore to remain at my houſe, "on account of its conti-

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" guity to the places where many atrocities had " been committed, and where many of the perſons " reſided, who could give evidence of their having " taken place." Mr. Serjeant Moore however, upon a point of delicacy, (as I afterwards found,) refuſed my invitation, and we ſettled that I ſhould attend him in Armagh the ſucceeding day, and give notice to Dr. Conwell and O'Neil to meet us. During the time Mr. Serjeant Moore remained with me, I informed him, at his requeſt, of ſuch matters as at the time occurred to me, which related to the conduct of the Orangemen towards the Roman Catholics, and alſo of the *inaccuracy* of ſome of the Magiſtrates in the diſcharge of their duty. Mr. Serjeant Moore and his friend Mr. Hamilton expreſſed " their indignation and regret, that ſuch " proceedings could have paſſed unpuniſhed,—that " as to the conduct of the Magiſtrates it was infi- " nitely worſe, *inaccurate as I had ſtated it here*, in " almoſt all other parts of the kingdom, &c. &c." Soon after Mr. Serjeant Moore took his leave, requeſting me " to employ myſelf in the courſe of the " evening in making minutes of the facts I wiſhed " to have communicated to government, in order " that Mr. Hamilton might take them down when " we met in Armagh on the ſucceeding morning," —this of courſe I promiſed and fulfilled.—I muſt do Mr. Serjeant Moore the juſtice to acknowledge, that, in his examination of O'Neil and his wife, (in mine and Doctor Conwell's preſence the next day,) he evinced the ſtrongeſt diſpoſition to inveſtigate their charges—he obtained from me then my panegyric,

gyric, and afterwards in my letter to Mr. Elliot; although an unfortunate difference in opinion, upon a point I preſumed to think of conſiderable moment, unhappily occurred;—but to proceed—having finiſhed the examination of O'Neil and his wife, Mr. Serjeant Moore thought it adviſeable to proceed to O'Neil's late reſidence, in order to examine the perſons to whom O'Neil referred him,—there was not time therefore for Mr. Hamilton to commit to writing the ſubſtance of my minutes, and Mr. Serjeant Moore requeſted me to "return home, and "*continue to refreſh my memory with as many more* "*circumſtances as poſſible, and meet him the next morn-* "*ing in Armagh, when the whole of the day after* "*Church*, (this was Saturday) *ſhould be devoted to my* "*details.*" I punctually obeyed Mr. Serjeant Moore's directions.—When I came to Armagh on the ſucceeding day, Mr. Serjeant Moore had not returned, it was my buſineſs to wait for him,—about three o'Clock he arrived, it was then too late to do much buſineſs—a little however might be gone through before dinner, and ſo I obſerved to Mr. Serjeant Moore,—the reader may eaſily conceive my aſtoniſhment at Mr. Serjeant Moore's reply, it was to this effect,—"that I had already told him enough, that "it was not neceſſary to give myſelf any more "trouble, that he meant to talk with O'Neil and "his wife the next morning, immediately after which "he propoſed returning to Dublin, adding that he "would not require me to ſtay any longer from "home, &c. &c. ! ! !" Petrified as I was at this moſt extraordinary determination, after Mr. Serjeant Moore's

Moore's repeated declarations, that " *it was by the* " *command of the Lord Lieutenant that he ſhould at-* " *tend upon my leiſure, and make himſelf maſter of all the* " *circumſtances to which my letter to Mr. Elliot related,* " that I ſhould employ myſelf in making minutes " for Mr. Hamilton to commit to writing, &c. " &c." Petrified I ſay, as I was at this moſt wonderful change in Mr. Serjeant Moore's meaſures, yet I was determined not to avail myſelf of his polite wiſh to accommodate me, and determined if poſſible, to find out the *cauſe* of this revolution in the learned Serjeant's mind, and alſo, of what paſſed in his late excurſion. An opportunity did not occur till the next morning,—at breakfaſt I began my enquiries ; I confeſs I found great coſtiveneſs in my learned friend, I drew out of him however the following account of his proceedings,—that " *on his* " *arrival at the place appointed, he ſent for the elder* " *Mr. Verner, (this he conceived in point of delicacy* " *was due to him) that as he did not know how to get* " *at the evidences he wiſhed to examine, Mr. Verner* " *expreſſed his readineſs to ſend his ſons, (the two perſons* " *ſtated by O'Neil as heading the incendiaries,) to bring* " *forward the people whom O'Neil pointed out as able to* " *corroborate his depoſition—that the evidences were* " *brought forward by the young Mr. Verners, but that* " *he could not get any thing out of them, (after the* " *moſt ſtrict examination,) which could tend towards* " *the crimination of theſe gentlemen ; that the houſe cer-* " *tainly was burned, but that the incendiaries could not* " *be identified ; that it was true the two young Mr.* " *Verners were there, but only as ſpectators after the*

" *houſe*

" *houſe was deſtroyed; but that nothing appeared to juſti-*
" *fy an opinion that either of theſe gentlemen were con-*
" *cerned in the outrage !!!*" I could not reſiſt obſerving upon this ſingular (as it appeared to me) conduct of Mr. Serjeant Moore, that he took the moſt out-of-the-way mode I ever heard of to probe to the bottom a moſt flagitious tranſaction, " to conſult with the father of the ſuppoſed offenders, and employ the offenders themſelves to collect evidence to bring them to the gallows." Mr. Serjeant Moore appeared hurt at my obſervation, and aſked me " if I would not have him acquaint the gentle-
" men with the foul charge made againſt them." I replied, " certainly, ſo as to give them an oppor-
" tunity of vindicating themſelves, but not of de-
" feating juſtice." I took leave to add, " that if
" he left the country with this ſort of inveſtiga-
" tion, it would have been much better if govern-
" ment had not paid any attention to my commu-
" nications." This opinion was more pointedly expreſſed by Dr. Conwell, who came into the room ſoon afterwards; he ſaid, and in my mind very juſtly, that " if Mr. Serjeant Moore left matters as they
" were, it was a moſt unfortunate thing he had en-
" tered upon the buſineſs at all, for his viſit could
" not fail of being attended with very beneficial or
" very injurious conſequences." Mr. Serjeant Moore appeared highly irritated at this *reflection*, as he termed it, and aſked Dr. Conwell, " did he want him to
" thruſt the two Mr. Verners into goal? if he did,
" he certainly was miſtaken, but that he ſuppoſed
" was the *only thing* could ſatisfy him." To this Dr. Conwell

Conwell modeſtly replied, " that he by no means " wiſhed for any thing but for ſuch an inveſtigation " as might be the means of permitting his poor " people(his pariſhioners) to live in peace,—that it " was well known that the inhabitants in Mr. Ver- " ner's neighbourhood ſtood in ſuch dread of that " gentleman and his Yeomen, and his Orangemen, " that they would not dare to ſtate any thing " which could affect him or his party." Whether or not Dr. Conwell's obſervations and mine influenced him, it ſo happened Mr. Serjeant Moore poſtponed his return to Dublin till the next day, and took with him an Armagh Magiſtrate to re-examine the people in O'Neil's neighbourhood,—what paſſed at that ſecond examination I never learned;—indeed ſo completely altered was Mr. Serjeant Moore's conduct, after his interview with Mr. Verner, that he would not ſuffer me to be preſent at his ſecond examination of O'Neil and his wife:—Why this " wonderful alteration" the learned Serjeant can beſt explain. I cannot quit this part of the ſubject, without declaring that I do not mean to charge Mr. Serjeant Moore with any intentional dereliction of his duty, (as perhaps from what I have ſaid, ſome perſons might be led to infer,) my real opinion is, that from the unhappy ſtate of mind he perceived Mr. Verner to be in, on account of ſo infamous a charge made againſt his ſons, he was induced to bend rather too much to what he wiſhed to believe, and therefore did not purſue his enquiry with neceſſary ſtrictneſs:—but I confeſs I am a little puzzled about his abrupt ſeparation from me, without his poſſeſſ-

ing that information which he had aſſured me, "he "had the Lord Lieutenant's commands to wait my "leiſure to obtain." If Mr. Verner did not influence this departure from the Lord Lieutenant's commiſſion, I cannot any other way account for it, but by ſuppoſing that he was afraid I ſhould prove more than government wiſhed to know; indeed the conduct of government afterwards towards me well warrants this ſuſpicion—but of that the reader will preſently be able to form a judgment.

In conſequence of what latterly paſſed between Mr. Serjeant Moore and me, I deemed it neceſſary to acquaint government with my reaſons for diſſenting from him on a material part of his miſſion—preparatory to which, I wrote the following letter to Mr. Elliot immediately upon my parting with Mr. Serjeant Moore:

RT. HON. WM. ELLIOT.

SIR, *Owna Lodge, May 12th,* 1806.

The immediate attention which his Grace the Lord Lieutenant has been pleaſed to honor the communications I made through you to his Grace, cannot I truſt, fail of being attended with important and beneficial conſequences.

Mr. Serjeant Moore has taken unwearied pains to get at the bottom of O'Neil's buſineſs, and I feel peculiarly happy in being able to ſtate, that there has

has been a perfect uniſon in our ſentiments in all the matters to which my letter related, *with only one exception, as to the mode of getting at ſome of the evidence.* I have ſo high an opinion of that gentleman's judgment, that I dare hardly venture to ſuppoſe him in an error, as to the point I allude to, however I may have reaſon to have ſome confidence of my own, matured as it is by attentive conſideration, and much local knowledge of the ſubject. Serjeant Moore continuing a day longer in the country, (though he had fixed on his return to Dublin this evening,) for the purpoſe of obtaining further information, will, I hope, do away my fears:—ſhould, however, my wiſhes be diſappointed, I ſhall feel it my duty to requeſt a perſonal converſation with you, in order to rectify what with great heſitation and doubt of myſelf, I dared to denominate "an error."

I cannot, Sir, conclude this haſty letter, without expreſſing my obligation for your polite and prompt acquieſcence with my requeſt, "to ſubmit "to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant's conſideration, "the objects of my former one."

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

A violent cold I caught by lying in a damp bed, when in attendance upon Mr. Serjeant Moore in Armagh,

Armagh, prevented my leaving home for I believe a fortnight after this letter was written; however, as ſoon as I was able to travel I waited upon Mr. Elliot (by appointment,) and found with him a gentleman, to whom he introduced me as the Lord Chancellor. I confeſs I feel much difficulty in recounting what paſſed in this interview,—on the part of the two gentlemen, great ſtate, form, and ceremony; on mine, very little of any thing but matter-of-fact buſineſs. The commencement of the converſation fell upon me,—I began with expreſſing my regret "at the unfortunate difference of opinion "which latterly ſubſiſted between Serjeant Moore "and me, and which ſubſequent conſideration and "enquiry had not at all removed,"—I was here ſtopped ſhort by the learned Lord, who earneſtly declared, that "Mr. Serjeant Moore's conduct, "in his journey to the North, met with the moſt "*unqualified approbation* of Government." This declaration, without hearing what I had to urge as the ground of my diſſenting from the learned gentleman, opened my eyes completely,—conviction inſtantaneouſly flaſhed on my mind, that Government's attending to my communications was to *amuſe*, not to *inveſtigate*; and that if it *ever ſhould* feel it *indiſpenſable* to attend to the ſubjects I had wiſhed to have ſtrictly examined into, it would take care that the credit attending the ſcrutiny ſhould attach *only* to itſelf,—how far the reader may conſider me juſtified in this opinion, he will be able to form a tolerably accurate judgment, when he has laboured through my remaining correſpondence with

with the Chancellor and Mr. Elliot. I could not however quit theſe great men without remarking, that " it was a very novel ſort of mode of inveſti-" gating a moſt flagitious crime, by applying to " the parties accuſed to *collect evidences* to convict " themſelves." To this the Chancellor replied with encreaſed energy, " that Mr. Serjeant Moore's con-" duct entitled him, and poſſeſſed the warmeſt ap-" probation of government !" All I ſhall add further on that head is, that *I do not envy him.* I made a few obſervations on the ſtate of the Magiſtracy in my part of the country, which, to do the learned Lord juſtice, he did not entirely diſſent from. He aſked, how I ſhould propoſe to remedy the evil ? I replied, " his Lordſhip muſt be the beſt judge as to " that ; it appeared to me, however, that the only " effectual mode would be, by iſſuing a general new " commiſſion,—this would not give any partial of-" fence ; and care afterwards ſhould be taken not " to permit any improper perſons into it." To this remark his Lordſhip replied by a ſmile, but whether of approbation or diſapprobation I was *then*, as I am *ſtill*, ignorant and indifferent—I made a few further obſervations, but as I have already adverted to them in the introduction, I will not trouble the reader with a repetition,—I now took my leave of theſe great men, with ſomething very like a determination never more to trouble them : I was however obliged (for reaſons which the reader will perceive were not without force) to alter it.

Soon

Soon after my return to the country, I received two or three letters from Mr. Hamilton (the gentleman who attended Mr. Serjeant Moore,)—as theſe letters merely related to the intention of Government proſecuting O'Neil's charges, and incloſing to me ſubpœnas for that purpoſe, I ſhall wave further alluſion to them;—the cauſe of reviving my correſpondence with Government aroſe from an application made to me, by certain Yeomen and Orangemen, on account of a diſpute they had with their officers on the ſubject of pay which had been withheld from them, and their inſiſting upon the payment of which had occaſioned their diſmiſſal from their corps;—they declared and engaged to "prove that their com-"plaint had been moſt partially inveſtigated, and "they implored me to tranſmit their memorial to Go-"vernment, in order to obtain a fair and impar-"tial hearing,—not for the ſake of the paltry con-"ſideration of the money withheld from them, but "in order to juſtify their characters to their brother "Yeomen." I could not, conſiſtently with the impartiality which I truſt I have never violated, refuſe to make enquiry into the grounds of their complaint; and if I found their characters warranted my recommending their grievances to the conſideration of government, I ſhould certainly tranſmit their memorial to the Lord Lieutenant's Secretary; at the ſame time obſerving to them that "I feared "they had fixed upon the very worſt channel the "county afforded, to obtain an effectual attention "to their complaints." To this they replied, that "if I could not be prevailed upon to take up their

"cauſe,

" cauſe, it muſt remain unnoticed, for, with the ex-
" ception of myſelf, there was not one gentleman
" of my rank who would liſten to an inferior's com-
" plaint againſt his ſuperior, &c. &c." Before I would abſolutely agree to their requeſt, I was determined to enquire into their characters, and the juſtice of their complaint, &c. &c. I did ſo; and from their clergyman who (I take upon me to ſay, is one of the beſt and pureſt of human beings,) I heard a moſt unexceptionable account of them, as ſober, honeſt, induſtrious men, conſtant in their attendance at church, &c. &c. I alſo was given to underſtand that it was generally believed, " that they
" had been defrauded of their pay." I did not heſitate then to agree to their ſolicitation.—I had about the ſame time been applied to by an unfortunate Roman Catholic, whoſe oppreſſions were, from his own account, if poſſible, more flagitious than thoſe complained of by O'Neil—I made a ſtrict enquiry alſo about this man, and *found* that he had not *at all* exaggerated his afflictions, through the oppreſſion of a Magiſtrate, and the repeated outrages of his yeomen. Theſe two caſes coming together, I was determined, once more, to try if I could *really* intereſt government, and encloſed the memorials relating to them, in the following letter to Mr. Elliot:

RT. HON. WM. ELLIOT.

SIR, *Owna Lodge, July 1ſt*, 1806.

If the intereſt I have taken (deeply I confeſs) in the cauſe of an oppreſſed body of people had

not

not for its baſis *principles* which every juſt, humane, and conſtitutional man ought to hold ſacred, I moſt certainly ſhould have conſidered the converſation I lately had with you and the Chancellor ſo very diſcouraging, and in one point of view humiliating, as to induce my abandoning it; conſoling myſelf with the reflection, that, as far as my limited talents enabled me, I had endeavoured to avert the calamities, which, ſooner or later, the infatuated policy with regard to the Roman Catholics could not fail of bringing upon the nation! But urged by motives which poſſeſs, upon the moſt mature and grave conſideration, my *own approbation*, and would, if juſtly viewed, entitle them to that of government, however ſome *ſneaking place-hunter* might attempt to miſrepreſent them, I ſhall make one effort more to draw the attention of Miniſters to the *hourly encreaſing* tyrannies exerciſed againſt theſe unoffending creatures! Had you and the Chancellor thought it adviſeable to enter at any length into the ſubjects of my firſt letter to you, and not have ſilenced me by an "unqualified approbation of the *whole* of Mr. Serjeant "Moore's conduct in his late viſit to the North," I ſhould have not only ſubſtantiated every ſuggeſtion contained in that letter, but alſo have ſhown you, that, without aſſigning any improper motives to the manner in which that learned gentleman executed his commiſſion, it was *completely ſubverſive of its avowed object!* I could farther have proved, that it eſſentially varied (after his interview with Mr. Verner,) from what he abſolutely declared to be a leading feature of it, independent of his enquiry into

O'Neil's

O'Neil's buſineſs! This is all I deem, juſt now, neceſſary to hint at;—it may be important, at a future period, to enter more widely into the matter of my preſent alluſion.—And here, Sir, I muſt take leave to aſk, (not from any perſonal curioſity, but for the ſatisfaction of a great body of people,) have O'Neil's injuries been any way redreſſed? Has he even received a compenſation for the ruin of his property and his perſonal injuries? Have the aggreſſors, be they whom they may, been put in the way of puniſhment? Has a ſingle ſtep been taken to prevent future aggreſſions againſt this harraſſed, this ruined man? Has a ſymptom of amelioration, a proſpect of protection, (ſince Mr. Serjeant Moore's viſit) been felt or held out to the perſecuted Catholics, ſave what my confined and unſupported power afforded them? I am grieved to ſay I fear I myſelf can reply to all theſe queſtions in an afflicting negative! And truly unhappy indeed am I to relate, that, ſince the period alluded to, many daring and atrocious violences have been committed againſt theſe poor people by a banditti calling themſelves "Yeomen and Orange men;" who with arms in their hands bid defiance to law and its miniſters! You may be told "I exaggerate;" I wiſh it was not in my power to give repeated inſtances, and recently too, of the certainty of this ſtatement.

I expreſſed my intention when in Dublin, to you and the Chancellor, of "reſigning my office of Ma-
"giſtrate;"—but the entreaties of the ſurrounding country, and the abſence of almoſt all the Juſtices in

my diſtrict (particularly Mr. Armſtrong of Dungannon, a moſt reſpectable clergyman, and a really impartial magiſtrate) have prevailed with me to continue in it as long as my affairs permit my reſidence in this kingdom; but in order to ſtrengthen my efforts in tranquillizing the country, and give effect to the laws, I find it will be neceſſary for me to have a commiſſion of the peace for the adjoining county, (which I am to hope you will forward to me) as I am ſeparated from it (Armagh) only by a river which runs through my grounds:—its contiguity enables offenders to eſcape, or collect a party which ſets me at defiance, before I can get an Armagh Magiſtrate to back my warrants, the neareſt being five miles diſtant from my place. I will not anticipate the reception of this ſecond application to government on the ſubject of the perſecution of the Roman Catholics in my part of the kingdom, however I may conceive I have cauſe to regret the *apparent fate* of my former one; but in juſtice to myſelf, and I hope I ſhall ſtand excuſed, I muſt obſerve that I court the moſt *minutely ſevere* examination of my public life; and if there appears a *ſingle inſtance* of its ever having been marked by a trait of a *factious* or *intereſted* nature, let my name be conſigned to infamy and execration! I have, Sir, a moſt ſenſible reaſon for the above obſervation, which I poſſibly may have occaſion to detail hereafter. Had I been either the tool of a faction, or the ſlave of ſelf-intereſt I ſhould not at this day have been only in the ſituation of a very little country gentleman!

I have,

I have, Sir, enclosed some papers relative to transactions, which, from the characters of the persons concerned, I conceive are not unworthy of attention. I have strictly enquired into the facts to which they relate, and I am sorry I am warranted in saying, that the truth of them appears to be but too well established. I should not however have interposed even thus far, had the petitioners not shewn me, *they could not obtain any other channel to convey their grievances to government but through me.* They were entirely unknown to, and live at a considerable distance from me. I will not, Sir, trouble you with apologies for this letter—If it is viewed by you in the light I conceive it merits, I am sure you will not require any; —if in an opposite one, they would be offensive.

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

To this letter I did not receive any immediate reply. On the 12th of the same month a circumstance occurred which induced me to write again to Mr. Elliot.—The contents of this letter I can only detail from memory, as the events which gave rise to it disabled me from undergoing any fatigue which was not indispensably necessary. My letter was however to the following purport :



Houses of the Oireachtas

## To The Rt. Hon. Wm. Elliot.

*Owna Lodge, July 13, 1806.*

That the events of the preceding day had rather unfitted me for the diſcuſſion of them, yet their importance appeared to me to require the immediate conſideration of government.—That reports had reached me, which I had good reaſon to credit, of Mr. Verner, on the acquittal of his ſons, having cauſed rejoicings in his neighbourhood by way of celebrating that event—That the Orange-men in various other places had followed the example, and amidſt their rejoicings had burned me, the pope, &c. in effigy—That though I had not in any way interfered in theſe rejoicings, yet, a party of the Orange-men to the amount of about 500 paraded paſt my houſe, (although to do ſo they were obliged to turn from the road which was to conduct them to Armagh, their place of rendezvous) and inſulted my name with every term of opprobrium—That I did not know any thing of this unprovoked inſult till after they had proceeded to Armagh—That being given to underſtand if this outrage ſhould be repeated on their return from Armagh, that ſerious conſequences might enſue, I had determined to be in the way and uſe my authority to prevent them—That accordingly in the evening, hearing the ſound of their muſic, and ſeeing at ſome diſtance a ſtand of colours diſplayed, I went to the party, *entirely unaccompanied*—That I uſed every effort to perſuade them "not to pro-

"ceed

" ceed paſt my houſe, as I had reaſon to believe " their conduct in the morning had given great " offence to a ſet of people who had no wiſh to give " any to them; that I did not mean or wiſh to " interrupt them in their mode of expreſſing their " loyalty, provided they would not wantonly inſult " harmleſs and unoffending people, &c. &c."—That I was unable to detail what enſued, farther than to obſerve, that by ſome degree of preſence of mind and perſonal exertion, and by the aſſiſtance of one of my own people (an Orange man too) who accidentally happened to be at no great diſtance from the road, I eſcaped aſſaſſination.—My preſerver was ſeverely wounded in defending me, when I was juſt ſinking under their blows, (not having any weapon to defend myſelf) which I could only guard againſt by holding one of the aſſaſſins between me and the aſſailants, &c. —That I was much bruiſed and got a moſt ſevere contuſion with a ſtone on my forehead, &c. I then concluded by obſerving, that, as I had not received any reply to my laſt letter, I took it for granted Government wiſhed to diſpenſe with my ſervices, &c. &c. I believe I alſo adverted to a letter I had received from the Crown Solicitor upon O'Neil's buſineſs, which I had declined farther interference in, as it appeared that the manner in which it was managed could not produce the iſſue juſtice required, &c.

Signed,

RICHARD WILSON.

To

To this letter I received the following anſwer:

RICHARD WILSON, ESQ. OWNA LODGE.

*Dublin Caſtle, July* 16, 1806.

SIR,

Your letter of the 13th Inſt. reached me yeſterday—I ſhall not fail to lay it before the Lord Lieutenant, and very much lament the diſorderly and tumultuous tranſaction, which you repreſent to have occurred near Owna on Saturday laſt.

I did not omit to ſubmit your letter of the 1ſt Inſtant, and its encloſures, to the Lord Lieutenant as ſoon as I received them; and his Grace having taken into his conſideration the memorial of the late privates of the Killyman corps of Yeomanry, and having alſo peruſed the minutes (which are in the War-office) of the court of enquiry, held in April 1805, on the conduct of the officers alluded to by the memorialiſts, I am commanded to ſtate to you, that his Grace does not feel himſelf juſtified in opening again a ſubject, which has been ſo long ſince cloſed after a full and competent examination.

The caſe of M'Gurk has been by his Grace's direction put into the hands of the Chancellor, who will purſue ſuch ſteps as may appear to his Lordſhip beſt adapted for the inveſtigation of the allegations contained in it.—I muſt apprize you that your application for the inſertion of your name in the commiſſion

miſſion of the Peace for the County of Armagh ſhould be addreſſed to his Lordſhip.

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

WILLIAM ELLIOT.

In conſequence of the above remark, I addreſſed the following letter to the Lord Chancellor, perſuaded I confeſs that I had nothing farther to do than merely to aſk his Lordſhip's ſanction to burthen myſelf with additional fatigue, expenſe, and perſonal danger for the public tranquility—The reader will preſently ſee how judiciouſly I thought upon that head:

My Lord, *Owna Lodge, July 20th*, 1806.

A letter I yeſterday received from Mr. Elliot, "apprized me of my error in not applying "to your Lordſhip, inſtead of him, for a commiſſion "of the Peace for the County of Armagh." I will not trouble your Lordſhip with detailing my motives for deſiring this extenſion of my authority, as Mr. Elliot (who is already in poſſeſſion of them, as well as the heads of the diſgraceful outrage committed againſt me on the 12th Inſt.) can give your Lordſhip the neceſſary explanations.—A ſecond attempt was made upon me yeſterday evening, but the darkneſs of the night, and the aſſaſſins having had

reaſon

House of the Oireachtas

ſeaſon to believe, that I had already eſcaped them, united to ſave me ; ſeveral of them, as well as the Orangemen of the 12th, are known—for my own part, *I ſhall not move*, but if government is diſpoſed to take up the buſineſs in that grave and ſolemn manner its importance, in a national point of view, ſo imperiouſly demands, I am ready to afford all the aid in my power to give effect to its exertions. I am however to hope, that, if government enters into an inveſtigation, it will be carried on by perſons poſſeſſed of vigour, perſpicuity, and independence of mind! I muſt remark, with regard to myſelf, that I can never look forward to the ſucceeding day for an eſcape from aſſaſſination. As an individual of very little perſonal importance, Government may feel indifferent as to my fate; but I muſt take leave to ſuggeſt, that if my life falls a ſacrifice to my humanity and exertions in behalf of an oppreſſed great body of people, independent of the effect *this in itſelf might have*, an idea (already but too prevalent) will become *rooted*, that " Government wants either " the *will* or the *ability* to protect them." I need not point out to your Lordſhip the probable conſequences of the eſtabliſhment of ſuch an opinion.

I have the honor to be,

&c. &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

One would have ſuppoſed under all the preceding circumſtances, that the above letter would have met with immediate attention—far from it—it was not

anſwered

anſwered till the 6th of September following; nor do I believe it would have been noticed by the learned Lord even then, had I not in ſome degree, compelled it by the following letter to Mr. Elliot. That gentleman having appeared to forget the promiſe made to me in his laſt, " of laying before the Lord Lieutenant the diſorderly tranſaction which took place at Owna," I thought it neceſſary to recall his attention to it, and alſo to animadvert a little upon the very extraordinary ſilence of the Chancellor, &c.

THE RT. HON. WM. ELLIOT,

SIR, *Owna Lodge, Auguſt 16th*, 1806.

Five weeks have elapſed *this day* ſince I acquainted you with the daring and wanton outrage which had been committed upon me the preceding evening; and ſomewhat more than a month ſince I received your reply to my information, " lamenting " that diſorderly and tumultuous tranſaction, with " your intention of laying my letter before the Lord " Lieutenant." Your ſilence leaving me in ignorance of his Grace's opinion upon that diſagreeable buſineſs, I hold myſelf juſtified in demanding *why* I have not obtained that " opinion" long before this, *peculiarly* and *dangerouſly* ſituated as I am? It reſts with you, Sir, to ſhew, why juſtice and humanity ſhould be ſo far apparently violated as to have their operation withheld in protecting the life of a Magiſtrate in the performance of his duty, when the *meaneſt* ſubject is conſtitutionally entitled to the prompt, active, and

vigorous exertion of them, when either his life or property is endangered?

In conſequence of the obſervation in your letter of the 16th of July, I wrote to the Chancellor "to "rectify the error you apprized me of having com- "mitted in not applying to his Lordſhip, inſtead "of Government, to extend my magiſterial power to "the adjoining County of Armagh." In my letter to his Lordſhip I took leave to ſtate, "that I had "been attacked a *ſecond time* on the 19th of the "above-mentioned month;" the particulars I did not *then*, nor ſhall I *now* enter into;—the limits of a letter, indeed, would not permit me, even was I diſpoſed (which I confeſs I am not) ſo to do; having much important matter, independent of what relates to myſelf, that ought to be ſubmitted to grave and deliberate conſideration. When I perceive Government diſpoſed to afford *that* to my communications, I will cheerfully, but *perſonally*, detail them: in the mean time, I am to obſerve that I am prepared to prove that the Laws (as I, in my firſt letter to you, intimated) are moſt *partially* and *careleſsly* (I wiſh to ſpeak mildly) adminiſtered with regard to the Roman Catholics;—that I have inſtances, *within theſe few days*, of *Robbers*, *Aſſaſſins*, *Forgers of Bank Notes*, *and Public Diſturbers being protected*; *and their Proſecutors frightened from following up their complaints*:—alſo of Examinations being either ſecreted (*by thoſe who ought to have brought them forward*) or withheld from the Clerk of the Crown; or, if given to him, his being *prevailed* upon not to form bills of indictment

indictment upon them! All this, Sir, I ſay, I am prepared to prove, *and call upon Government to put me to the proof*—If I fail, (provided I am enabled to bring forward my witneſſes and aſſured of their perſonal protection *then* and *hereafter*, alſo that my judges ſhall not be prepoſſeſſed) let me be held out to the Public as the very *oppoſite* to what I have dedicated my whole life to ſubſtantiate—*a man devoted to its intereſts, its happineſs, its tranquillity and its freedom!* In my letter to the Chancellor I hinted, that there was an idea rather too prevalent *with a great part of the public*, that "Government was either unable or unwil-"ling to protect the oppreſſed." If the outrage committed againſt me be unnoticed, and the means denied me of bringing forward the charges I have declared myſelf prepared to make good, you cannot, Sir, be ſurpriſed at my being confirmed in this opinion, not only with regard to the Roman Catholics, but alſo with reſpect to thoſe who are bold enough to ſtand forward as their advocates, and venture to vindicate a conduct, which, inſtead of procuring the thanks and ſupport of Government, has excited a vindictiveneſs which, unleſs I ſpeedily deſert my reſidence, will not be allayed until I fall its victim!

The Chancellor not replying to my letter, I confeſs, a good deal puzzles me, as whatever opinion his Lordſhip may pleaſe to form of my repreſentations and objects, I cannot bring myſelf to believe him deficient in the politeneſs of a gentleman.

I have the honor to be, &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

To

To this letter I received the following Anſwer:

RICHARD WILSON, ESQ. OWNA-LODGE.

SIR, *Dublin Caſtle, Auguſt 20th*, 1806.

In acknowledging your letter of the 16th Inſt. I feel incumbent on me to aſſure you that I took the earlieſt opportunity of laying before the Lord Lieutenant your communications of the 13th Ult. but I at the ſame time concluded, that, if the outrage deſcribed in it had admitted of any redreſs at law, you would have availed yourſelf of the aſſizes which were then approaching, to have brought the offending parties to juſtice. It gives me great concern to learn, that according to your view of the ſtate of the country in your neighbourhood much diſquiet and alarm prevail.—The meaſures taken by orders of Government at the aſſizes of Armagh muſt, I ſhould have hoped, have convinced all deſcriptions of perſons, that the Lord Lieutenant has nothing ſo much at heart as doing equal juſtice without reference to religious or other differences; and it has been conſidered as particularly ſatisfactory, that all the reports which have been received from the North-eaſt circuit have confirmed the belief that that ſentiment generally prevails, and that that part of the country is in a ſtate that gives no ground for apprehending any interruption of its former tranquillity. It will be proper that the conduct of the perſons, whom you ſtate to have prevented Robbers, Aſſaſſins, and Forgers of Bank Notes from being brought to juſtice,

ſhould

ſhould be fully inveſtigated, as well as that of the Clerk of the Crown, who is alleged to have been ſo *deficient* in the diſcharge of his duty; and whenever you ſhall tranſmit to me ſuch authentic information on theſe charges as you may be able to procure, I will loſe no time in conferring with the Chancellor on the proper ſteps to be taken on the ſubject.

I have the honor, &c.

W. ELLIOT.

If the reader will have the goodneſs to bear in mind the ſubſtance of my former letters, particularly the pledges held out in my laſt, I believe he will agree with me, that this letter of Mr. Elliot's was any thing but to the purpoſe! However I thought it right to reply to it, which I did in the following terms:

THE RT. HON. WILLIAM ELLIOT.

SIR, *Owna Lodge, Auguſt 23d*, 1806.

I feel it incumbent upon me not to delay a poſt in replying to the letter I have this moment received from you. Before I enter upon the material objects I intend to advert to, I am to requeſt you will give me credit when I aſſure you, that though I have not the honour of a perſonal acquaintance with the Lord Lieutenant, I am fully perſuaded, from his general character, of his poſſeſſing moſt eſti-

mable

mable qualities, and that he feels every diſpoſition to execute his high office, with juſtice, impartiality, and humanity ;—but, notwithſtanding his Grace's and your perſpicuity, yet you cannot be *every where*, or know *every thing* ; you muſt, in general, act upon information.—If I am to credit a News-paper report which now lies before me, I can eaſily account for the favourable opinion held by Government of the "tranquil ſtate of this part of the kingdom :"—a ſhort ſtatement will beſt explain my alluſion. In O'Neil's trial, a Mr. Lawſon, a Magiſtrate for the county of Armagh, is made to depoſe upon oath (in the Belfaſt Chronicle of the 13th inſt.) that "*O'Neil* "*and his brother were men not to be believed upon their* "*oaths, from the knowledge he had of them, and from* "*their general character in the country* ;" he, alſo, gave his teſtimony "of the extreme good characters of "Meſſrs. David and John Verner, and *of their unre-* "*mitting endeavours to reconcile all parties, and keep* "*quiet in the country !!*" All this, to be ſure, is very fine, nor can it be at all wondered at, if Government, from ſuch ſources of information, is diſpoſed to believe "the country in a tranquil ſtate :" but now, Sir, let us ſee how the matter really ſtands with regard to this Mr. Lawſon's evidence.

Underſtanding that this gentleman lived near O'Neil's reſidence, and meeting him accidentally in the ſtreets of Omagh, I immediately applied to him for information upon the ſubject of O'Neil's complaint : to my utter aſtoniſhment (and I believe will alſo excite yours,) this Mr. Lawſon, (though with

within two miles of the ſpot, and a man, I am told almoſt always on horſeback) never heard a word of the matter until I queſtioned him upon it! And here, Sir, let me obſerve, that if ſo ſerious a buſineſs as this ſhould not have publicity enough to reach the *ear* of a reſident in the vicinity, and a public Magiſtrate too, may it not very probably happen, that many other acts of atrocity may have taken place and yet not reach the *ears* of Government?—but more of this preſently. After ſome converſation with Mr. Lawſon, and he having my information confirmed by a man who accidentally came up to us, (and who lived near O'Neil's) I aſked him *particularly as to O'Neil's character*, acquainting him with the memorial he wiſhed me to tranſmit to government. Mr. Lawſon replied that " O'Neil was a *ree* ſort of a fellow (a " phraſe I underſtood to mean wild, giddy, &c.) who " liked a drop of drink, and was a famous boxer, " who would hold his own, *but that he knew no ill of* " *him in any other reſpect*, unleſs it was on account " of ſome diſputes he had with his brother about " the diviſion of his father's property." I queſtioned him cloſely as to " whether or not O'Neil was " to be credited upon his oath?" To this he *poſitively* anſwered, that " *he knew no reaſon whatever* " why he ſhould not be believed upon his oath!" Mr. Lawſon adviſed, " that as the Barriſter was then " ſitting in Court, O'Neil ſhould have his Examina- " tions ſworn immediately before him, as that would " be the moſt effectual means of bringing the " accuſed parties to juſtice." Upon which advice O'Neil acted; but before he could get his Examinations

tions written out, the Barriſter had left the Court, and thus loſt the opportunity of availing himſelf of Mr. Lawſon's advice.—One word farther I muſt add:—I obſerved that "I had ſeen theſe Gentlemen (the Mr. Verners) once or twice, and that they appeared to be modeſt well behaved Men, and very unlikely perſons to commit ſo atrocious an act." Mr. Lawſon replied, that "they were very good ſort of young "Men, but that *they had rather too much of their* "*Father's diſlike to the Roman Catholics.*" Now, Sir, let theſe two accounts be compared;—as to the iſſue of the trial, it was exactly ſuch as I anticipated from the curious mode in which it was inveſtigated at the ſetting out. Whether O'Neil is a raſcal or not, or whether the Mr. Verners, or any other perſons (for it had been rumoured, by *certain people*, that O'Neil burned it himſelf,) were acceſſary to the burning his houſe, I know not; but there is one pretty clear fact, that his houſe has been burned, and that the aggreſſors, be they whom they may, remain unpuniſhed! And now, Sir, to prove that Government is not acquainted with the real ſtate of this part of the country, I am to obſerve, that on the night when I was attacked by the Orange-men, a poor inoffenſive man was almoſt murdered by a ſtraggling party of them, for no other offence but his merely ſaying, "I was "a worthy Gentleman." Ten days ſince a man was alſo almoſt murdered, *without any ſort of provocation*, by three fellows, who ſtepped acroſs the river and got out of my juriſdiction, and there they go at large! Theſe laſt mentioned people, in juſtice to

the

the Orange-men I mention it, I am given to underſtand were not of that party.—With regard to the other facts I have alluded to in my laſt letter, they can be completely ſubſtantiated;—but, Sir, can it be expected that I am to bear the plague, trouble, and expence of theſe inveſtigations? I aſſure you, I have gone much greater lengths than either my health or fortune admit of, to bring villains to puniſhment and keep tranquillity in the country—and where is my reward? emolument or marks of diſtinction I neither ſought for, or expected;—I have not even obtained the thanks of Government for my endeavours to effect thoſe objects which the indolence and *groſs partiality* of others have made indiſpenſable, you account "for not acquainting me with the Lord Lieu-"tenant's opinion upon the attempts made upon "my life, by ſuppoſing that I ſhould have applied "to the aſſizes." Alas! Sir, you know but little of the *managing* theſe ſort of matters there! Had I put myſelf to a couple of hundred pounds expence to retain counſel and bring a horde of witneſſes to Omagh, I ſhould have had for my pains a hoſt of Gentlemen to appear *to the character of the accuſed parties*, which would have obtained for them expreſſions of eſteem, and an honourable acquittal by the Jury! (ex. gr. Mr. Lawſon and O'Neil!) You may think of this as you may, but I know from paſt experience that it would have been the caſe,—the truth is, however, that I was not well enough to attend the aſſizes, from the effects of the blows I received from theſe very Orange-men,—nor dare I be abſent from home after day-light for fear of aſſaſſina-

tion, or having my houſe burned to the ground. —The only night I was from home ſince the attack made upon me on the 12th of July, I was waylaid—my ſervant who was before me, luckily told the party who enquired "if I was coming," that "I had left Dungannon two hours before," which led them to believe I had eſcaped them;—half an hour after, I overtook theſe fellows—(ſome of whom can be ſworn to by *two perſons*;)—the darkneſs of the night prevented their recognizing me at firſt (alſo, not expecting me, from what the ſervant had told them);—but as ſoon as they were ſure of me, they purſued me, declaring their intention of "murder-"ing me, if they could lay hold of me." They were on foot, I on horſeback, and ſo, for that time, eſcaped with my life;—never going out now but in the middle of the day, and always returning by a different road, I have eſcaped any more attacks. I have however declared my intention of quitting my place, which I have, nearly, at a great expence, completed,—an expence, God knows, I could but ill afford, and muſt now leave it to deſtruction of one ſort o' other!

Government may do me a favour, and itſelf too, by taking my houſe, and making it a barrack for a ſmall number of men.—I take upon me to ſay, that the time approaches when a military force in this part of the country will be thought adviſable.—Inſtead of aſking a *hundred* per cent. for my houſe, I will give it for *three*, and gratefully thank Govern-ment for its ſecuring any thing either by way of life

or

or property! Its contiguity to Charlemount, is another recommendation.—I aſſure you, Sir, I am ſerious, nor have I any thing, *now*, more at heart (ſince my hopes of proving myſelf a really uſeful member of the community have failed) as to quit a country where oppreſſion and injuſtice are formed into a ſyſtem, and where true patriotiſm meets with obloquy inſtead of honour, gratitude, and protection!

Before, Sir, I conclude, I am to intreat you to believe that I feel no ſort of irritation againſt you or his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.—I am fully perſuaded, if you were not *prediſpoſed* againſt my repreſentations, they would meet with your diſtinguiſhed approbation and ſupport; but, as I have before obſerved, you muſt act upon the report of thoſe, who, you have reaſon to believe, are better entitled to your credence; but this I muſt take leave to add, that I challenge a compariſon of my conduct, as a Magiſtrate, with that of the whole of my brethren in this diſtrict; yet the Chancellor has not deigned to anſwer my application for a farther extenſion of my power *to do good!* The Chancellor is a very great man, and I a very little one; but I hold myſelf inferior to his Lordſhip, in nothing but talents and *good fortune*.—Had I made a *worldly uſe* of my opportunities, my ſituation, and connexions, his Lordſhip might perhaps have thought he did not *derogate* in treating me with the good manners of a Gentleman.—This letter, Sir, is extended far beyond my intention,—you will, I hope, have the

goodneſs to excuſe its length, when you conſider that my peculiar ſituation required ſome *preſent* explanation to you.—The miſinterpretation of my conduct, ſince I came into Ireland, by thoſe whoſe intereſt it is to calumniate it, compels me to give a detail to the public of the tranſactions in my diſtrict, and my ſhare in them—this detail I ſhall commence as ſoon as I have arranged my affairs here previous to my departure.

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

To the above letter Mr. Elliot never replied ;—in the ſucceeding month, I received one from Sir E. Littlehales adverting to a *part* of mine which alluded to " the diſpoſal of my houſe to Government for " a barrack ;" to this letter I will preſently attend ; but the reader muſt allow me to notice the Chancellor's anſwer to my letter of *the 20th of July.*

RICHARD WILSON, ESQ. OWNA-LODGE.

SIR, *Ely-place, Sept. 6th,* 1806.

I am very ſorry that a preſſure of buſineſs which could not be poſtponed has prevented me from ſending an earlier anſwer to the letter you did me the honour of writing to me in July laſt.—That any attempts

tempts ſhould be made at aſſaſſination muſt be a ſubject of the deepeſt regret, and will, I am ſure excite in the Government the moſt anxious deſire to detect and puniſh thoſe who are guilty of them, and I hope that no deſcription of his Majeſty's ſubjects in Ireland will ever have reaſon to conſider thoſe to whom he may be pleaſed to delegate his authority, as either unable or unwilling to protect them; with reſpect to the adminiſtration of the Duke of Bedford, I can moſt confidently affirm that there *never was* and *never will be* in this country one more ſincerely diſpoſed to protect with *vigour* and impartiality all its inhabitants, and that whoever ſhall violate the laws, will find his Grace both willing and able to vindicate their authority.

The application which you have been pleaſed to make for a commiſſion of the peace for the county of Armagh not having been ſeconded by the recommendation of the Governor, or either of the members of that county, or of any reſident Privy Counſellor, I am under the neceſſity of forbearing to comply with it.

I have the Honor, &c. &c.

GEO. PONSONBY, C.

The moſt inattentive reader muſt obſerve that the above letter was meant, under all the previous circumſtances, to inſult me. I viewed it in that light, and at firſt intended to conſign it to ſilent contempt; but,

but, on looking over it a ſecond time, I changed my determination and returned the following anſwer:

LORD CHANCELLOR.

*Owna-Lodge, Sept. 9th,* 1806.

MY LORD,

I confeſs I have had ſome debate with myſelf whether or not I ſhould reply to your Lordſhip's letter of the 6th Inſt. but a moment's conſideration upon a ſecond peruſal of it, has ſhewn me, that conſiſtently with what has *before* paſſed, and what *hereafter* is to paſs, relative to my communications with Government, I ought not to poſtpone an immediate, and, as far as the limits of a letter would admit, a particular notice of the ſeveral points to which it relates. I ſhall proceed as methodically as I can: firſt as to the "preſſure" of your Lordſhip's "buſineſs" which "could not be poſtponed," and which prevented your Lordſhip "from ſending an earlier anſwer (*a "period intervening of near two months!*) to my letter in July laſt;" I am to obſerve, that without preſuming to gueſs what that "preſſure of buſineſs" may have been, yet there is ſomething rather extraordinary, that now your leiſure has permitted a notice of "my communications," your Lordſhip has not held out even an *expectation* that theſe "communications" are to be followed up by a *ſingle motion* of that "vigour and impartiality" which another part of your Lordſhip's letter announces as the characteriſtics

characteriſtics of the preſent adminiſtration! Your Lordſhip next adverts to the attempts made to aſſaſſinate me, in the humane, and I muſt take leave to add the ſpirited diſcharge of my magiſterial duty by an organized mob; after "*deeply regretting* thoſe "attempts on the part of Government whoſe moſt "*anxious wiſh* you declare is to detect and puniſh "thoſe who are guilty of them, and hope that no "deſcription of his Majeſty's ſubjects in Ireland will "ever have reaſon to conſider thoſe to whom he "may be pleaſed to delegate his authority as either "unable or unwilling to protect them:" there you let the matter reſt, as I have before obſerved, not conſidering me, I ſuppoſe, as one "of his Majeſty's "ſubjects!" Your Lordſhip then proceeds to pronounce a perſonal eulogium on his Grace the Duke of Bedford, "confidently affirming there never *was* "and never *will* be in this country one more ſincerely diſpoſed to protect with *vigour* and *impar*-"*tiality all* its inhabitants, and that whoever ſhall "violate the laws will find his Grace both able and "willing to vindicate their (adminiſtration's) au-"thority." Now to be ſure theſe are might fine words, and one would be led to ſuppoſe that I had made ſome perſonal reflections upon the noble Duke by this uncalled for eulogy. The fact however, is *preciſely the reverſe*—I have repeatedly declared to Mr. Elliot, that "though I had not the honour of "his Grace's acquaintance, yet from my intimacy "with many of thoſe who poſſeſſed that high gra-"tification, (and from general report) I was per-"ſuaded of his perſonal worth, &c. &c."—but I

am ready to admit, that, at the ſame time, I obſerved, "that I feared there was a ſet of people "about him, who would keep truth from his ear, "and fruſtrate all his patriotic intentions."—My Lord, I have ſaid this, *and I repeat it*—and will *prove*, at its proper time and place, the *truth* of what I have formerly aſſerted, "that the laws are "not executed with vigour and impartiality," and that "*all deſcriptions of his Majeſty's ſubjects are* NOT "*protected*," and here, my Lord, we are at iſſue,—obſerve, my Lord, I confine myſelf to my own diſtrict—I am, though a native, almoſt an entire ſtranger in Ireland.—I ſpeak of the ſtate of the country at no greater diſtance than twenty miles about my own houſe. The concluding part of your Lordſhip's letter conveying ſomething very like perſonal inſult, I muſt animadvert upon it with ſome minuteneſs:—Your Lordſhip ſays, "the application which "you have been pleaſed to make for a commiſſion "of the peace for the county of Armagh, not be-"ing ſeconded by a recommendation of the Go-"vernor or either of the Members of the county, "or of any reſident Privy Counſellor, I am under "the neceſſity of forbearing to comply with it!!!" Pray, my Lord, did not Mr. Elliot (a Privy Counſellor and *brother Miniſter*) inform you of the *motive* of my requiring this extention of my authority? Did not your Lordſhip *know* that I was *already* a Magiſtrate for the county immediately adjoining, and that my houſe was within a ſtone's throw of the county of Armagh? Had your Lordſhip any ground for thinking me *unfit* for the office of a Magiſtrate?

and

and if you had, was it not your *duty* to ſtrike me out of the commiſſion I already held? Had your Lordſhip a *foundation* for believing that my conduct, as a Magiſtrate, or when a Member of Parliament, ſubjected me to a charge of corruption, factiouſneſs, diſloyalty or ſelfiſhneſs? I will reply for your Lordſhip—" I have none."—Then, my Lord, if ſo, why this ſqueamiſh delicacy, this ſenſeleſs etiquette, or more properly ſpeaking, this flimſy evaſion? Was it to inſult a man who never offended you—whoſe whole public life defies calumny to impeach its integrity, its diſintereſtedneſs, and its exertions—as far as a limited fortune and ſtill more limited talents enabled him—in ſupport of a conſtitution which, till disfigured and violated by corruption and *apoſtate Patriots*, was our glory, our pride, and our ſafeguard! a conſtitution, my Lord, which, had it been preſerved in its original purity, would have defied the power which magnanimity itſelf now trembles at, maugre the thraſonical bravadoings of our political declaimers! But to the more immediate ſubject—I do not think there is one reſident Privy Counſellor in the county of Armagh;—the two members are, I know not where—moſt probably upon their military duty, as I underſtand they are in the army or militia;—as to the governor, he reſides, I learn, in England.—Now, thus circumſtanced, ſuppoſe I had thought it neceſſary (which I confeſs I did not) to apply any of thoſe perſons your Lordſhip points out, what was I to do to obtain your Lordſhip's *diploma* to ſacrifice my time, my health, and my property, without even a proſpect of remuneration (as full well

I knew) in the ſervice of the public? why truly I took, by chance I own, the only ſtep which would have remained for me to take as the moſt effectual to the end. I applied to your Lordſhip's colleague, a *Privy Counſellor, and the Lord Lieutenant's principal Secretary!* I need urge this no farther.—I confeſs, my Lord, I am *angry*, and ſtill more *angry* at permitting myſelf to be *angry* at what, I confeſs, ought to excite a very different ſenſation.

I have the Honor, &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

The reader will anticipate that this letter remained unanſwered—it has ſo indeed, and I defy the learned Lord to make any reply to it, which can either reflect credit on himſelf, or the reverſe upon me! I own I thought my correſpondence with the Caſtle cloſed, and was not a little ſurpriſed at receiving the letter I have before adverted to, from Sir Edward Littlehales,—it related to the offer I had made in Auguſt laſt, (through Mr. Elliot) to Government of my houſe as a barrack,—I own this offer never, again, came acroſs my mind; as I felt, the moment after I made it, that the very reaſons I had aſſigned as inducements for Government to accept it would operate the direct contrary way! viz. its cheapneſs, utility, and *ſerving me!* Sir Edward Littlehales' letter *is as follows:*

RICHARD WILSON, ESQ. OWNA-LODGE.

SIR, *Dublin-Caſtle, Sept. 16th*, 1806.

I have the honour to acquaint you that Mr. Elliot referred, by the Lord Lieutenant's direction, to the Commander of the Forces, your propoſal to diſpoſe of your concerns contiguous to Charlemount for Barrack purpoſes, and communication was alſo had with the Deputy Barrack-Maſter General, with a view, if practicable, to your accommodation by hiring the premiſes in queſtion in the event of their being required for the King's troops.

As Mr. Elliot was very deſirous I ſhould ſubmit the report on this ſubject, if received during his abſence, to the general conſideration of his Grace, I am now to ſtate that General, the Earl of Harrington, has given it as his opinion, that it is inexpedient to take the concerns alluded to, as it appears from the repreſentation of the Deputy Barrack-Maſter-General, that there is a temporary Barrack (called Roxborough) eſtabliſhed within a ſhort diſtance from Charlemount Fort, which has not been occupied ſince 1803, and that no farther Barrack accommodation ſeems neceſſary in that quarter. His Grace is much concerned that he does not, under theſe circumſtances, feel himſelf juſtified in directing the premiſes in queſtion to be purchaſed or hired for the ſervice of Government.

I have the Honor, &c.

E. B. LITTLEHALES.

I am ready to acknowledge the civility of this letter, but I muſt at the ſame time obſerve that *it does not apply*. I admit that the word " contiguous," uſed in my letter to Mr. Elliot, as to the ſituation of my houſe, may convey the idea of cloſe to " or " nearly adjoining," but I believe it is alſo frequently uſed in a figurative ſenſe, as " at a diſtance which " would admit of eaſy and ready intercourſe," this, I confeſs was the meaning I meant to attach to it,—for the truth is, Owna-Lodge is five miles from Charlemount, and in an oppoſite direction to Roxborough ;—ſo much by way of explanation of the Deputy Barrack-Maſter-General, and General, the Earl of Harrington's miſtake, occaſioned by my want of critical preciſion in the deſcription of Owna-Lodge.

Here ends my correſpondence with Government. —I will detain the reader but very little longer—I cannot, however, conclude without adverting to two or three matters with which he may wiſh to be acquainted, and of which, in my letters, I hinted a future explanation. I have more than once held out a challenge " to have my public life ſeverely " ſifted and examined." Here follows my reaſon for this repeated " challenge."—A Gentleman *connected with Government*, in a private converſation, obſerved to me, with great appearance of friendſhip, that " it was *poſſible* my conduct *might* meet with " miſrepreſentation—that it *might* be urged, that I " was endeavouring to make a party, &c. that from " my connexions and ſituation I had reaſon to ex-

" pect

" pect an appointment of honour and emolument—
" that my continuing to take ſo active a part with
" regard to the Roman Catholics *might* probably be
" the means of defeating any well-grounded expec-
" tations, &c. &c." To this I ſhortly replied, by
" thanking the gentleman for his friendly ſuggeſ-
" tions, but that I had, from my youth, poſſeſſed
" my mind with certain principles of independence,
" which no earthly conſideration ſhould ever in-
" duce me to depart from:—that I ſhould be ready
" to accept of a ſituation of 'honour and emolu-
" ment,' provided I was not expected to barter my
" principles for it; but as that was an expectation,
" *I now felt never could be realized*, I was determined
" to finiſh as I had begun, &c &c." My friend changed the converſation with a cold approbation of the " *diſintereſtedneſs and ſteadineſs of my principles*, &c."

It may be aſked, " how it happened that I ſhould
" have delayed this publication ſo long, having, in
" my letters to Mr. Elliot and the Chancellor, in-
" timated ſome months ſince, my intention of ſub-
" mitting it to the public?" My reaſons are as follow:—In ſummer I was much engaged in preparing for my departure from a country, where my life was daily expoſed to danger, and where Government had refuſed to aſſiſt me with ſupport and protection;—in the autumn, I learned, from the public prints, that Mr. Elliot and the Chancellor had gone to England; during their abſence I did not think it fair to make any animadverſions upon their conduct;—on their

their return, the buſtle of an election, I knew would occupy the attention of the public too much, to permit its affording *any* to what it might, in its then diſpoſition, conſider as, comparatively, of little importance.

Mr. Hume obſerves very juſtly, "that a man "cannot ſpeak long of himſelf without vanity:" I fear I have already ſubjected myſelf to that charge; but, I truſt, the liberal reader will admit, that the manner in which I have been treated by Government warrants my recurring, ſo repeatedly, to my public life and conduct, by way of diſtinguiſhing myſelf from that contemptible herd of *ſelf-named patriots*, who never had a view beyond their own ſelfiſh purſuits.

I ſhall now releaſe my reader with one remark which, I truſt, he will not think frivolous:—*I ſhall not conſider myſelf bound to reply to any anonymous anſwerer.*—If any perſon thinks proper to ſtep forward, *in his proper perſon*, and animadvert, however ſeverely, upon my conduct, I will ſubmit to his cenſures, by an open acknowledgment of their juſtice, if I cannot *firmly and indiſputably refute them.*

With this declaration I take leave to ſubſcribe myſelf, *not the profeſſing*, but the people's unalterably faithful and ſteady friend,

RICHARD WILSON.

*Dublin, Dec. 12th*, 1806.

POSTSCRIPT.

## POSTSCRIPT.

I cannot permit this Pamphlet to meet the public eye, till I mention a circumſtance, not unworthy of notice, which has this moment occurred to me, viz. that the matters which Mr. Elliot informed me "he "was to confer with," and "put into the hands of, "the Lord Chancellor," remain, (as far as the parties concerned, are permitted to know) preciſely in the ſame ſtate in which they were ſubmitted to that learned and "vigorous" Lord!!! ſo much for the "vigour and impartiality!!" of this moſt enlightened and "*never to be equalled*" adminiſtration.

*Dec. 15th*, 1806.

FINIS.

Houses of the Oireachtas

Houses of the Oireachtas