

A  
NARRATIVE

OF VARIOUS

*Murders and Robberies,*

Committed in the Neighbourhood of the Relater,

UPON THE

Roman Catholics,

BY A BANDITTI DESCRIBING THEMSELVES

Orangemen ;

WITH HIS LETTERS

TO THE

DUKE OF RICHMOND,

AND

LORD MANNERS,

On the disgraceful State of the Police in that quarter,  
as also his personal Sufferings, occasioned by his  
(unhappily fruitless) efforts, to bring the  
Criminals to Punishment.

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BY RICHARD WILSON, ESQ.

(Author of the Correspondence with LORD CHANCELLOR  
PONSONBY, MR. ELLIOT, &c. &c.)

Late a Member of the British Parliament,  
and a Magistrate of the County of Tyrone, *until dismissed*  
*by the present Irish Administration, on account of*  
*his resistance to TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION.*

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— Quid anim nisi vota Super sunt !

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MARK RAYNER  
BY JAMES  
MAYOR OF  
CITY OF  
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Houses of the Oireachtas

TO HIS GRACE

THE

DUKE OF RICHMOND,

&c. &c. &c.

*Cujusvis est homines errare : nullius,*

*Nisi insipientis, preserverare in errore,*

MY LORD,

IN *distinguishing* your Grace by a dedication of the following Narrative, I endeavour to repay the *obligation* I conceive myself *indebted* for the *attention* your Grace so *wisely* and *humanely* afforded to my communications “ upon the calamitous state of the part of the kingdom I reside in, and the personal sufferings I endured through my efforts to correct it.”—Your Secretary’s *extraordinary reply* to the last letter I did myself the honour of addressing to your Grace upon these subjects, I am desirous to have viewed as the result of a persuasion that your Grace considered my representations as, at least, exaggerated ones—your Grace will perceive I am anxious to appear your apologist.—The measures, however, which you may be advised to  
adopt

adopt, after a *reflecting perusal* of the following pages, must, one way or the other, fix my opinion as to *the principles which induced your Grace to accept of your present office.*

I am to assure your Grace, that great as my “sufferings” *have* been, and serious as the perils still *are* to which my life is daily exposed, yet I should have excluded them, (by even an advertance,) from my “Narrative” had they not been so interwoven with the most striking and momentous circumstances of it, as to preclude their omission without defacing, extremely, its principle feature.—This observation will, I trust, acquit me of the *egotism*, many of my readers may be disposed to charge me with; for your Grace must have had occasion frequently to remark, that a *defect* in the argument is generally supplied, by a proportionate share of, either, cavil, quibble, or illiberality; and, very often by a union of the *three*—but, however, prejudice and malevolence may combine to stigmatize the *motives* which engaged me in the support of the persecuted and the defenceless, they have not the power to make me deviate from the path, reason, justice and *true policy* have marked out for me to pursue.—I am aware that every act which soars above the *sordid mind* is liable to misconstruction——it cannot conceive a disinterestedness which

which it never felt.—I am prepared for every species of obloquy, neither do I look for any gratification beyond what my own heart affords me

—*Contemnare honores  
Fortis*—

it tells me I am fulfilling a sacred duty to my distracted country, which will enable me to bear up against the whirlwind of calamities, I, from every quarter, am assailed with!

I observe, by the public prints that your Grace is shortly to set out on a tour through the northern part of the kingdom, I wish to give your Grace credit for the *motive* which has suggested this journey. I will not permit myself to doubt its purity; but, I confess, when I look at the list of personages who are to have the honour of entertaining and *guiding* your Grace, I feel no ground of hope that the issue will be favourable to the object, your Grace, I am persuaded, has so much at heart; for, in that *list*, I see *no one name* but what belongs to the avowed patrons of *Orangism*! I need not add—and *not very friendly to the Roman Catholics*. If these, then, are to be the sources of information upon which your Grace is to regulate your future measures, I take upon me to say, you would act more wisely by  
continuing

continuing at your post in the Castle. If indeed your Grace means to look out for the "French faction," our "*illustrious Patriot*" has asserted, "to exist in this kingdom," you could not, in my mind, have chosen a more happy walk for the discovery; for, *if we are to consider the persons who violate the laws, and endeavour to alienate the great body of the people from its legitimate government, as a "French faction."* The North, indisputably, is the place to find it in!

As I have reason to know that *my suggestions, upon the "necessity" of remedying the abuses I so repeatedly represented, have no force as coming from me* I will endeavour to support them by such authorities, as I think, your Grace will hold in estimation. I admit that the *principles* they inculcate are somewhat at *variance* with those of your friends, but as the *remedy*, which one, is to suppose these authorities would advise, *at such a crisis as the present, is well worthy of consideration, I feel a hope that, unpalatable to some as it may be, it will not be neglected.* Give not, I entreat you, my Lord, room for a too sensible application of the old adage. "*Sero sapiunt Phrygis,*" "*remedies*", says Swift (and he was no mean reasoner upon political subjects particularly) "*which stir the humours in a diseased body, are, at first, more painful than the malady itself; yet,*

*certain*

*certain death is the consequence of delaying them too long."*

As I am obliged to make my quotations from memory (for when I was driven from my house, I was also deprived of my books) I am to request your Grace to make allowances for their inaccuracy as to letter—their spirit will burst forth however meanly clothed!—Mr. Lock (in his letter upon toleration, I think) says, "that it is the duty of the civil Magistrate to secure to all the people the just possession of the things belonging to this life, *by the impartial execution of the laws*" in his treatise upon government, he observes that whenever the power that is put into any hands for the government of the people, and the preservation of their properties, *is applied to other ends, or to subdue them to the arbitrary commands of those that have it, then it presently becomes tyranny, whether those that use it are one or many—where law ends tyranny begins, if it be transgressed to another's wrong. Wherever an authority exceeds the power given him by the law, and makes use of it to effect that which the law allows not, ceases in that to be a Magistrate, and may be opposed as any other man, who, by force, invades the rights of another,*" this, he says, applies to "inferior as well as superior Magistrates"—in another place, he observes, "when an attempt is made to destroy

the property of the subject and reduce them to slavery and arbitrary power, *the people are absolved from any farther obedience, and are left to the common refuge which God ordained for all men against violence.*" I beg your Grace will particularly attend to what follows, for it applies, just now, very forcibly,—“*when the legislative transgresses the fundamental rule of society, and grasps to itself, or puts into the hands of any other, an absolute power over the lives, liberties, and estates of the people; it forfeits the power the people had put into its hands for a very different purpose—the people have then a right to resume their original liberty, and provide for their security,—“ for” he adds, “ when the people are made miserable, and exposed to the ill usage of arbitrary power, extol as much as you will their governors, the same will happen; and if they are generally ill-treated they will seize upon any occasion to free themselves from a burthen which sits heavy upon them—they will wish and seek for the opportunity, which in the change, weakness, and accidents in human affairs, seldom long delays to offer itself, &c.*” “The people will patiently submit to many and great wrongs, but, if a long train of abuses, provocations and artifices, all tending the same way, makes the design visible to the people, who cannot but see and feel what they lie under, and whether they are going, it cannot cause surprise that they should rouse themselves, and endeavour to put the rule into such hands

*hauds as might secure to them the ends for which government was, at first created."* Your Grace cannot but perceive that I have omitted such parts in the above quotations as might appear to have a tendency opposite to my motive for, at all, adverting to them—your Grace may refer to the original, and I am assured you will make the necessary corollory—if you do, it will redound as highly to your good sense as to the security of the state, and obtain a general eulogium upon your Grace's "Cabinet wisdom," which, as yet, has only been partially pronounced by the "grand juries of Dublin and Trim." It was my intention to quote many more authorities, ancient as well as modern, to prove "the necessity of tranquillizing the minds of the Roman Catholics, *by changing a system which has been so oppressive to them, and predicts such fatal consequences,*" but as I have already exceeded the bounds prescribed myself, and have a few general observations to make, I must rest contented with adducing only one more authority in support of *my opinion*—it is of a man, I acknowledge, whose writings, except on this head, I reprobate—I mean, Lord Sheftsbury, in his celebrated speech upon Lord Darby's "Test Bill" he observes "how weak and improper it was to condemn all resistance by express law—that, as government could not subsist, if men might resist as often as they were displeas'd ;  
so

to liberty must be lost if no resistance was lawful," he adds, "*a king might be in the hands of a faction, and then it would be treason to oppose what had the sanction of his name, though it was to rescue his authority.*"

Avail yourself, my Lord, of the present moment.—The French revolution is an awful example—be instructed by it—recollect,"—

*Arma tenenti,  
Omnia dat, qui justa negat."*

Sir Geoffry Fenton who long resided in Ireland, and was much esteemed by his judicious mistress, told her that "*the Irish people were to be held in obedience by doing them, upon all occasions, strict justice*" the turbulence of the times, will excuse his adding (what I am persuaded he would have retracted had he lived in these days) that "they were not to be won to loyal affection for the government by *unnecessary acts of indulgence.*"—My memory does not furnish me with any instance of even "*necessary indulgence*" they have experienced—nor, indeed, do I believe they ever looked for any thing beyond their *just rights*—and those, I trust, the Richmond Administration will confirm to them! I cannot quit this part of my  
subject

subject without declaring my most unqualified conviction, that there is not upon earth, a people more grateful alive, to kindneffes, nor more ready to forgive injuries than the original Irish—*Here*, my Lord, is a fine ground to work upon, be alert in cultivating it.

I shall now release you, my Lord, with an observation (whose, I confess, I do not recollect) which I shall insert as a *hint* to those persons who are so prompt to reprobate the “ motives ” which govern my politics—they have my free consent to apply it in the most unfavourable manner possible with regard to me, *provided it is acted upon*—“ the language of *false patriots* is not always to be disregarded, for the *very worst of men*, being obliged to *dissemble their bad intentions*, very frequently say things that *become the best*; and it is prudence to distinguish between *wholesome suggestions* (which are a kind of gilded wrappers) and *the poisons they are meant to convey*.”

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your Grace's most obedient,

and most humble servant,

RICHARD WILSON.

P. S. After I had finished my dedicatory address to your Grace, I was made acquainted with a new species of calumny which has been propagated against me—although I am peculiarly anxious not to mix my private, with public concerns; yet understanding that this “calumny” has received great weight and currency through the credit which is stamped upon it by a highly dignified person, (who, *of all others in the kingdom*, I should have hoped would have been the *last* to encourage a detraction, which he had not only an easy means of detecting, but which *from our connexion*, he ought to have been the most prominent to refute) I trust I shall stand excused for taking this public mode of informing my calumniators, that, they will find to their confusion (if they persist in their “calumny”) that they have fixed upon the very point in my character, where I am least vulnerable—nay more, that my conduct on it *merits the very reverse of reprobation!* If I am anxious to arrest this vile falsehood in its early stage, it is not that *I fear to meet it*, but that I wish to avoid a recurrence to transactions, the publication of which while it acquits me of dishonour, will encrease the misery I feel *for the sake of others!*

RICHARD WILSON.

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THE  
NARRATIVE.

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“ Ignorance, when it is voluntary, is criminal ; and he may, properly be charged with evil *who refused to learn how he might prevent it.*”  
JOHNSON.

“ To prevent evil is the great end of Government, the end for which vigilance and severity are properly employed.”  
IBID.

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THE motives which first urged my presenting myself to the notice of the public, with redoubled force compel this second attempt towards engaging its attention.—Having explained in my former publication, those *motives*, a recapitulation of them cannot now be deemed necessary. As it is my anxious wish not to extend my present narrative to an unexceptionable length, I mean to confine myself, as much as possible to mere matter of fact, except where explanations and observations may become requisite to illustrate my subject—studiously however, avoiding every attempt (which, indeed, was I ever so disposed, would defeat its object through my incapability) to fascinate the senses or mislead the judgment by the glitter of fine language, affected sentiment or beauty of composition—my detail, I trust, will not require any advertitious aid to secure attention—its simplicity

B. city

city will make it affecting—its truth and consistency bid defiance to malignity and detraction!

I am aware of an objection which may, with speciousness, be opposed to this publication—it may be argued “ that *admitting* the existence of abuses, “ I point out, and the direliction of duty in those who “ were bound, as far as possible, to prevent and remedy them, yet I should have evinced more true “ patriotism, in this awful crisis, by withholding “ representations which might probably inflame the “ already agitated mind of the people, &c. &c. &c.” I freely confess this objection had considerable weight with me, but the encreasing aggressions against the wretched creatures whose cause I ventured to advocate, the callosity of government to their sufferings, and, I own, the state to which I had been reduced through my endeavours to have them mitigated, decided me in favour of Publicity, in the hope that tho’ true policy, humanity, and justice might have no share in the measures pursued by our rulers, yet an apprehension of the loss of what appeared to be dearer to them than Fame, Country, or Honor — *Power and Emolument*—would induce them to change a system, which if much longer persisted in, could not fail of depriving them of those dearest objects of their hearts! Making thus an expiring effort to obtain from their fears, what, by experience, I knew, was not to be looked for from their arrogated virtues!

In " my Correspondence " with the late Irish government, and, also, with the present one, I repeatedly " offered, and pledged myself, by every thing dear to man, to prove, that there was scarce any outrage, however flagitious, which could be committed in my quarter of the kingdom, against a Roman Catholic, that, by some means or other, did not, generally indeed, pass unnoticed, but always unpunished, to the extent of its enormity." I also, stated that, " in matters of dispute between Roman Catholics and Orangemen, a most disgraceful partiality in favour of the latter, governed the proceedings of nine in ten of the Magistrates in my district; and that the man who had hardihood sufficient to protect a Roman Catholic, subjected himself not only to obsequy, but to personal danger." Now, if in the following detail I do not give such incontrovertible proofs of the existence of these scandalous abuses of law and justice; let me be deprived of that confidence and credit which from my earliest days have been the highest objects of my ambition, and my name consigned to an infamy, greater if possible, than history has stamped on the name of Cataline, or will attach to the characters of these monsters, whose selfish policy and false patriotism have brought our once justly boasted Constitution to the verge of annihilation!

Having said " that I should make my narrative as concise as the object of it would admit," I shall refer the reader to " my Correspondence with Mr. Elliott, &c." for a statement of the facts contained in it, and advert only to such matters as

remain unexplained in that "Correspondence," or have occurred since. In one of my letters to Mr. Elliot I observed that, "Robbers, Affaffins, Forgers of Bank Notes, and public disturbers, were protected, and their prosecutors frightened from following up their complaints."—Now, as I may subject myself to *new legal prosecutions*, if I publish the names of the parties who have been guilty of these crimes, I trust I shall be excused from going farther than stating the facts, and then leave it for government to call upon me for *names*, which I challenge it to do—but it has already given me tolerably solid proofs, *that it dare not!*

The first business of any material importance which came before me as a Magistrate, was by one H——: I shall, as well as my memory enables me, relate his story, and as nearly as possible in his own language.—The fact, however, is upon record, and government when so disposed, may apply to the proper authority—he said, "that he was by trade a blacksmith and by religion a Roman Catholic—that in the time of the rebellion he had been taken up on a *suspicion* of pike-making—that upon this charge, *without any proof*, he was decreed to be hanged through the *active loyalty* of his neighbouring Magistrate—that the consequence of the charge was the total ruin of his affairs—that he had endeavoured to restore them by opening a public house, which, with his trade, was doing very well—but having been Cottier to a man who was desirous to repossess himself of his house and field, his landlord *through his interest*

*interest* with the Magistrate alluded to (being one of his yeomen) had taken the most illegal steps to drive him from his place, but that he having a lease of it, and no other to shelter his small family in, he had refused quitting it—that his landlord had so poisoned the mind of the Magistrate, that he was induced to take hold of every opportunity to harrass and ruin him, and as a proof, that he had been prevailed upon by the landlord, *to take away his license*, upon the ground that he *kept a disorderly house*—that having stated his case to the Pro-Collector, that gentleman desired him “not to mind, but proceed in his usual way, taking care to give no real cause of complaint—” that in consequence of this permission he kept his public house open—that his landlord failing in this attempt he made information *of his selling liquors without a license*,—that in consequence, the Magistrate fined him in ten pounds, which he, by the assistance of friends, paid—his landlord becoming still more enraged in consequence of this second failure, actually arrested him for a sum of ten pounds, although he offered “to pay him whatever he could prove was really due him, and which he was sure was under five pounds”—that this was refused, and he not being able to pay this second unjust demand, was obliged to go to goal—that his wife continued in the business, and by her industry and saving was in a way of soon releasing him—that the landlord, still more and more violent from his repeated disappointments, laid a new information against him before the same Magistrate—that his wife attended the summons, and implored leave to go to the prison to her

her husband, and that no steps might be taken until her return, which should be the next day, when she would be able to shew that she had a license, and that her husband had got permission from the Pro-Collector to continue the sale of liquors"—that she immediately set off to her husband in Dungannon goal, that on her return home, early the next morning, she found her house completely stripped even to the instruments of her husband's trade, and not so "*much left as a naggin to give her infants a drink of water,*"—that she had left locked up in a chest *Five Guineas in coin*, which, with the whole contents of the chest, had been taken away—that her daughter informed her that the landlord was the person who had *broke open the chest and examined the contents*—that he had come with a constable and some other persons, *who were the purchasers of the property, at day break*, saying, "he had brought from the Magistrate a warrant of distress to levy a fine for selling liquors without a license"—that his wife would swear positively she left the money in the chest, and the daughter would swear it was utterly impossible but that the landlord must have found it, as he shook every article in the chest—that the money was folded in a piece of linen very carefully, and was too heavy not to be noticed—that the wife left the chest locked, and had taken the key with her, &c. &c. &c."

The whole of this transaction appeared to me so oppressive that I told the Complainant "I would make a strict enquiry into it, and that if I found his story correct, I would endeavour, as far as in  
my

my power, to have him redressed."—I did make an enquiry, and examined the wife and daughter,—they left no doubt on my mind but that every circumstance which related to their part in the transaction, was indisputably true.—Two respectable farmers bore testimony "to the oppression he had suffered through the persecutions of his landlord, and that his conduct, with the exception of the *suspicion* above mentioned, was irreproachable—." Upon these testimonies, I appointed his wife and daughter to meet me in Dungannon at one Kerr's, who acted as clerk to Lord Northland, and who was well acquainted with the characters and conduct of every person, almost, in that part of the country—Kerr assured me "that he had good reason to be convinced that the complaint was founded in truth, and that the landlord was a very bad man."—(I ought here to observe that the landlord at last affected his object: all hope, after the last outrage being given up by the wife of relieving her husband, he was obliged to regain his liberty at the expence of his little property.) I then desired Kerr to draw up the woman's examinations, which were as strong as words could make them—before they swore, I sifted them to the very utmost; Kerr assisted me; I pointed out to them the dreadful consequences of a false oath, &c. &c. &c. but nothing could make them swerve; indeed I never witnessed a more artless, affecting, or connected tale. I hesitated no longer, and granted a Warrant against the Landlord.

When

When the Constable came into the field where the landlord was, I learned the fellow made off, and that the Constable said "he was afraid to pursue him:" be that as it may, I was, soon after, informed that the "landlord," (I continue to distinguish the man by this denomination, as for the reason before assigned, I must decline mentioning names) wished to see me;—I confess I thought he came in custody, and was not a little surprized at seeing him step into the room, not only unattended, but with an air of uncommon impudence—he began by letting me know, that "he understood I had granted a Warrant against him, but that he had fled from the Constable, as he was determined no man should make him a prisoner."—I think it is unnecessary for me to point out at any length, the conduct I was to, and did, pursue—I instantly seized him by the collar, rung the bell, and ordered one of my servants "to get two stout fellows to take that man to goal, and that in the mean time I would take care of him." My orders being executed, I wrote his committal, and sent him off as I thought, to the prison in Dungannon, but the fellow had art enough to prevail upon one of the men I appointed special Constable, "to keep him all night, and that in the morning he would quietly attend him to goal:" on his way thither the next day, he further prevailed upon his guard "to go home with him to get a clean shirt," on the road he met the Constable who had said "he dared not to pursue him," this Constable demanded him from the guard, saying "he was *his* prisoner,"—the foolish fellows consented; however

however they accompanied the constable and prisoner, to the prisoner's friendly Magistrate, who immediately released him, and wrote me a sort of apology for his so doing—Here follows the worthy Magistrate's motive, in his own words, *for liberating a man charged with robbery!* The complimentary part of the note I shall omit. "From my knowledge of the respectable characters (N. B. If the prisoner is not foully belied, this robbery was a feather to other crimes, which the country, *even some of his own sort*, report of him.) of G—— and the Constable I have been induced to admit them to bail, (*none at the time was given*) as I believe them incapable of the crime laid to their charge by H—— and family, *whose characters you will find on enquiry to be most infamous.*"

Signed, ——"

I am to hope that the reader feels something more than astonishment at the above relation. I have but little more to add to it—the landlord appeared in the bar, I understand at Omagh, from whence he was discharged *as no bill of indictment was found against him!!!* The prosecutors, had the additional grievance of a week's attendance, with a long journey—it will not however be ungrateful to the feeling mind to learn, that "*that this family of infamous character*" are now decently provided for, and that they live in credit amongst their humble neighbours. Quere, why was this bill of indictment smothered? *The aggrieved party were Roman Catholics, and the aggressor an Orange and Yeoman!*—reverse the

case and *would the issue have been similar?* I boldly answer, "it would NOT." It would extend this narrative to too great a length were I to give a minute detail of several other matters of a similar nature, which came before me whilst I acted as a Magistrate—I mean of bills of indictment being smothered in cases of felony, where Roman Catholics were the prosecutors—I shall therefore, only give the heads of two or three more instances.—

A man in my neighbourhood was charged before me as an utterer of forged Bank Notes, and of his making journies to Dublin (accompanied by the informant) to purchase them of the *Manufacturer*—this fellow kept out of my way; however he appeared at the assizes, no bill was found, and the prosecutor was secreted; Messrs. Fleetwood and Darley, Solicitors to the Bank of Ireland, attended to prosecute this man, as also some others charged with similar offences. I will leave it to these respectable gentlemen to confirm what I now assert, (and what indeed they themselves have already declared to me) that it "was of no use to attempt convicting *at Omagh*, a man charged with forgery, *however strong the proofs.*"

Another fellow was charged before me with passing forged Notes, upon which he had written his name, *and which signature he disowned*; the same man was also, by another person, charged with a robbery, (innumerable instances of minor villianies I myself knew he had been guilty of,) he also appeared at Omagh, *and no bill found against him*—the same fellow's son-in-law,

law, with the assistance of a collector of the cess, was sworn against, before me, with "having burned the house of a poor man, who was his cottier, and whom he was endeavouring to dispossess of his little tenement;" this man, also, appeared at the assizes, but *no bill found!!!* Let me ask how is all this? The bills certainly were given to the proper officer at Omagh, for I sent them, either by Mr. Caulfield or the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, both Magistrates, who constantly attend upon their employer's business at the assizes, and both assured me of "their having deposited, with the clerk, the examinations."—Am I to be told, that this is not a subject of enquiry? Yes, the late patriot Irish ministers told me so, and they, pure, *disinterested*, frank, *vigorous*, and *exclusively endowed*" men, could not either *think* or *say* wrong. We shall presently see how far the cause of justice has been advanced, and its appeals attended to, by their successors.

With regard to attempts at "assassination," as I myself was the principal object of those, and as I have alluded to them in "my Correspondence with the late ministers," I shall forbear alluding to any more than *one* of them—(which I adverted to in a late letter to the Duke of Richmond)—this shall be noticed in its proper place—In the mean time I will proceed in giving some accounts of robberies and murders committed in my neighbourhood *since the present administration got into power,—the state to which I have been reduced both with regard to personal safety and property, and the shameless inattention of govern-*

*ment to my communications, or, to speak more appropriately its scandalous encouragement of the abuses I called upon it to redress by the neglect of its constitutional duty in disregarding representations which I bound myself to confirm by the most irrefragable proofs ! I shall commence by transcribing a letter to the present Chancellor, and giving the heads of the transaction to which it alludes—*

TO THE LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF  
IRELAND.

*Owena Lodge, May 19, 1807.*

MY LORD,

My view in requesting your Lordship to take the trouble of perusing the enclosed papers, is, as well to point out to your Lordship the *necessity* of a strict enquiry into the abuses and *evasions of justice* which exist in this quarter of the kingdom, (and, indeed, I fear, in every other part of it) as to give your Lordship an opportunity of exercising your humanity and benevolence in behalf of a poor oppressed old man !

In the time of your Lordship's predecessor, I, in vain, attempted the former. I also endeavoured to draw the attention of an old friend of mine, Lord Eldon, to the same subject ; yet, though my communications to his Lordship were made *at his own request*, I never learned his opinion of them ! I have lately made another effort with my noble friend ; but as three weeks and upwards have elapsed since I wrote  
to

to him, and *no answer returned*, I am led to apprehend that the same unfortunate apathy to the *real state of this country*, prevails with him and his colleagues, on the other side the channel, as formerly— for, my communications were made for the information of the whole of the administration, although they were *particularly* addressed to Lord Eldon as an old acquaintance.

With regard to the facts stated in the papers I have the honor of transmitting to your Lordship, I can vouch for the truth of the most material part of them—the unfortunate man was first seduced, I may say, from following up the prosecution, by his parish priest, whom I interrogated upon the subject—he admitted the fact, but assigned motives, which, from what I have since learned with respect to him, I confess I think rather apocryphal; by this priest he was prevailed upon to listen to a sort of accommodation, which, with working upon his fears, induced him to give credit to A—— the father and father-in-law of the alledged robbers, when he assured him, “ of *indemnity not only for his losses by the robbery, but, also with regard to his recognizance.*” This A—— is without dispute, one of the greatest villians upon earth, he is at the head of a gang of coiners, shop-lifters, &c. &c. —— the son-in-law has *ousted his own father* from his little property, whom he now leaves a beggar through the country !! A—— has been often before me on account of nefarious charges; he however, has always slipped through my hands from the management of his orange connections. From  
this

this little history of the parties, your Lordship may form a tolerably accurate judgment of the dependence which may be placed upon M——'s depositions. M—— is a very old man who decently maintained himself as a country school-master; he has been robbed once or twice before, and, it is believed, by some of the same gang.

I will not trouble your Lordship any longer, than to hope a strict and serious inquiry will be made into this business, not merely as it relates to M——, but as it *may tend towards bringing to light a series of still more atrocious crimes, (such as murders, assassinations) which if they are not PROTECTED by Magistrates, are at least winked at by them!* (the reader will, in the course of this narrative, see whether or not I was justified in this declaration)—*I shall not shrink, if called upon to prove this assertion.*

I have the Honor, &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

Inserted in the *Evening Herald* of June 24, 1807.

Before I state the particulars of this robbery, I shall finish my Correspondence with the Chancellor, and, also insert the letter alluded to, to Lord Eldon.

The above letter not being noticed as soon as I conceived its importance merited, I again addressed the Chancellor as follows—

Owona

Owena Lodge, June 12, 1807.

MY LORD,

Though I will not trouble your Lordship or myself with enquiries into the *causes* which have induced your Lordship to dispense with a politeness, which, I am persuaded, is natural to you, in not replying to my letter, written I believe, more than a month since; yet I cannot resist the impulse of humanity, to repeat my intreaty that your Lordship would have the goodness to investigate the *truth* of the narrative that letter contained, and extend your investigation to the still more calamitous and dangerous abuses hinted at.

I have devoted my time (since my residence in Ireland) I may say, solely, to their removal. My efforts were not *merely unsupported*, but, *by every means possible, thwarted by those whose duty it was to have given vigour and effect to them!*—this urged a very ungrateful alternative—a public appeal. Its effects cannot have entirely escaped your Lordship's remark. Unhappy, indeed, shall I be, if I am obliged to make a *second* from a *similar cause*. I earnestly hoped, *from what had taken place*, that the present administration, *out of policy*, to say nothing of justice and humanity, would have made every appeal unnecessary, but to its *wisdom*, which could not fail to shew that its *existence depended upon pursuing measures, pointedly the reverse of those of the preceding ones, relative to this country; and that it ought to direct its powers to the melioration of the condition of the lower classes in general, and the curbing the licentiousness and profligacy of a set*

of

of men who are protected in their oppressions of the Roman Catholic poor—thereby depriving government, of their co-operation in the eventful contest we are engaged in! I set off to-morrow to Dublin, upon private business, which will probably detain me there for some days. If your Lordship is disposed to converse with me on the subject of this, or my former letter, I will do myself the honour of attending your Lordship's commands, left for me at No. 2, Westmorland-street.

I have the Honor, &c. &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

N. B. I remained ten days in town, without any message from the learned Lord—this will account for my submitting the letters to the public, and will prove, *to those who are open to proof*, that neither calumny, self-preservation, or the unvarying persecutions I am harrassed with by the monsters whom I have endeavoured to bring to punishment, shall paralyze my efforts in the cause of the people and the constitution.

R. W.

Inserted in the *Evening Herald*, of June 26, 1807.

I returned home about the beginning of July, and was favoured with the following letter from the Chancellor's Secretary, as he signs himself, which, as I afterwards learned, had been *preceded a few days before*

*before by a supersedias for my dismissal from the Magistracy—upon that business I shall say something in its proper place—Here follows this curious letter, which I am to hope the reader will duly examine, and pronounce his opinion upon its relevancy as a reply to my letters to the Chancellor, and whether it does not favour more of a peevish littleness, than of that dignity and liberality which ought to be inseperable from the high station of a Lord Chancellor ?*

TO RICHARD WILSON, ESQ.

*Stephen's-Green, July 2d, 1807.*

SIR,

I am directed by the Lord Chancellor to return the papers herewith enclosed, and to inform you, that the matters contained in them do not appear to his Lordship to call upon him in *his official situation as Chancellor, to give any directions respecting the same, but that if any proceedings upon them are necessary, application should be made to the proper jurisdiction (not, however, condescending to inform an ignorant country squire, as it is evident I was considered, what that jurisdiction was, or HOW I was to apply to it.)*

I am directed by the Chancellor to add (high minded man !) that, *he desires to be relieved from any further correspondence on the subject.*

I have the Honor, &c. &c.

THOMAS LOCKWOOD, Sec.

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The reader is requested to reconsider my letters to the Chancellor, and his Lordship's Secretary's reply, after I have transcribed the papers which gave rise to the Correspondence—before I state the contents of these papers, I shall copy the letter I stated to have written to the *other* Lord Chancellor—and then, ever farewell to the present race of Lord Chancellors in the *corresponding way!* I shall take leave to prefix a little commentary made by the Editor of the Evening Herald, when he published the letter.

#### Mr. Wilson's Letter to Lord Eldon.

“ We lay before our readers the following letter written by Mr. Wilson to Lord Eldon, which that gentleman has given us for publication, with two others (just now inserted) addressed to the Lord High Chancellor of Ireland, which shall appear in due course. Their insertion in a public print is owing to their having been totally neglected as private communications, and it will be incumbent on those who have attributed his late conduct to selfish motives; to account for *his attempting to use that influence, which old acquaintance might have been supposed to give him over the English Chancellor, for purposes entirely foreign to self, and which, if effected, would have been effectual towards the re-establishment of natural quiet and order in the community.* If any say that he meant this but as a preface to the request of personal favours, we must only observe, that Mr. Wilson appears to have lived too long in, and to be too well acquainted with the world, to suppose that an endeavour

your to turn the attention of the Great to their public duty, is a mode of recommending a candidate to their FAVOUR.

TO LORD ELDON.

Owena Lodge, May 3d, 1807.

MY LORD,

I will not permit myself to suppose, that any misconstruction can be put upon the motive which has advised this letter; my public conduct, my various opportunities for advancement, and my present situation, prove, beyond the power of malignancy to controvert, that disinterestedness, and a love of the British constitution, *in its original purity*, have ever been the governing principles of my mind; they were *born with me*, they have *lived* with me, and I will *die* with them!

I do not, my Lord, mean to attempt influencing your adoption of my suggestions on the score of old acquaintance—your Lordship has afforded me (in your *forgetfulness* of my reverend friend Mr. S. M. M.) indisputable proofs, as far as I was personally concerned at least, that such considerations had no weight in your Lordship's breast; no, my Lord, I intend that they shall rest upon their own merits, duly reflected upon with that judgment and discrimination, which so eminently distinguish your Lordship's character. On these grounds I fix upon your Lordship (as, also, on account of having heretofore communicated my sentiments to your Lord-

ship in the state of this country) in preference to any of your colleagues, as the receptacle of my opinions at this eventful crisis; with the addition of a belief that you held more favour in your royal master's breast than any other of his *declared* servants.

The profligate apostacy, meanness, and selfishness of the late ministers, place you in a situation (if you wisely avail yourself of it) which will fix you in the hearts of the present generation, and transmit your name with veneration to posterity! Your task my Lord, is less arduous than your opponents would teach you to apprehend. I shall subject myself to a charge of consummate presumption, in attempting to mark out the road which is to lead you to the enviable distinction I am anxious you should obtain.—but *that* shall not move me from my object.

The consistent language you, and *most* of your friends, have held with regard to the Catholic question augurs to me a hope (whatever my private opinion upon that great point may be) that you will leave nothing untried, (oh! heaven how have I been deceived!) *short of yielding it*, to conciliate the great body of people interested in it. My intimate knowledge of the real grievances which the lower orders labour under, enables me to point out the most probably effectual means towards their conciliation. Of the higher class I will, just now, say no more, than to recommend *mildness* in your resistance of their grand object

I feel

I feel proud in being *the first man* who opened their eyes as to the real principles of their apostate friends —this urged on a measure that terminated in an exposure of their selfish views, which they attempted to parry by adopting *a half measure*, that failing (but which, had it succeeded, would not have answered the proposed end) they had nothing to have recourse to, but abuse of their Sovereign, querulous moanings for their *loss of place*, and pointless invectives against their successors. My detestation of these men (with the exception of Windham, whose principles I am persuaded are sound, though he has unhappily permitted himself to become the dupe of men, whose conduct, *I know he once considered dangerous to the very existence of the constitution,*) my detestation of these men, I say, is as rooted as their worthlessness, and therefore every exertion of my mind shall be directed against their ever repossessing themselves of the confidence of this deluded nation!

A Mr. Keogh, for reasons which I, at this moment, dare only guess at, continues to eulogize the late ministers. Now to my real belief, this very Mr. Keogh, *previous to the late change*, considered them as *complete apostates to their original professions*, and that *the attainment of power alone governed their declamations in favour of the Catholic claims!*” But be his motive what it may, I take upon me boldly to assert, that he shall not succeed in restoring them to the confidence of the Irish nation: do not accuse me of arrogance; an acquaintance with my conduct towards this people, and their avowed confidence, will prove  
I am

I am not without a portion of influence amongst them. Whatever the result of this letter may be, that influence never shall be directed but towards the tranquillization of this distracted country. But I am wandering too far from the principal aim of this address, which was to point out the measures that *must be pursued* to soften the late disappointment, and remove the consequent irritation in the minds of the Roman Catholics. Without a moment's delay or hesitation, you are to convince the general body of Catholics that, though you resist their great political object, yet you are determined (I need not observe that I am now speaking of administration when I say "you") to *afford them every relief short of that; that you will free them from the insults of the armed Orangemen; that, you will take care that the laws shall, in future, be administered with vigour, justice, and impartiality; that, Juries shall not be packed to screen their oppressors, (to my knowledge sometimes their murderers!) —that, the Magistracy shall be placed in the hands of honourable, just, and independent gentlemen; that, some favourable modification with regard to tythes shall be adopted; that, the Lord Lieutenant shall take into his councils men who have a thorough knowledge of the state of the country; that, he shall depute persons, (fully competent to the duty,) to pervade every part of the kingdom, and examine into all sorts of abuses, and report them with boldness and integrity; that, he shall set his face against every species of jobbing; that, he shall rid himself of the swarm of locusts who, at present, devour up the bread of the industrious poor—I mean the Castle crew, who, some way or other never fail trusting themselves into*

office

office about the Viceroy, whomever he may happen to be— (gloriously and wisely has my noble friend availed himself of these hints, as will appear in the following pages!) On these various heads I could much enlarge, but the bounds of a letter will not admit of it. I have however, said enough to put you in the way of ingratiating yourselves (*and tenderly they have done it*) with the mass of the Catholics. If my opinions are held deserving of attention, I shall not withhold a more detailed continuation of them, nor my personal efforts in behalf of measures, on which, I am bold to say, depend not only the *present tranquillity of Ireland, but the very existence of the British empire as an independent state!* I have, with some reluctance been obliged to cease paying that attention to my duty of a Magistrate which I have hitherto (if I may take leave so to speak of myself) pursued with advantage to the victims of oppression; the truth is, that my mind has been so harrassed, my expences (*on account of the continual persecutions I meet with, through my opposition to the usual mode of administering justice in this country*) are so far beyond my present means, and my difficulties thereby, so much encreased, that I was obliged, within these few days, to give notice that “ I must, for some time at least, confine myself to the arrangements of my private affairs.”

I have some acquaintance with the Duke of Richmond, and am also by marriage connected with him (a *kind* friend, and a *tender* relation his Grace, as will appear bye and bye, has proved himself to me.) I shall not, however avail myself of either ground to  
 present

present myself to his Grace, until I learn the issue of this letter ; nor then, unless it answers the purpose I had in view when I undertook to write it.

I shall now conclude with a general observation, that you are to look *only* at the salvation of the empire ; *that it hinges on the tranquillization of Ireland*, and that you are sedulously to pursue *every means* which can tend towards effecting that *first of objects*.

Farewell my Lord, may you and your friends merit the gratitude and eulogy, (oh ! well have they done it !) of your country fervently prays,

Your old Friend,

RICHARD WILSON.

“ Memorandum. Upon no consideration whatever attend to the ravings of that old woman Dr. Duigenan ; if you do, depend upon it, he will subject you to ridicule as well as execration ! ”

I shall now return to the case I sent the Chancellor for his Lordship's consideration ; as it is very long I will extract from it all its material features, leaving the technical rubbish where it ought to be on the lawyer's shelf ; M——'s deposition states that “ on the 29th of April, 1807, after he was in bed his house was forcibly broken open by A—— Y—— accompanied as he verily believes by his brother-in-law A—— A—— both of B—— C—— in the County of Tyrone ;

Tyrone ; that he was most violently assaulted, beaten, stabbed, and knocked down, and kicked under his bed by Y——, who having lighted a candle robbed him of his silver watch, breeches, and some money, with several other articles such as shirts, a bed quilt, wearing apparel, to the value of Ten pounds and upwards ; which articles the said Y—— put into a sack whilst his accomplice A—— (whom he confidently believes as aforesaid) assisted and held the candle, after which they made off with the plunder ; M—— further deposes, that he verily believes, from strong circumstances, that S—— a pedlar, who frequented Y——'s house, was the man who guarded the window without, and talked to the robbers ; he further says that he has good reason to believe that A——, Sen. of B—— C—— aforesaid was head plotter in said robbery ; said M—— deposes that he had lodged Examinations to the above effect before Mr. F—— on the 1st of June, inst. and that he was prevented from prosecuting said Y—— and A—— the last assizes, for the following reasons—for fear of his life, through the threatning of said Y—— and A—— and also, of A——, Sen. and M—— of C——, also from his bad state of health through the injuries he had received when he was robbed ; that he was the rather induced to withhold his prosecuting the robbers through the flattering promises and speeches of A——, Sen. who said “ he would free M—— from every fine and trouble

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that might attend his non appearance at Omagh,  
&c. &c. &c.

Sworn before Richard Wilson, Esq.  
March 20th, 1807.

I desire not to be understood as assigning the above affidavit as a ground for troubling the Chancellor; no, I was induced to *endeavour* to interest his Lordship in this unfortunate man's behalf, on account of the following statement of his persecutions through the immediate means of the villains who had abused and plundered him; his statement is upon oath, and sworn before me; it is to the following purport, that "having been deceived through promises of the father of the robbers and his associate M——, was thereby prevented from prosecuting; he attended at the Easter assizes and took out a Bench Warrant for the said A—— (the person who, he verily believes, was the accomplice of Y—— and who had so cruelly abused him,) that the Clerk of the Crown desired him to deliver it to M—— of said County, to have it executed; that said M——, refused taking it in the presence of the Rev. Mr. Lowry." (N. B. Mr. Lowry confirmed this fact to me.) M—— states he was made prisoner on the 30th of April last, *by the robber himself*, accompanied by one G—— who hurried him away to goal, for a fine, as they said, of £50. for not prosecuting the said Y—— (*now turned into a Constable!* a tolerably natural transition.) When on the road, they met the above mentioned M—— the H. C. who gave one of the Constable's

ble's a paper, and desired him to deliver it to the goaler; that he verily believes, they had no Warrant or order to take him *until then*, and that he is persuaded they were not constables (indeed I know they are not) for they constantly refused shewing Deponent their authority for taking him prisoner;" he farther goes on to state, that "on the 3d day of May, Inst. he was pressed to take some liquor (by persons whom he had good reason to believe were in the confidence of the parties who had injured him, particularly of A—— the father of the robbers) that he had gone to his bed in the prisor, and slept for some time; that on his awakening, suspecting some treachery, he examined his pocket, and found it had been picked of the Warrant which M—— had refused to take; that he made great cry of distress but to no purpose;" he farther deposes that "he has good ground to know that the above mentioned prisoners were the persons who robbed him of his Bench Warrant against A—— the younger—&c. &c."

In another deposition of M——'s, which I sent to the Chancellor, he enters into the particulars of the *means* which were pursued to prevent his prosecuting the fellows who robbed him; that he was *cajoled* to go before a Magistrate by A——, Sen. (and persuaded, also, by his parish priest) where he said he would give up the prosecution but that the Magistrate can certify he said he did give it up *through fear of his life!* of this he mentions many proofs in the various depositions I sent to the Chancellor, but as I believe I have stated sufficient to prove

that this poor old man has been most cruelly treated, (with the addition of his lying several months in gaol, until discharged on account of his poverty,) and that examination into his case, and into the conduct of the H. C. as well as the parties concerned in the robbery and assault, would not have reflected any discredit either upon the Lord Chancellor's justice, humanity, or dignity, although his Lordship was not the immediate and *exact channel* through which the investigation should be set on foot. I must not omit that this old man is a Roman Catholic, and that his persecutors and plunderers are of the loyal school of Orangemen.

I cannot refrain from mentioning a circumstance, (which will tend to shew the "accuracy") of the Magisterial gentry of my part of the country, although it took place some months previous to M—'s robbery; on the evening in which the Orangemen had made the attempt to assassinate me, (mentioned in "my Correspondence with the late administration") a very reputable Roman Catholic was driving his cow towards his house, when he was overtaken by a straggling party of the assassins; who were of course extolling their exploit, in having "nearly murdered papist Wilson, &c. &c." The man incautiously desired them "to speak respectfully of a gentleman who had done so much good since his residence in the country"—he was immediately knocked down, and would have been dispatched but that some of the party knew him to be a Free Mason, and rescued him before the spark of life was extinguished—he

was

was however beaten most dreadfully, in so much that his life was considered in danger. I was informed of his situation, and not being well enough to go abroad, from the abuse I myself had received on the same evening, I advised his brother-in-law, who is a tenant of mine, to go to Mr. P—— the Magistrate who *was the agent of the estate* the injured man lived upon, bringing with him an authenticated state of the man's health, abuse, &c. this was done—the Magistrate's clerk or servant, *although acquainted with the object of their interview with the Magistrate, and of the very precarious state of the man's health, and that there was but little hopes of his surviving any length of time,* yet the clerk, or servant, refused acquainting his master “as he was then dressing to go to dinner with Lord C——,” *his employer !!!*

The man, however did recover ; some of the persons who abused him were *szorn* to by a person who happened to be on the road ; but nothing was, or indeed, could be done, for the Orange party to whom this detached one belonged, had commenced a prosecution against me, “*for beating five hundred of them,*” *though unarmed and unsupported !* little, therefore, could be expected from his informing, until the issue of the prosecution against me should be known, least he, with equal consistency, might have been “proved to have commenced the affray, &c.” this prosecution, I must observe, still hangs over me. and has been carried on *by an open subscription*, under the legal advice of a Mr. Pettigrew, who, *utrumque paratus*

ratus, officiates one day as a Magistrate, and the next as an attorney !!!

I shall now proceed to give a detail of some atrocious murders and violations of justice—I might say even of the *common forms* of justice,—which have occurred near me since the entrance into office of the present administration. The first act of this kind to which I shall advert, was one committed near the town of Balligawlay (a few miles from my house) last spring; I do not mention it as having been occasioned by any *party* dispute, but as a proof of the *laxity* of our administration of justice—two men had some altercation in the fair, but it was supposed too trifling to predict any serious or fatal consequences; however as one of the disputants was returning home, at a little distance from the town, he was overtaken by his adversary, who without saying a word, dashed out his brains with, I believe, a spade he had purchased in the fair! *I never learned that the murderer was even put in the way of punishment !!!* I will not insult the understanding, or attempt to excite the indignation of my reader by a commentary!

The next murder I shall relate is still more atrocious in its circumstances, as well as more momentous as to the *effect which it has produced*.

“ On the 25th of December, 1806, (I must here anticipate an objection, that “ this murder was committed previous to the present people’s coming into power,” by observing, that the *trial* took place just

about

about the time of their entrance into office, and therefore, that their predecessors could not be charged with any blame, *if there was any blame*, in the mode of carrying on the prosecution, or the means which were adopted to obtain an acquittal of the murderer,) as one D——, accompanied by one M'G——, was returning home after having conveyed a young woman to her master's house, who had spent the evening with his family, and passing by the house of one S——, two shots were fired at him by S——, *without he or his companion having given the smallest provocation to S——*, either then or before; whereupon the deceased went forward to S——, and “declared himself to be F—— D——, and that he was Doctor B——’s servant, and that he had no intention to hurt his person or property,” upon which S—— opened his door, and leaning upon the underpart of it, (being a *divided* door) fired his *third shot*, which instantly deprived D—— of life.” This is the substance of what was proved at the inquest, which was held upon the body of D—— the verdict was “*wilful murder* against said S——.” There were two Magistrates, one of whom (as he himself informed me,) was for sending the murderer to goal, but the other “insisted upon taking the murderer under his own protection, until he could get another Magistrate, Mr. A—— of Dunganon, to join him in taking bail,”—he did so, and *the murderer was at large until it was necessary he should appear in the dock at the ensuing assizes*—he was there convicted of *Manlaughter*; as it appeared to the Jury from the testimony of his captain, “that he” the captain, “had

“ had put the murderer upon his guard, *shortly before the murder, on account of his having received some intimation that a riot was expected on the night that the murder was committed !!!*” I will only add, that the Murderer, the Magistrate, the Witness, and I firmly believe most part of the Jury, were ORANGEMEN, and the murdered man an unfortunate *Roman Catholic!*—however the Judge, I suppose, saw into the real state of this nefarious business, and, though he could not alter the verdict of the Jury, he I understand, punished the murderer as far as he could by imprisonment; which I have since heard, great interest has been made to free the murderer from. I beg the reader will bear in mind the *mode* we have of punishing murder in our county, and contrast it with the punishment for an *affray*, which I shall presently advert to, where the convicted party had *Orange Witnesses, Magistrates, and Jury* to contend with, and was, himself, *the vile wretch*, a “PAPIST.”

The next murder, or rather *murders*, for two were perpetrated almost on the same instant, took place on the 30th day of March last. (1807) A man of a most excellent character, and inoffensive manners, was, at the fair of C—, and, without even an indication of previous resentment on the part of the assailants, beaten down and stabbed by a part of Mr. P—’s yeomen; he lingered, I believe, a day and expired—a principal in the murder, was *advised* to surrender himself and turn King’s evidence—he did so, but none of the other murderers having been taken (for reasons which may be accounted for, through

through the sworn documents, which I shall insert, of the murdered man's brother) he was discharged, and now quietly enjoys himself under the patronage of his Orange commander ! The deposition of the murdered man's brother is as follows : he commences it by stating " that he firmly believes, due means were not taken towards seizing the murderers of his brother, for the following reasons, first, because the Magistrate confessed, " *he was acquainted with certain of the murderers, against whom examinations were lodged, yet would not grant warrants against more than three of them, whereas seven were sworn against, exclusive of W——, the King's evidence ;* that upon application of said brother to the deceased, on the 15th of July following, the Magistrate did then grant a warrant against the whole party, dating said warrant as on the 4th of April ! that said Magistrate was heard to say in his office to one B——, (one of the accused persons) that " he B——, might go home, as he had enough against him," thereby appearing to caution him to keep out of the way—further deposes, that he believes said Magistrate was well acquainted with all the circumstances of the murder, as well as with the persons who had committed it, before W——, the King's evidence was examined, from what he, said Magistrate, had observed to deponent upon his application to him ; deposes, that said Magistrate gave directions " for all the yeomen to appear with their arms and clothing to be inspected ;" yet to this day, the 23d of July, there never was an inspection of their arms, though several of the yeomen did come in, to the

Magistrate, as ordered; that deponent then applied to another Magistrate, *brother to the other*—"for a guard to take up certain persons suspected of the murder," said Magistrate, *positively refused*, saying "it was nonsense, how could he allow him a guard? *said Magistrate was commander of the yeomen, many of whom were the persons suspected of the murder*; said Magistrate asked deponent, at the same time, "whom he suspected?" deponent replied, "*his own yeomen, and no others.*" Deponent afterwards applied to the first-mentioned Magistrate "to sign deponent's description of the *persons* of the people sworn against, in order to have it published in the newspapers;" said Magistrate refused, saying, "*it was an odd sort of production, and he would have nothing to do with it!!!*" but, deponent is persuaded that the Magistrate's objection arose from deponent's describing the *persons* as "*C—— Yeomen, with their names and occupations.*" All the persons alluded to, deponent believes to be *Orangemen*; deponent and his brother were *Roman Catholics*. The above facts I am ready to prove if called upon.

Signed, H—— M——.

Various persons appeared ready to corroborate the above statement, and have left their names with me.

RICHARD WILSON.

The

The other murder committed on the same day, at the same fair, and by the same party, having little to distinguish it from the foregoing, I do not think it necessary to detail it; he was, also, a man of fair character, who had gone to the fair accompanied by his wife and niece, and was murdered (as appears by the confession of one of the party) “merely because he was a papist, and that none of his sect were to escape that night!” Several other persons (Roman Catholics) were grossly abused on the above day, and who had been prevented from informing against the Orangemen (*as they positively swear*) “for fear of their sharing the fates of M. and M’S——.” I will insert one deposition, to prove that the attack upon the Roman Catholics was a preconcerted one. W—— “sheweth that on the night of the 30th of March 1807, M——, the deceased was in the Inn of R——, of C——, when W. —— (*the King’s evidence*) and P. ——, with others came to said inn, and “demanded in a peremptory manner to send, or put out, the Papists, or that the above-mentioned would pull down his sign-board, and destroy the house.” Further, that P——, on the evening of said day, drew out a pistol, and presented the same at W——, but was prevented firing it by a young girl who was in his company.”

I have already adverted to my “dismissal” from the magistracy, which, I have reason to believe, was *determined upon some time* before the Chancellor ordered his Secretary to reply to my letters relative

“ to the robbery of M——, and the conduct afterwards pursued by the friends of the robbers, to prevent him from prosecuting them.” In consequence of the signature of the Lord Lieutenant to that supersedeas, and the *Chancellor's name not anyway appearing in it*, I held myself justified in writing the following letter to the Lord Lieutenant. But first I will copy the supersedeas :

“ George the third, by the grace of God, of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King defender of the Faith, and so forth, To *our truly and well-beloved Richard Wilson, Esquire, greeting*, Whereas by our letters patent under our great seal of Ireland, we did constitute and appoint you the said Richard Wilson one of our justices and keepers of our peace within our County of Tyrone, as by the said letters patent may appear, We being *willing to exonerate you in this particular*, do therefore direct and command that immediately after sight or receiving of this our writ, *You are superseded from further acting in the said office of justice or keeper of the peace within the said county*, and all recognizances, and other writings whatsoever relating to the peace of our said county now remaining in your hands, you do forthwith deliver or cause the same to be delivered to the Keeper of our Records of our said county, or his Deputy, that our *other Justices* of the peace for the said County may do therein as to justice shall appertain. Witness Charles Duke of Richmond, our Lieut. General and General Governor

nor of Ireland, at Dublin, this 3d day of July, in the forty-seventh year of our Reign.

WESTMEATH.”

Per TH. BOUCHER,  
Sec. Crown and Hanaper.

(Copy.)

THE FIRST LETTER.

Owona Lodge, Aug. 17, 1807.

MY LORD,

Labouring though I still do under a most severe and acute disorder, (and which has confined me for several weeks) I cannot resist availing myself of the present interval of ease to address your Grace upon a subject which, I conceive demands your Grace's most grave and deliberate consideration, distinct from any personal concern I may have in it,—I allude to *my deprivation of the Commission of the Peace sanctioned with the authority of your Grace's name.* Although I may *suspect* the motives which have occasioned this extraordinary, and, as I will one day or other, most unquestionably prove, *unjust* as well as *unwise* stretch of power, yet in the confidence of your Grace's honour, justice and candour, and in the hope that through *them* I shall obtain redress for that side-blow attack upon my reputation; I will for the present, content myself with entreating your Grace to give direction, “ that I should be made acquainted

acquainted with the *ground assigned* for my dismissal, in order, that, *in case I should be able to vindicate myself*, I may be furnished with the means." Your Grace may call to mind an observation of a most celebrated ancient legislator, which suits all times and all countries—he says, “an injury done to the meanest subject is an insult upon the whole constitution.” I solicit, my Lord, only the “means” to shew whether or not an “injury” has been committed against *me*? Investigation, *broad and liberal*, will decide the question; to such an one, and *to such an one only*, will I submit my case. If my dismissal can be justified, I merit the disgrace I have experienced, and will admit that my person should be subjected to *all* the penalties of the Act which the *wisdom* of Parliament has just framed “for the security of Ireland.”

The limits of a letter will not permit a detailed enumeration of the injuries and insults I have experienced *since my removal from the magistracy*; I have been pillaged of my property; endeavours have been made to *force* me to a breach of the laws; the most malignant and false representations of my character have been conveyed to the public through the medium of a newspaper, notoriously, indeed avowedly, under the controul of the Orange faction, recommending “*public rejoicings for Richard Wilson, Esq. of Owena Lodge, having been deprived of the power of any longer committing acts of injustice and oppression,*” with “*acknowledgments of gratitude to the Lord Chancellor for his removal of him, &c.*”

Merciful

Merciful God! I an oppressor! if in my ministry *one single act of oppression*, injustice or partiality appears—nay, on the contrary, if my accusers can shew that I ever *even omitted an occasion to prevent oppression,* restrain violence, and promote tranquillity, then, my Lord, will I confess that the Chancellor, and those who advised the late measure, are justly entitled to the eulogy of the Orangemen of Tyrone, and the gratitude of the country! My Lord, I am grossly slandered and injured; *I call upon you as a man of honour to obtain justice for me.*

I cannot help here adverting to a remark of another of the ancients (one of the best, as well as the wisest, men, the world ever produced) as applying closely to my case, “*that the man who inflexibly attaches himself to prevent the violation of the laws, and the practice of iniquity in a government,*” (your’s, I trust, will never come within the meaning of this part of the observation, I merely insert it by way of completing the sentence) “*will never do so long with impunity. It is absolutely necessary for him who would contend for justice, if he has any thoughts of living, to remain in a private station, and never have any share in public affairs.*” I beseech you, my Lord, let not this apothegm be exemplified in my person *any farther—very little remains.* But I dwell too long upon my personal concerns,—my critical situation will, I hope, plead my apology.

I shall now endeavour to direct your Grace’s attention

tention to the probable effect my removal may have on the public mind: can the people fail of concluding, that “this act of government *originated in principles hostile to their interests and protection?*” (by “the people,” I desire to be understood as speaking of the great mass of the Irish nation, *the Roman Catholics*)—that, “*Government displacing a Magistrate who had unceasingly devoted himself to the amelioration of their condition, to obtain for them an equal distribution of justice, and a participation of the benefits and blessings of the constitution,—did not thereby demonstrate a disposition to sanction and continue the oppressions and insults they had so long and so passively submitted to; for the purpose either of goading them to madness or sinking them in despair?*” Will not, my Lord, *this* be the natural conclusion, *if it is not unquestionably proved that my dismissal was warranted by my mal-administration of Justice?* Is *this*, my Lord, *exactly the epoch* when such conclusions are to receive weight and confirmation? I need urge this no further, your good sense will appreciate my reasoning; to *that*, and your high sentiments of honour, I prefer my appeal—I trust, *you will make all other unnecessary*; in this expectation I do myself the honour of assuring your Grace of my great personal respect and consideration, and that I am,

Your Grace's &c. &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

SECOND

SECOND LETTER

TO THE LORD LIEUTENANT,

On the above-mentioned dismissal.

*Owona Lodge, August 13, 1807.*

“ MY LORD,

The letter I last night received from your Grace's private Secretary, (in reply to the one I addressed to your Grace on the 1st inst.) not affording me any satisfaction upon the subject to which my former letter to your Grace related, I held myself justified in continuing to call the public attention to the situation in which your Grace's government has felt itself warranted to place me ; hoping to procure from its voice that *justice* which my appeal to your Grace's honourable feelings could not obtain for me. Before I proceed any further, I deem it right to give you a copy of your Secretary's letter ; it is as follows :

TO RICHARD WILSON, ESQ. OWONA LODGE.

*Phœnix Park, August 10th, 1807.*

SIR,

His Grace the Lord Lieutenant has received your letter, on the subject of your removal from the Commission of the Peace, in answer to which, he

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has

has directed me to say, that as the appointment and removal of magistrates *belongs* to the Chancellor, as having the custody of the Great Seal, his Grace was not aware of your being removed from the Commission of the Peace until he was informed of it by your letter. His Grace desires me further to say, that he can take no other steps in this business, than to refer you to the Chancellor, for the reason of your removal.

I am Sir, your humble servant,

W. BUSBY, Pr. Sec.

Now this answer may, at first sight, appear very proper; but I trust I will shew that your Grace's "reference" to the Chancellor was just the very last you ought to have recommended, and, amongst others, for the following reasons; my supersedeas had not even the Chancellor's name to it; it designated itself "by your Grace's authority," upon the face, then, of the supersedeas, my removal *was by your Grace's commands*. But I *must give you another*, and I trust, *a no less conclusive reason*, for my applying to your Grace in the first instance. I some time since communicated to the Chancellor the statement (with sworn documents) of a most flagitious transaction; requesting his Lordship's interposition, &c. &c. after a month's silence his Secretary informed me that "the matter did not appear to his Lordship to call upon him in his official situation

tion as Chancellor, to give any directions respecting the same; but that if any proceedings upon them are necessary, application should be made to the proper jurisdiction," (not, however, *taking the trouble* even to say, *what* the proper jurisdiction was) and then *politely* concludes with saying, "that he was directed by the Chancellor to add, that he *desires to be relieved from any further correspondence upon the subject.*" Why, my Lord, this almost outdoes his *patriotic and consistant predecessor!* But, my Lord, pray look at the "reference" you recommend, a little more closely. Your Grace "refers" me for justice to the tribunal which had not only prejudged but *actually convicted* me, without either proof or examination! I could press this much further, but I am scarcely able to hold my pen; and I must, also, have some consideration for the respectable print which enables me to address your Grace, and interest the public, upon the grievances I have received through your Grace's administration; I have trespassed upon it already too much; I shall, therefore, hasten to a conclusion, and defer to *another opportunity*, my allusions to the *motives* which have originated this wicked attempt to sully my character, and deprive the people of an honest and upright Magistrate, who defies calumny to substantiate one single act of his public life, as incompatible with loyalty, *true and disinterested patriotism*, justice and humanity—but *directly the reverse!*

Bear in your mind, my Lord, "that *the Government may be said to be weak and tottering which finds*

*itself obliged to connive or wink at unjustifiable proceedings."* With this advice (for, upon my honour, I wish you will, though neither that wish, or any human consideration shall induce me to forbear rescuing my reputation from the foul stain malignancy has endeavoured to stamp upon it) I for the present, will conclude,

Your Grace's, &c. &c.

RICHARD WILSON."

This remonstrance remained unnoticed; my appeal to *his Grace's honour*, "to give me an opportunity to wipe off the stain which had been cast upon my reputation," was attended with no other consolation than that of reflecting, "*it was sometimes a disgrace not to be disgraced.*"

The situation I was now placed in made it indispensably necessary for me to quit the country; but my continued ill health, and the almost certain destruction of my property, (in case of my removal before I had made some arrangement as to its affording me a future maintenance) obliged me to submit to an eternal course of injuries and vexations. One attack upon me, however, was of so flagitious a nature, and indicated so determined a design to take away my life, (it being attempted *under colour of a legal process*, seeing private attempts at assassination had failed) that, I once more, endeavoured to draw the Lord Lieutenant's attention to the perilous

rilous state to which my life was daily exposed. His Grace's reply, through his Secretary, not appearing to me calculated either to remove the danger, or, *in my opinion*, consistent with the END his official character was destined to attain, I published the letter, and answer, in the Evening Herald, enclosed in the following note to the Editor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING HERALD.

Owena Lodge, Nov. 24, 1807.

SIR,

In requesting you to give a place in your paper to the enclosed letters, I am to entreat you to believe that I am induced so to do, less from *personal* than *public* motives, urgent and pressing as the former are; the truth of this, I trust, will shortly become unquestionable.

I shall, at present, forbear farther commentary upon the Secretary of State's letter than merely to remark (and I feel persuaded, a serious perusal of it will bear me out) that it is entirely irrelevant as to the main object to which my letter to the Duke of Richmond points; and I think I might also add, without subjecting myself to a charge of ill manners (speaking of it in its ministerial character) that it is shuffling, quibbling, and totally divested of that liberality and candour (I will say nothing of justice and humanity) which ought at all times, but now  
most

most particularly, distinguish the sentiments and conduct of the royal Representative.

I remain, Sir, with obligation for your former attention to my communications, your most obedient humble servant,

RICHARD WILSON.

TO HIS GRACE, THE DUKE OF RICHMOND.

Owona Lodge, Nov. 16, 1807.

“ MY LORD,

The unfortunate issue of my former efforts to draw your Grace's *effectual* attention to my personal injuries, would have inclined me to resign myself to unprovoked and unmerited insult, had not new and repeated attacks upon my life and property compelled me to implore your Grace's interference; *having fatally proved that all my appeals for redress failed in their usual course.*

Although it is indispensibly necessary for the preservation of my reputation, as also for the consistency of my public conduct, to lay before the country, the state of my sufferings, and the proceedings of the surrounding Magistracy (at once so melancholy and incontrovertible as not to leave a possibility for either *power, evasion, or perjury to dispute the one, or stifle the other.*) Yet, in the mean time, I should wish to be enabled, in my detail, to acknowledge

knowledge that your Grace had not been so far led away by *party*, as to refuse, *when earnestly solicited by a most injured man*, giving him an opportunity, personally, to lay before you a previous statement of his private wrongs, *in order to obtain for himself and dependants, that prorection which he and they have, in vain, solicited from the neighbouring dispensers of justice.* There is not a species of oppression or injustice that has not been exercised against me and them; when, *instead of redress, we have seen our oppressors encouraged and protected!* My lands trespassed upon, and forcibly taken possession of; my tenants beaten if they dared to remonstrate; my timber cut down and carried off; false debts sworn against me by people I never saw or heard of, suborned witnesses, of the most infamous description, heard and credited; the common forms of law dispensed with, where I or my tenants were parties; my house forced open by officers of law, upon charges, where I ought to have been the complainant; my person most grossly abused and insulted. I dare not go to sleep without my pillow being covered with arms—a guard constantly kept to prevent my house being burned in the dead of the night—the *villains known* who had avowed their design to destroy my place. *My information made to the highest county Magistrate, and he leaving it unnoticed!!!* Now, my Lord, under these circumstances to whom but you can I apply? Think not I exaggerate; *I pledge myself to prove, with aggravated circumstances, all, and much more, than I have hinted at.*

I have

I have been the whole summer in a very indifferent state of health; and though many private reasons would, at this moment, make a journey to Dublin unadvisable, yet *others* of still more magnitude (as above pointed at) shew me the indispensable necessity of *imploring your Grace to afford me a personal opportunity of laying my grievances before you, in the hope that you will direct an enquiry into the oppressions I labour under, and have them redressed.*

I do not, my Lord, wish to interest your Grace's feelings from any personal motives; I desire to be considered as a man whom you never before heard of, the atrociousness of whose injuries requires an interference which the law in its usual course (even were it impartially and justly administered) could not adequately meet.

I shall impatiently wait your Grace's decision upon my request

I have the honour to be, &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

TO RICHARD WILSON, ESQ. OWNA LODGE.

SIR,

His Grace the Lord Lieutenant has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the — of November, and to inform you, that *as the courts*

*courts of law* are open to you equally with all his Majesty's subjects, and prepared to redress the injuries of which you complain, if THEY SHALL BE FOUND TO EXIST.

His Grace conceives it to be *entirely unnecessary* to give you the trouble of coming to Dublin, in order that he may hear the detail of transactions, *in which it will be impossible for his Grace to interfere in any manner, excepting with the authority of the Government, to enforce and support the decision of the law.*

I have the honour, &c.

ARTHUR WELLESLY."

I am, in the judgment of the reader, whether this letter does not go a great way to substantiate what I have, in another place asserted, "that Government (where I use that term, I beg to be understood as meaning ministry) appears *to wish* to crush every man who has the boldness and true policy to stand forward in defence of the Roman Catholics," and I now farther add, that its sending *Sergeant Moore* to Limerick, "to investigate abuses in that quarter," corroborates the assertion; for, unless Ministers mean to say, that *there are* "no courts of law" held there, their sending Mr. Serjeant Moore, is, according to Sir Arthur Wellesly's doctrine, an act of supererogation! unless it was for the purpose of giving that learned Gentleman a further opportunity

portunity of exhibiting the inexhaustible resources of his vast mind, the profundity of judgment, and perspicuity in "investigation," which he gave so memorable a proof of in his mission, (which I had been the humble instrument of) to the county of Tyrone, in the spring of 1806! I shall conclude my observations upon the Duke of Richmond's reply to my letter, with an opinion in which I am supported by the authority of a man whom neither the late or present Chancellor, nay, nor the luminous *Serjeant Moore himself will venture to dispute, that "the Government which refuses to punish delinquency, and redress the injured, defeats the end for which it was originally constituted, and leaves the people in a worse situation than if there was not any:"* thus argues Mr. Lock.

I shall now proceed in my proofs of the outrages which occasioned my last letter to the Duke of Richmond: The chief of them I must detail at some length, as it will substantiate the truth, that "my persecutions" were owing to my protection of the oppressed Catholics, the others I shall but slightly touch upon, in order to keep my pamphlet within readable size.

A person whom I had employed, by contract, early in the summer of 1806, to make some alterations and repairs in my house, having for near a year, and during the whole of the ensuing winter, neglected to finish the work he had begun, (and thereby occasioned considerable injury not only to  
- the

the house itself, but also to the furniture, through the defective state of the gutters,) I found myself obliged, after repeated efforts to get him to finish his job, to commence an action against him “for breach of contract, and the injury I had sustained, both with regard to my furniture, as also with respect to my loss in not being able to advertise my place for a tenant;” which *last* was my principal view in the repairs and alterations I had contracted with him to complete. Alarmed at this step he began, about the middle of last summer, to proceed in the repairs, &c. After various delays, he at last told some of my servants that “he had finished;” upon examining, however, I found that no one part of his contract was completed, and that the rain still made its way through the leads of the gutters; however, I sent him a message, “that, I was ready to have the work examined by proper and competent judges, and then submit to them the injury I had received through his neglect, leaving them finally to settle the business, and in the mean time, I would withhold my prosecution, &c.” Instead of complying with this offer, he consulted an attorney who *he knew* had before succeeded, (by means, which, for the sake of some persons whom I venerate, I will forbear to state) in obtaining a verdict against me, for a claim of a person whom I had never any dealings with, and who, *I proved*, had confessed “*he had no demand whatever upon me, having entered upon the work about my place, before I had settled in the kingdom, upon the credit of my steward, to whom only he should look for payment;*” this steward, how-

ever, having fled the kingdom, (on account of frauds committed against others as well as me) *he had been advised* to make his claim upon *me*.—I mention this circumstance to give an additional weight to my declaration,” of false debts being sworn against me.” I could give several more instances, but this one, I trust, will be considered as sufficient to establish the fact. The measure (as the man himself told me) he was advised to pursue to get payment of his bill, was to arrest me. Accordingly two fellows forced past the servant who had opened the door to them, and made into my study where I was writing; seeing a man, with a most savage countenance, bursting open the inner door of the room, I was immediately struck with the idea that he came to assassinate me, (repeated attempts having before been made with that intent) I instantly seized him by the throat, and certainly had nearly choaked him, but upon his telling me “that he was a bailiff and come to arrest me,” and another man at the moment coming to his assistance, I let him go. I rung my bell, and the servant who attended was threatened with instant death if he did not quit the room,—two pistols being held at his head, I implored the officers not to injure the man, my only object being to send him for persons who would be answerable for the supposed debt (they having at first consented that they would be satisfied with security till I could give Bail, &c.) Two of my tenants, men of substance, soon after were brought, but the bailiffs’ tone was changed;—“no, I must either pay the money or go to gaol.” Upon this, I requested them “to permit me to send to Dungan-

non,

non, to the Sheriff, as my state of health (not having been beyond my own gate for near five months), was rather delicate, and riding there might be attended with the most dangerous consequences. After some objections this request was complied with, and I sent my groom to Dungannon with a note to a friend there "to secure the Sheriff in a debt of 49l."

About this time, a servant of mine, to whose gallantry and fidelity I *twice before* owed my life, come into the room; as soon as he appeared, the man, who was the chief spokesman of the bailiffs, addressed himself to him as follows (I am to entreat the reader will pay due attention to this conversation, for I have entered into this circumstantial detail chiefly upon its account.)—"Pray, Mr. Moore,

are not you an Orangeman?" Moore—"I am.

Bailiff—"then I desire, sir, you will leave this room, you have no business here." Moore—"I will not

leave the room, I am doing no harm, nor mean any, and I think it my duty to remain with my master, placed in the situation I see him in." Bailiff—"if

you do not go when I order you, I tell you, *you are a perjured man, and no Orangeman.*" Moore—"I

am an Orangeman, and do not think I act unworthy of one, in staying to protect, *if necessary*, a master who has been a father to me and my family." Bai-

liff—"Well you shall answer for this another day."

Moore did not leave the room, nor did the bailiff again insist upon it. In the course of conversation,

some time after, the bailiff observed, on my making a remark upon the baseness of the attack upon me,

that "I had brought it upon myself, for it was uni-

versally

versally allowed I was the *best and justest Magistrate in the country*, and *this* would never have happened, if I had not fallen out with Colonel (so the bailiff denominated that Gentleman) Verner, and protected the Papists!!! Though I had before *suspected* the  *motive* that had induced the  *advice* which made the tradesman adopt this method of getting payment of an unjust demand, and to stop my prosecution of him, I was now convinced.

In the mean time, the second bailiff had been collecting some Orangemen about the house, *armed with swords, &c.* as soon as they conceived there was no danger of their being overpowered, (in case of their attempting any abuse of my person) I was told that I “ must prepare to set off to Dungannon, as it would soon be dark, and that possibly a rescue might be attempted.” I observed, that “ there was not time, yet, for the servant to get to Dungannon and return, even though the Sheriff, and my friend, should happen to be in the way, which possibly might not be the case, as there was a fair at Moy, where most of the people in business attended, and to which, it was impossible for me to go to Dungannon, without risking my life, unless I had a carriage, as I was not able to put on a boot, to say nothing of my catching cold, from the dampness of the evening, and my not having for several months ventured abroad;” to this was answered, that “ *that* was none of their affair—if I could not walk, which he did not see but I was very well able to do, they would get me a horse, *but go I must*; they accordingly

accordingly sent one of their attendants for a horse ; as soon as the horse was procured, my room was filled with their attending Orangemen ; I was ordered to get up and quit the house. I remonstrated again and told them that “ I would not be accessory to my own death, which I conceived I should be, if, in my state of health, I encountered the night air, and therefore though I would make no resistance, yet I would not move, and that if I must go, they should carry me.” I will not vindicate my mode of reasoning at that time ; others have condemned it and perhaps they may be right—I, however thought otherwise. Upon this, the chief bailiff ordered me to be taken off my chair. I was then placed upon the carpet, and two of the savages seized me by the feet, and dragged me through the adjoining room, hall, and down the stone steps, with my head beating upon the ground as they proceeded, (for no one was permitted to touch me but those persons who dragged me by the heels). I was then laid upon the wet gravel upon the terrace ; my clothes, from the dragging, having left my back quite uncovered ; where I remained for at least twenty minutes, until a servant who was acquainted with one of the assistants, prevailed upon him to allow me to sit on a chair which had been brought out ; in the mean time my faithful *Orange* servant, was imploring the bailiff to let me return to the house, and he would instantly send for a carriage to carry me to *Dungannon*, appealing to him “ as a man and a christian not to murder me, which most likely he would do, if he insisted upon my going to *Dungannon* such

such an evening," (it was then raining); all was in vain—*four* pistols were held at his breast, which with horrid imprecations, " they swore should be fired into it, if he offered to lay a hand on me, as there were enough present to prove he meant to rescue me." I called out to Moore for his own sake as well as mine, to make no further efforts to protect me from those men; their object was plain, that they only wanted an excuse to murder me, which they would find, in what they might call, a rescue; that my death *one way* was certain, in the *other*, by God's assistance, it might be preserved." Moore, upon this, ceased to interfere further than, by entreating leave to have a horse of my own prepared, which, with great reluctance, was permitted. I was then mounted, and, attended by a strong guard, carried off. When we came to a village upon the road, entirely inhabited by Orangemen, one of the bailiffs who was next me, called out, " Now, see this is for your conduct to the Orangemen." The motive for this remark, *at that spot*, was obvious; but it failed of its object, for not one of the inhabitants shewed even an appearance of exultation, much less made use of a term of abuse; on the contrary, I perceived rather an expression of sorrow at the treatment I was receiving: this I think a tribute due to the villagers. Upon our arrival in Dungannon, I asked the bailiff's permission " to go directly to the Sheriff's house, as it was late, and the only hope I had of being preserved from the effects of the rain and cold, would be by getting home as soon as possible." The answer was completely of a piece with what had before  
taken

taken place—"no, by G—d, I will leave you in the properest place for you, the body of the gaol." I said, "as he liked," and turned my horse to the prison.

Upon entering the prison, to the honour of the gaoler be it told, he appeared shocked at the treatment he understood, (from the servant who had attended me,) I had received, and turned the bailiffs instantly out the room; he went off immediately to the Sheriff, saying "he was convinced the Sheriff knew nothing of the situation I was in, &c." in a short a time as possible he returned, expressing his regret *that the Sheriff was not to be found*; however, he at once proved that he possessed, whatever his superior did, *humanity*, and liberated me upon a most worthy and truly respectable friend of mine (a quaker) saying "he would be answerable for my appearance;" but had not this friend interfered, I feel perfectly convinced, the gaoler would not have detained me a moment after I had warmed myself by an excellent fire, which his wife placed me before. I then got on my horse, attended by my two servants, and rode home as fast as I could. I confess, I thought that the consequence would be very fatal, but so far from the effect this outrage threatened, I have been daily getting strength, and am, at this moment, Dec. 14, in better health than I was for six months before! though I have taken up too much of my Pamphlet already with this attack upon my life, I am persuaded *that* was more the ob-

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ject of the *advisers* of it, than the procuring an unjust debt for a knavish tradesman, although I am far from saying *that*, too, had not its share; as the ruining me in a pecuniary way, has long been, with success, resorted to, (of which I shall have occasion to hint at one or two more instances before I conclude,) yet I have a few words more to add upon the above business, which are not altogether unimportant, as they will tend to corroborate the opinion already expressed of the motives of my persecutors.

On the day appointed to give bail to the Sheriff, I attended with two of my tenants as my securities, (whom I had fixed upon, as they were the fathers of two of my domestic servants) one of them had a freehold worth a profit rent of £25. per annum, for his life, the other one of £15. also, for his life. I confess, I imagined these were sufficient securities for a debt of £49. I was mistaken; the Sheriff said "he did not know them;" (he knew *me*, however, very well) and he must take care of himself;" the men replied, that he ought to know them, for he himself had registered their freeholds, and if he would look at his books he would be convinced." "No, that would not do; I must get some body else." I accordingly sent for my friend the Quaker, the Sheriff having also refused the security of an officer settled in Dungannon; a man of the most honourable character, (but *in that town, unfortunately*, of a most *independent mind*) I very well knew, that though my friend would willingly pay the money, if necessary, yet

yet that he did not like entering into any legal disputes ; however, as there was no alternative but my going to gaol, he signed the bail bond ; for which the Sheriff, or rather under Sheriff, thought proper to demand *two guineas* which I paid him. I had, before, as may readily be believed, satisfied his gaoler ; I understand the demand is illegal ; I leave it to the Under-sheriff's superiors to examine into that. I shall now finish this detail, by stating that the *two bailiffs*, all their assistants, and the Under-sheriff, are Orangemen. The latter, indeed, is in an high office amongst them—I learn, *Grand Secretary*.

Having several other circumstances which it will be necessary to go into a somewhat minute detail of, I shall only slightly advert to one other attempt to provoke me to a breach of the peace. On the 12th of June last, the anniversary of the Orange institution, (and on that day twelvemonth when I had nearly lost my life by endeavouring to prevent the consequences which I had reason to believe would result from the intemperate speeches of the Orangemen in their morning parade relative to the Roman Catholics), a party of the Orangemen struck off from the public road, and marched towards the gate which opens into my lawn ; the party was observed by my faithful servant Moore, who, most probably, guessing at their design, ran towards the gate where the party had just arrived ; what passed between them I never learned, nor did I like to enquire of him, he himself being an Orangeman,

though to his honour be it spoken, of a very different complexion from the persecuting and murdering ones). However, so it was that this [party, after some conversation with Moore, returned to the great body, which had halted at some little distance from this detached one; near enough, however, to aid them, in few minutes, if called upon. I think I do not go too far to say, that the object of this party was to insult me, in the hope that I might be led to say or do something which would give a pretext for executing what many of them were heard (on their last day of rejoicing) to declare “their regret at not having *finished* papist Wilson.”

I will now mention two facts, relative “to the taking forcible possession of my property.”

A man seized upon a field which had been *proved to be* upwards of forty years in my tenant’s possession. After endeavouring to have this dispute settled through the agent of the estate on which the trespasser resided, and failing in my wish, I desired my tenant (D——) to go to a Magistrate in Dunganon, not thinking it right that either the agent of the estate or I, should act in a matter where we were directly or indirectly concerned. He did so; but the Magistrate, to whom I referred him in Dunganon, being from home, he applied to another, who, at such times (and *only* I believe *then*) is resorted to. This Magistrate upon being informed of the complaint of D——, asked him on whose estate he lived?

lived? “ D—— replied, “ on Mr. Wilson’s;” “ then,” replied this respectable and enlightened Justice, “ you may go and be damned, and go back to your landlord, for I will have nothing to do with any body belonging to him, &c. &c.” This being reported to me, I desired the man to inquire when the other acting magistrate in Dungannon would be in the way, and apply to him; who, *though a Tyrone Orangeman*, possessed something like an appearance of impartiality—I say “ appearance,” for though I *once* made him an exception to his neighbouring brethren, I have since had good reason to know, that *in all Orange affairs* he is as meanly prejudiced as the contemptible creature D—— had first applied to. I could give a very striking proof of this in a business where not only my honour was involved, but *that* of an unfortunate person, whom humanity and manliness should have taught him to pity. This, however, being a private affair, I have no right to obtrude it on the public. The present one will, I apprehend, pretty well establish the opinion I *now* have formed of him. Upon D——’s making his complaint, Mr. A——, desired him “ to try and settle the matter quietly, and if that could not be effected, to return to him.” D—— did so; but so far from succeeding with his Protestant, and, I believe Orange neighbour, he was threatened with *chastisement even to death*, “ if he ever dared to enter upon the disputed ground.” I, upon this, desired him to return to Mr. A——. He did so, and the parties appeared. D—— proved his long possession, by a witness of respectability, (a Protestant too) who  
 swore

swore to his having known that field for upwards of forty years to be part of my estate." Mr. A——, recommended still an agreement; and the poor simple D—— thinking himself now secure of not being molested by W——, returned home; but upon his putting his cattle into the field, he was attacked by W—— and his son; and had not his brother wrenched the spade, from W——, *his interest in the field, at least, would have been at an end*; as it was, he got a most severe beating; he then made another visit to Mr. A——. The conduct of W—— was now so indisputably flagitious, that he consented "to grant a warrant against him." He did so; after *the warrant was paid for*, D—— desired to have it, in order to put it into the hands of a constable. This Mr. A—— refused, desiring him "to go back, and if W—— did not give up the field, and also make a proper compensation for the abuse D—— had received, that *then* the warrant should be put in force." This was reported to me, and I confess I felt a good deal irritated at Mr. A——'s conduct; however as I perceived that little was to be expected from magisterial interference, I desired him "to get proper people amongst the neighbours, to settle the compensation he ought to receive for the outrage committed upon his person, and that I would take care as to the future occupancy." This effort was made by D——, but to no purpose;—W—— not only refusing any sort of compensation, or the restoration of the field, but also promised him "another threshing, if he dared to cut a pile of the grass of it." (I ought to have observed

served that, during the dispute, D—, by my directions, had put W—'s cattle in the pound, *which were* delivered back to him, upon the moment of W—'s application for them). Upon this, D— once more returned to Mr. A— for his *warrant*; as it could not any longer be refused, Mr. A— sent for his constable and delivered it to him. Upon D—'s desiring the constable (one G—) to execute it, G— replied "he would, when he, D—, gave him his fee 2s. 6d."—D— told him he had but two tenpenny pieces about him, but that he would give or send him the remainder, only begged him to take up W—, for he was afraid of being murdered by him or his sons; G— replied, (*taking the two tenpenny pieces*) when you bring me the other, I will go with you and take W—." Thus this business was situated when I left home about a fortnight since. D— has paid the Magistrate and his constable, lost his field, and got a severe beating, and Sir Arthur Wellesley will tell him "to apply for redress to the Laws, &c. &c."

I will, shortly as I can, state another fact to the same point. Before I settled in Ireland, my overseer planted a steep ascent which divided my lawn from the adjoining gentleman's estate, with such trees as he thought might probably grow upon it; it being of a poor gravelly soil which could not be cultivated, and as it would probably hide a disagreeable object of an unpleasantly situated cottage. No objection was made by the occupying tenant of the adjoining field at the time of planting, nor for

*two years* after I had settled at Owna Lodge ; but my Orange neighbour, thinking that I might be annoyed by stubbing up my trees ; in the absence, not only dug them out, but removed the dividing fence, and placed one at the bottom of the hill ! Upon my return home, I sent to remonstrate with the man, upon his wanton and illegal conduct ; but in vain : he said “ he knew very well that this hill had belonged to the land he possessed, that he would prove it, and that, in a word, he would keep it.” After various attempts, for near a year, to prevail on this fellow not to oblige me to have recourse to law, I was at last compelled to take that unpleasant step. I accordingly sent an old man, *who had been resident above sixty years upon the property*, to make the necessary affidavits, &c. before a magistrate. At the ensuing sessions, when I supposed this business would be heard and decided, I learned the bill was not found by the Grand Jury. I mentioned the circumstance to one of them, “ wishing to know whether or not it had been returned ? ” he answered “ that it had, but as the Jury believed my principal witness to be an old rogue, they had thrown it out.”

I shall now conclude this part of my narrative with an account of one robbery (among many others) committed upon me under colour of law.

I returned from Dublin in a very weak state of health about 48 hours previous to the last summer sessions, I found a *process* had been left at my house, by

by a tradesman who claimed a debt of 9l. 19s. 6d. (although this very man had before confessed that his demand was but 6l.) As I never had any dealings with him, and as even, by his own account, it had been of several years standing, and long before I came to Ireland, I wrote to the Barrister, acquainting him "with the utter impossibility of my going abroad, and, also, the difficulty I must be liable to, in giving instructions to an Attorney (Sunday only intervening) before the sessions commenced; particularly too as I could not know upon what ground this demand was made, having never had any sort of intercourse with the plaintiff." That, "on these accounts, without meaning, at all, to bias his opinion, I hoped he would have the goodness to postpone the hearing of the cause, until the succeeding sessions, when, if it appeared that the man's demand was a fair one, I should make whatever compensation he, the Barrister, should assign to the plaintiff, for the delay in his recovery of it." To this the Barrister replied that "he would be glad to oblige me, but that all he could do was to postpone the hearing until Thursday, hoping that I should be able to attend, &c." I shortly answered, "that my attendance was absolutely impracticable from the severe illness I laboured under, and that therefore, I must submit to the pillage," Now, I here must observe, (without meaning to say that the Barrister was not acting very legally in not postponing the trial) that upon a former occasion I myself applied to the Barrister in a case where one Barret was plaintiff, and another Barret defendant,

flating to him that “ I knew it was a vindictive business, and that I begged *he would put it off until another sessions*, when I could be able to attend, and have the dispute properly examined and explained ;” *to this the Barrister consented*. I must here entreat the reader to be assured that I do not design to make any reflection upon the character of the Barrister. I firmly believe he is as honourable and well meaning a man as exists,—but I understand he holds his present situation through the patronage of a certain little vindictive despot ; his recollection of which circumstance, (with an high opinion, perhaps, of his patrons merit and understanding,) too frequently, I fear, induces him to yield up his judgment to the malignant and prejudiced views of the upstart I allude to.—But to resume, the consequence of the trial was, the demand being confirmed ; it must be mentioned, that, when the cause was opened (by-the-bye, I speak now only from information ; I have, however, good reason to believe it is accurate,) a very respectable gentleman of Dungannon, remarked (upon seeing a man brought forward, who was to swear that “ I had promised payment of the debt”) that “ that man was not to be credited, as upon a similar business with regard to me, he had good reason to think he was *a very bad fellow, &c.*” Upon this, “ the despot” I have alluded to above, is said to have observed, he did not think so at all, for that the man was a *very proper witness, &c.*” Now if this account be true, the “ despot” has given (amongst some others, which in their proper place, I will advert to,) a pregnant  
proof

proof of the wisdom of ministers' happy choice in their selection of persons to hold high and confidential offices; for this very "despot" upon a former occasion, when he and I were talking about some of the villains in the vicinity, declared this very witness "to be one of the greatest rascals upon earth.!!!"

Well, the sessions ended on Saturday night; on the Monday morning after, *without ever making a demand of the debt, by four of the clock*, the plaintiff, with some of his Orange friends, took from my fields two valuable horses, and carried them off to Moy, for the purpose of selling them for the amount of the debt decreed him! fixing up the following advertisement,

" ADVERTISEMENT.

Ben. Leslie of Moy,  
Plaintiff,  
Rich. Wilson, Esq.  
of Owna Lodge,  
Defendant.

To be sold by public Auction, on Thursday the 23d inst. at the *our* of ten o'clock in the morning, in the town of Moy, one *Maor* and one Horse, the

property of Richard Wilson, on account of a decree taken out at the last July sessions, held in Dunganon. Dated this 20th day of July, 1807.

Before my servants were apprized, or I could send after my horses, Mr. Caulfield, heard of the transaction, redeemed, and took them into his stable, until the groom came for them!

I believe I have given proofs sufficient to satisfy every unprejudiced mind that, I truly stated to the present and late administration; that "the laws are not equally and impartially administered where an Orangeman and Roman Catholic are the parties, and that nine in ten of the surrounding Magistrates are deficient in their duty;" also, that the man who dares to protect a Roman Catholic against the oppressions of the Orangemen, subjects himself not only to obloquy, but to persecution and personal danger."

Though I think, I might rest "my declarations" upon what I have already stated, yet I will take leave to detain the reader a little longer by acquainting him with our mode of *hearing causes*, and *deciding upon* them, at our *solemn sessions'* meeting. Before I begin this part of my narrative, I am to intreat the reader to be assured that I do not mean to make reflections upon the private honour of our Magistrates, or to throw out a hint that they may not be, as far as I know, excellent husbands, fathers, &c. and faithful stewards to their masters; but this I cannot help thinking, that gentlemen, however, mentally endowed, or independant they may be in their fortunes, who accept of the office of a steward, and have large estates to manage, are not the properest persons (if only for that reason) to regulate, (at such times as these particularly,) the police of the country; and it is a certain truth, that there is not one Magistrate within several miles of my house, with the exception of my lord Northland.

land, (now I have been dismissed), who is not either the steward of some absent possessor of an estate, a practising attorney, or retailing shop-keeper! and that every man of them, as far as I can learn, are at the head of, or belonging to, yeoman corps and Orange parties.

As I was obliged to leave my house somewhat precipitately, I had not an opportunity of arranging the papers and notes which relate to the transactions I now mean to direct the attention of the reader to; I am, therefore, to hope the irregularity with respect to *dates* will find an excuse.

I must previously notice an extraordinary sort of a correspondence which took place between the governor of the county and me, relative to "my committal of a man to prison." I had been informed (and the reader will see by the annexed affidavit and a corresponding circumstance, that my information was pretty correct,) that the noble governor had expressed himself in very strong terms, that "that committal should be the last I should ever have it in my power to make;" in consequence of this information I held myself justified in writing to the noble Lord as follows:

TO VISCOUNT NORTHLAND.

*Owona Lodge, May 13, 1806.*

" MY LORD,

Upon my return home yesterday, a paper was delivered to me, "giving me notice of an action to  
be

be commenced against me by one D—— for false imprisonment.” On making enquiry into the particulars of the business (which, I confess, had nearly escaped my memory,) I learned that your lordship had been consulted upon it, and that you had delivered yourself with considerable warmth, declaring, “that you would take care that I should never have an opportunity of, AGAIN, committing a man to prison.” Without entering into the question whether that power was or was not vested in your lordship, or how *very much* I should regret being deprived of an office, which has been to me a very irksome and ungrateful one, I shall take leave, for reasons which will appear in the course of this letter, to state to your lordship the whole of my proceedings and the grounds of them, with regard to this D——.

A young woman, of a very decent and modest appearance, swore a child against D——, in the course of her examination it appeared that this man had prevailed with her under *repeated, sacred* assurances of marriage,—her unaffected and interesting manner, I confess, prejudiced me in her behalf, particularly as a number of decent people appeared to speak “to the modesty and propriety of her conduct in every instance, *with this exception;*” the behaviour too, of D—— was, in the extreme flagitious,—his *father* abetted him,—“he would not give any security for the maintenance of the child,—he knew the law—she might do her worst, &c. &c.” It, also, was shewn, that both *father and son*  
were

were in the habit of debauching every young creatures that came in their way, and then leaving her to disgrace and misery! I own I felt considerable indignation; and determined to bring these fellows to a sense, *or feeling*, of their iniquity. I therefore told D—— “that if he did not give me security for the future support of the child, I would commit him,” and read to him the act of 6 Geo. 3. c. 31. also, the 18th of Eliz. 3d of Char. 2d. relative “to Justices’ power of committing the father of a bastard child, until he shall give security, &c. &c.” and here, my lord, I am aware that your lordship will tell me that, “the above acts have no force in this country, and that the wisdom of the Irish legislature did not think it necessary to burthen its code by enacting *this law*, however it tended to *promote morality, and the true principles of humanity and justice.*” I say your lordship “*will tell me this,*” but I shall correct myself and say, that your lordship *might* “tell me this,” because I am persuaded your lordship has too much the cause of substantial justice and good morals at heart, to insist upon such a subterfuge, to deter a man (who had devoted himself, in all his public life, to the real and essential interests of his country and society) from punishing a delinquent, or paralyze his future efforts towards the protection of the innocent and the unwary against the wiles of seduction and vice!—Such a conduct would become a quibbling pettyfogging attorney, but I am assured would be discountenanced and scouted by a liberal minded and intelligent member  
of

of the legislature,—such as I am disposed to consider your lordship.

I will not dwell longer upon the subject, than just to assure your lordship, that feeling as I do, that my magisterial ministry has been formed upon the basis of *honour, integrity, justice and impartiality*, instead of shrinking from a full investigation, I boldly defy, and proudly court, the severest and strictest scrutiny of it!

I have the Honor, &c. &c.

RICHARD WILSON.

To this letter I received the following answer, which the reader will have the goodness to compare with the affidavit which will follow it.

TO RICHARD WILSON, ESQ. OWNA LODGE.

*Dungannon Park, May 14, 1806.*

“ SIR,

Lord Northland (not being able to write from the weakness of his eyes to write himself) has commissioned me to say that he has received your letter,—the accusation contained in it surpris'd him extremely *as he is not the least acquainted with them, or conversed with any person on the subject alluded to.*

I am, Sir, your's truly,

EDMOND KNOX.”

AFFIDAVIT.

## AFFIDAVIT.

(I must omit the name, as the man is a tenant of lord Northland's.)

County of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ came  
 Tyrone. } before me, Richard Wilson, Esq. one  
 \_\_\_\_\_ } of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace  
 in, and for said county, who being sworn on the  
 Holy Evangelists, faith, that as he lately was stand-  
 ing in the outward part of the gaol of Dungannon,  
 he saw the Lord Viscount Northland approach the  
 door of said gaol, and ask for Hugh Copeland, the  
 gaoler;—that after said Copeland had been some  
 time with said Lord Northland, deponent asked said  
 Copeland, “ what said Lord Northland had been  
 saying to him ? ”—Copeland replied that, “ *Lord  
 Northland wanted to see the copy of the committal  
 of D—, who had been committed to gaol by  
 Richard Wilson, Esq. one of his Majesty's Justices  
 of the Peace, which having seen, said Lord North-  
 land observed “ that the committal was founded  
 upon an old act of Queen Anne's reign (or words to  
 that purpose) and that said Lord Northland said  
 “ that he would take care to stop said Richard Wil-  
 son from writing such committals,” and further this  
 deponent faith not.*

Sworn before me }  
 this 20th of May, 1806. }

RICHARD WILSON.

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I am

I am to observe, that I called upon Copeland, and examined him upon the conversation he had with —, *before he could have an opportunity of knowing that such an affidavit had been made, or have any intercourse with Lord Northland relative to it.* He confirmed the main fact, viz. “that Lord Northland did ask for, and see the committal, and made use of words to the purport sworn to by —!!!” I think I am entitled to say that this anecdote proves *two things, declared hostility to me by the Governor of the County, and a determination to use his might to have me removed from the Magistracy; as, also, that his Lordship is not over scrupulous as to the means of effecting his purposes, or too tenacious of truth, when he wishes to parry a charge!* I could confirm the former of these by a most irrefragible proof “of his Lordship *conspiring* with one of the most infamous and malignant wretches who ever covered iniquity with a black coat, to ruin my character by calumniating it to Government;” after they had subjected me to a most heavy expence, and I had given my answer to Government, it found it could not, *willing as it was, stir one inch against me!* as I am, *at this moment,* consulting whether I can have any redress against the foul miscreant who set this calumny afloat, I dare not, in this state of it, *go into observation;* but I am to hope the reader will not forget my having adverted to it; he shall hear more of it, *one way or the other.*

I must add a word or two more upon D——’s business. I had an opportunity of *proving* that though  
this

this man was a Roman Catholic, yet he was *instigated* to attempt a prosecution, by an Orange set, after he had declared to me, *under his own hand*, that “ he wished to drop it.” He was closeted in the lodging of one of Lord Northland’s *justices*, with a *counsel*; it is true indeed, this *justice* positively assured me, “ that he knew nothing of the matter.”

I must here mention *a little business* which came before me this last summer, which relates to the *Justice* I have now alluded to:—A groom whom I had brought from England, and parted with on account of a disagreement he had with a fellow-servant, lived ever since with this *Justice*; having been frequently beaten (as he swears) by *this Justice*, he “ demanded his wages, in order to get into another service.” This the *Justice* was unwilling to comply with; in consequence the servant applied to Mr. A—— of Dungannon, “ to interfere *as a magistrate* to get him his wages, and also a compensation for the great personal abuse he had just then received from the said *Justice* his master:” this Mr. A——, as the servant swears, *positively refused*; upon which he came to me. I wrote a civil note to the *Justice*, wishing “ him to settle with the servant, and not make a bustle about so trifling a matter.” To this letter the *Justice* did not reply; however, as the servant insisted upon lodging his examinations, I wrote again to the *Justice*, making “ some little remark upon his incivility in not replying to a letter which evidently was written for the purpose

of preventing his being exposed about so dirty a charge." I was the next day obliged to go to Dublin, and therefore, insisted upon an answer. I did get one, and I think it worth inserting.

TO RICHARD WILSON, ESQ.

SIR,

The bearer, J. W. has behaved extremely ill, and left his service without any reason; he applied to Mr. A——, who said he was very much in fault, *you and he may take such steps as you think proper.*

Your's, &c.

J C.

This elegant epistle was sent unsealed. I hope Mr. A—— will notice the *Justice's* attack upon his impartiality and wisdom, "to declare, *without investigation*, a man in fault for demanding his wages, and desiring a compensation for a violent assault!" To my knowledge it was a pretty severe one, for the lad had very *impressive marks of it on his body*, administered, too, as he swears, by a stout leather strap.

I shall have occasion once more to advert to this *Justice*, for the last time, I trust; for, whatever his Orange friends may think of him, he *knows* I deem it a degradation to have noticed him.

I have

I have in a former part of this narrative, requested the reader “ to compare the punishment for *murder* with *that* which is inflicted for an *affray*.”

At one of our Sessions, I came into the Hall whilst a cause was trying which appeared very much to interest the Bench ; it related, I learned, to an assault by one Mc. M’c, upon a driver of an artillery corps. This Mc. M’c, amongst his other crimes, was clearly convicted of being a Roman Catholic. Several witnesses appeared to prove the assault against him ; amongst the rest there was a young fellow, one of the drivers, who “ declared himself to be a Roman Catholic.” This man was very flippant in his evidence against his brother “ papist,” and appeared, I own to me, to give a *prepared evidence* ; be that as it may, it was very interesting to *some of us* ; one, *our highest* magistrate, as the driver was proceeding, cheered him with, “ that’s a good lad, you give an excellent evidence, I’ll reward you ; you are a very excellent evidence although you are a Roman Catholic ; go on, my good lad, &c. &c.” Presently the culprit produced *his* witnesses ; unluckily this man was not very *handsome*, and gave room for a most excellent remark of the noble Magistrate I have just mentioned—“ Why, who would believe what that rascal would say ? I never saw such an ill-looking dog in my life.” Be that as it will, the fellow was abashed, and his proof of an alibi had no weight—the man was convicted of the assault,—when we were to determine upon his punishment, the Barrister, as was very proper, applied

applied first to the noble Magistrate for his opinion—he instantly gave it “for a year’s imprisonment in the gaol of Omagh.” I was then asked,—I said “I was sorry to differ with the noble Lord, but it appeared to me that the punishment bore no proportion to the crime, even admitting its false extent;—that Doctor Byrne “(now the President of the College of Maynooth)” wrote in terms of approbation of the young man’s character, in every respect, *before the present charge was made against him*, and that his father was a most respectable man, &c. “that I conceived by sending a young man to a gaol for so long a term, would be the means of corrupting his morals, and probably make him desperate,—add to which, that his father would be deprived of his help, and when he was restored to him, he most probably would find him corrupted, and unfit for the employments he had been usually engaged in,—that I conceived, it would be better to shorten the confinement, and mulct him, &c. &c.” I also, observed “that it was not absolutely clear that he was guilty, if any reliance could be had on the alibi,—at all events, that the serjeant of the party had shewn in his evidence, that the prisoner and the prosecutor had formerly a dispute about a sweetheart, which, possibly might have occasioned a vindictiveness on the part of the prosecutor, &c. &c.” My arguments had no effect—the noble Lord said “I might do as I pleased,” but that *he* was for a year’s imprisonment!” I observed that “I knew my opposition could have no weight—I merely gave my opinion,”—the man of course was sent to Omagh gaol, and I never heard that his confinement

finement was shortened, although I recollect mentioning the circumstance to Serjeant Moore, in his northern visit, who *perfectly* agreed with me, that the “punishment was far beyond the crime, admitting it to its full extent,”—the learned Serjeant, also, said “he would mention the matter to government, and get the man relieved,” I dare say he did, but, I confess, I never heard of the issue—that it was unfavourable no doubt, for I believe Mc. M’c. underwent the whole of the punishment.

The flippant witness I have spoken of, I found, at a succeeding sessions, on the table, as I entered the hall, giving evidence with equal fluency as he did upon the former occasion.—I did not inquire into the business, and therefore, advert to it, only as it will introduce the *justice* again to my reader’s notice.—The *justice* leaning forward, addressed the noble Magistrate above mentioned, in the following words, “My Lord, do not you think that this young man should be rewarded for the excellent evidence he has given? Your Lordship may recollect what good evidence he gave at the last sessions; if your Lordship would make the proposal, *I am sure it would be agreed to, to make a subscription for him—I will give half-a-guinea.*” The noble Lord with appropriate wisdom, and *consistency with his judicial situation* replied, “No, I shall not make the proposal, every one may do as they like; I shall reward him *myself.*” Having extended my narrative to a much greater length than I, at first, intended, I must hasten to a conclusion; at the same time asserting, that I could  
give

give many similar instances of disgraceful partiality in our Magisterial decisions, in our examinations of witnesses, our browbeating them, and even the Attornies who were employed in pleading the cause of an objectionable client ! I have, however, I believe, set down enough to substantiate what I set out with ; “ that the laws are not impartially administered ; that the Magistrates are either ignorant, or neglectful, of their duty, and that where a Roman Catholic (or his advocate) and an Orangeman are the parties, the former has but a miserable chance of justice or protection.” I am to remind the reader that I have not stepped beyond the extent of *five miles* from my own house, in my relation,—all the facts contained in it took place within that distance,—nor have I adverted to one single circumstance which did not come within my own knowledge,—or where I was not directly or indirectly concerned.

I shall now conclude with shewing that the hostility of the Orangemen to me, did not altogether arise “ from my falling out with Mr. Vernor (I beg his pardon, Colonel Vernor) and *protection* of the Papists ;” it had, *if possible*, a more *irreconcilable ground*, powerful as these others would, of themselves, have been.—I *refused becoming a member of their body* ! This, I am the rather led to trouble the reader with a mention of, as some pains have been taken (amongst other equally true motives which have been assigned for the line of conduct I have pursued since my residence in Ireland, such as

*disappointment,*

*disappointment, a desire of becoming the head of a party, &c.”) to account for my “resentment” against them, because “they refused to admit me amongst them.”*

Before I enter upon this part of my subject, I must take leave to set the respectable part of the Orangemen right with regard to my sentiments of them.—

I am, therefore, to observe, that Orangemen, who act up to the principles which were assigned for their original institution, have my most unqualified respect and approbation;—but, when I see these principles degenerating into party, and the institution made a plea for cruelty, injustice, and oppression;—when I see a set of narrow minded men of mean extraction and vulgar manners, without education or any one qualification to entitle them to distinction—save what the strange caprice of fortune has bestowed upon them;—when, I say, I see such men misleading the government, for the purpose of ingratiating themselves with it,—affecting to take a lead, encouraging a spirit of discord amongst the lower classes, under the pretext of loyalty,—harrassing, persecuting four-fifths of the population of the country, and not only paralyzing its great physical strength, but, as it were, forcing it into a rebellion as its last refuge for preservation;—then, indeed, to such Orangemen, am I a professed and irreconcilable opponent!

I am now to shew the Recorder how well founded the charge of the Orangemen is, of their “having refused to admit me into their society.”

A reverend gentleman (who is at the head of the northern Orange district,—I really forget the title which distinguishes his office, but we will call it *President*—) having heard me frequently mention acts of atrocity committed in my neighbourhood, by men who described themselves as Orangemen, wished “to give me an opportunity of judging of the respectability of that body, by dining with him at their next general meeting, in Dungannon;—to this invitation I very readily acceded, and accordingly attended him at the next quarterly Orange dinner. With the exception of the reverend gentleman himself, the secretary (the person before mentioned as the present under-sheriff of Tyrone,) and one other person, I never had even seen any of the company. After the cloth was removed, and the usual toasts were drank, a gentleman at the lower end of the table rose up, and, in the name of the company, “begged leave to return the *President* thanks for his having introduced Mr. Wilson to the meeting, which would be proud to receive Mr. Wilson amongst them as a member, and therefore hoped he, Mr. Wilson, would permit him to propose him as such, persuaded that there would not be one dissentient voice, &c.”—I confess I was a good deal startled at this address, for it was entirely unexpected.—however, I recollected myself sufficiently to reply to the following purport: “that I felt much  
honoured

honoured by the mark of respect intended me. I was, however, obliged to decline availing myself of it, as I had, for reasons, which it was not then necessary to explain, formed a determination never to enter into any party or political association whatever."—After some expressions of regret on the part of the proposer, and "a hope that I might be induced, at a future period, to break through my resolution, *from a more intimate knowledge of the national benefits arising from the Orange institution.*" The reverend President observed, that "he would expect to see me at their next dinner, of which he would give me timely notice,"—here the matter rested;—the reverend president, however, *did not remind me of his invitation.* I trust the reader is satisfied that "my hostility" to the Orange system, *did not arise* "from having been *refused* the honour of becoming one of its members."

I must say a word or two about the reverend gentleman whose guest I had been, at the Orange dinner. Our acquaintance commenced at the houses of two of the most particular friends I had in Ireland;—the reverend gentleman was good enough to honour me with some marks of distinction—he even invited himself to partake of my humble hospitalities, yet, *at the very moment of friendly intercourse,* this reverend gentleman, forgetful of the duties imposed upon him, not only by his present, but former profession, descended to become the associate, in calumniating me, with one of the most despicable reptiles that ever disgraced the clerical function! of the

former reverend gentleman I will say no more.—My affectionate regard for these persons through whom I became acquainted with him, withholds further allusion to the rancor, duplicity, and direktion of honour which he has exhibited in his persecution of me!—of the “reptile” it would, indeed, have been a degradation to have noticed him at all;—his wretched philippic I should have disdained to notice,—had it not been calculated (and, unhappily, but too well succeeded) to ruin, through my sides, an unfortunate person, and three children, whom humanity, honour, religion and morality ought to have taught him to pity and protect!

It is now necessary for me to wind up “my narrative,”—I cannot, however, conclude it without slightly adverting to some other instances of outrages committed against the Roman Catholics, by the Orangemen, which these wretched victims of oppression dared not apply to the laws, for redress of ——— O’Neil (the man who was the cause of my “correspondence with Messrs. Elliot and Ponsonby”) was lately attacked, on a market day, in the streets of Dungannon, by a party of Orangemen,—they beat him almost to death;—I understand that they thought they had killed him.—The person who informed me of this cowardly attack, was himself an Orangeman, but not one of the assailants,—he, also, confessed “that O’Neil had not given any sort of offence *then* to the party,—the beating had been long promised him, and he was well off in escaping with his life.” I have reason to believe that O’Neil  
has

has not dared to apply for redress—*experience* having shewn him that *legal interference* only encreased his calamities !

A young man, who formerly lived in my service (and lately returned to it) was, in the course of last summer, overtaken by a party of Orangemen as he was returning home to his father's—they asked him, “if he had not lived with that rascal Papist Wilson?” he replied, “he had,” and was idiot enough to speak of me in terms of respect; the consequence was, that they fell upon him, and, had not some people appeared at a short distance, there is little reason to doubt of his sharing the fate of his brother Catholics who were, but shortly before, murdered at Caledon !

Since I left the country, I have heard that a tumultuous assembly of Orangemen, on the 5th inst. had endeavoured to provoke the Roman Catholics to some act of violence, by insult and invective; but as this proceeding was described to have happened in a neighbourhood, which, on O'Neill's memorable tryal in Armagh, appeared to be a quiet and respectable one, through the *conciliating manners and undeviating exertions* of “Colonel” Verner and his sons “to prevent all party disputes and distinctions,” I am apt to think, that my information is erroneous—however, *I do know*, that notwithstanding the efforts of that truly patriotic and “*conciliating*” gentleman, yet, a most scandalous outrage was committed

committed since O'Neil's trial, by some of his Orange friends, *who destroyed a part of the chapel of Doctor Conwell, situated in his vicinity.*

It is a matter of some consolation to me, though a very melancholy one, to find that *others* feel themselves warranted to speak not only hardly of Orangemen in their *private* capacities, but also, in their *judicial* ones. A learned Gentleman lately accounted for the acquittal of an Orangeman (*who had been proved to be a most abandoned villain as well as robber*) "through his being *acknowledged by an Orangeman, to be an Orangeman*; and from his having the good fortune to be tried by a jury of twelve Orangemen!" I myself was a witness of a somewhat similar instance, where a set of Orangemen were acquitted of a most wanton assault upon a Roman Catholic; they afterwards, *through a direct perjury*, had the unfortunate injured party put upon his trial; when, by a dextrous manœuvre in getting an Orange friend upon the jury, they absolutely convicted the unhappy, real sufferer! his punishment, indeed, was not very severe, from the circumstance, I am thoroughly convinced, of there being *two Orangemen* implicated with him in his supposed transgression!

I must mention one more proof of the impunity with which Orangemen or Yeomen may commit the most atrocious offences. A poor man in the parish of Killyman, was nearly murdered, (and robbed  
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of a three guinea note) by one of these villains. I took the man's examinations; he said " he could only know the thief by his voice, as it was dark, but that he had no doubt of his being the person who abused and robbed him." However, he a few days after, was thoroughly convinced by the thief himself, who came to his cottage, whilst he lay without hopes of life, and told him, " that if he offered to swear against him, he would finish the work he began, and murder him outright." The man was too ill to go to the ensuing assizes; in the mean time the robber entered into the artillery corps at Charlemont, and was sent off to Dublin.

I will not exhaust the patience, or irritate the feelings of the reader with but very few instances more of the vindictiveness of my, as well as the Roman Catholic, persecutors.

I have already alluded to the calumnies which the Dungannon newspaper teemed with against me. I shall now state what passed between the Printer and me, at two interviews I had with him, relative to these scurrilities. He told me, that " before he published the first abusive letter, he had applied to the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, (Lord Northland's agent) to know whether or not he might, and was safe, in publishing it?" That Mr. Armstrong replied, " he certainly might. But at the same time, in case I should desire him to publish any reply to it, he ought not refuse." I, at another time, asked  
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this printer, "how he came to *republick* some of the scurrilous letters, particularly as I had told him, I would not take any legal steps against him for what he had published, provided he would proceed no farther?" To this he answered, "that he *was paid for this republication very liberally, and that he was promised indemnification for any thing he might publish against me.*" Whilst I was conversing with the Printer, Mr. Armstrong came into the room; I mentioned to that Gentleman what the Printer had said relative to "his (Mr. Armstrong's) permission to publish abominable falsehoods relative to my conduct and character." Mr. Armstrong with, as I thought, a little confusion, confessed the principal fact as stated by the Printer, adding that he did not think himself justified in preventing the Printer to benefit himself, particularly as he had told him to publish any answer I might think proper to require."—Mr. Armstrong here added, "that he thought the publication a most shameful one." I ought to have observed that the Printer assured me, "*he never published any thing against me without consulting some of Lord Northland's friends.*" I made a few remarks to Mr. Armstrong upon his conduct, but as they are of no importance to the present subject, I refrain from inserting them; persuaded too, that they were such as would occur to every liberal-minded reader. I confess I felt, and still do feel, great regret in finding myself *compelled* to withdraw the opinion I had formerly conceived of that Reverend Gentleman; he has proved to me  
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