# A LETTER TO THE AUTHOR OF A LETTER TO MR. BUXTON

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A letter to the author of a letter to Mr. Buxton by Anonymous

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#### **ANONYMOUS**

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TO THE

### AUTHOR of a LETTER

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#### Mr. BUXTON.

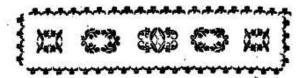
which it is proved, that the Defign of that LETTER has been entirely mifunder-flood, and that the Author of it is the real Friend of

#### Sir EDWAR DASTLEY and Mr. COKE.

Aut Laudi Simulatione detrahere aut vituperationi laude,
Quint.

PRINTED IN THE YEAR MOCCLEVIII.

[ PRICE SIX-PENCE, ]



#### TO THE AUTHOR OF THE

### LETTER

To Mr. BUXTON.

SIR,

H have seen your Letter at its first have seen your Letter at its first appearance in publick, I should long since have done myself the honour of returning you thanks for the entertainment it afforded me, and of congratulating you upon the same you have acquired by so ingenious and elaborate a performance. By this, Sir, we find, that in you alone

alone is centered all the united force of genius of the greatest men of antiquity: The accurate reasoning of an Aristotle, the imagery of a Plato, the irony of a Socrates, and the thundering eloquence of a Demosthenes.

But the talent which I would chiefly chuse to dwell upon is IRONY. A talent feldom feen in any great degree of perfection, but which shines forth in you with the greatest lustre. A talent you have so happily exerted, as not only to persuade the friends of Sir A. Wodehouse and Mr, de Grey, that you were the fincefe well-wisher to, and defender of their cause, but even to deceive the Candidates themselves into the same belief, at the very time you were exerting all the powers of reason, and all the brilliancy of imagination to burlefque and fatirize them and their friends, and to defend the fentiments, promote the interest, and cele-

brate the worth of Sir Edward Aftley and Mr. Coke. A conduct fo meritorious, a plan fo admirably defigned, fo happily executed, and in its confequences fo pregnant with benefit to the new candidates, cannot fail of entitling you to their best thanks, and of fecuring to you their everlasting gratitude.

. Whoever is conversant with party writings must be sensible, that fulsome panegyrics and flattering encomiums, always injure the party they are intended to ferve, and that unjust reflections and false invectives always ferve the party they are defigned to injure. You, Sir, to avail your-· felf of this circumstance, artfully chose the pleasing mask of irony; by means of which, you have with the utmost happiness, commended with censure, and fatirized with praise.

Evident, however, as this point appears to me, many there are so infatuated with

envy, or misled by prejudice, that they would rather suppose you serious than ludicrous, though the former supposition would stamp your name with an indelible difgrace, and the latter would adorn your brow with never-fading laurels. For upon the one supposition, how could they ever vindicate you from the guilt of running into idle declamation, puerile conceits, mean evafions, difingenuous affertions, evident mifrepresentations, and manifest contradictions ! Whereas upon the other, it is plain, that these are not to be considered as the faults of an ignorant writer, but as the beauties of an artful one, who introduced them only to colour the pretence of ferving a cause, which it was his intention to betray.

To establish this position is the design of my entering the lists; and conscious of the rectitude of my intentions, searless of all opponents, I shall boldly erect my BAN-NER of DEFIANCE. \*

Vide (in the Tablets of the Memory) Mr. de Grey's fpeech.

So confident am I of the truth of the position I have advanced, that I dare even to venture the establishment of it upon the proof which your first paragraph affords. For you tell us there, that you esteem and reverence Mr. Buxton as a gentleman of solid judgment, distinguished integrity, and inflexible bonour. Yet in your 22d page you directly contradict this, by telling us, that this gentleman has, (by forfaking Sir A. Wodehouse and Mr. de Grey) for saken the cause of virtue and of bonour. then we were to suppose you meant the latter fentence feriously, you would be guilty of the absurdity of saying, that Mr. B. is at the same time a man of DISTIN-GUISHED INTEGRITY, and a man who HAS LOST HIS INTEGRITY, a man of INFLEXIBLE HONOUR, and yet a man whose nonour is FLEXIBLE.

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Can any one, Sir, who believes you capable of writing common fense, believe you A 3 could this, did they not know that you only meant to expose the absurdity of those who blamed Mr. B. or any other gentleman, for forsaking Sir A. Wodehouse or Mr. de Grey.

But this contradiction, admirable as it is, is not the only one you are content to afford us in this paffage. For if Mr. Buxton, (as you yourself allow us) has a solid judgment to diffinguish who are bad representatives, and who are likely to make good ones; if he has distinguished integrity and inflexible bonour to act in consequence of the determination of his judgment; let the most unletter'd mind determine, whether the only inference you could mean to draw, be not, that the gentlemen whom Mr. B. has forfaken are improper, and that Sir Edward Aftley and Mr. Coke are likely to make proper representatives of this County.