

**STRICTURES ON COBBET'S UNMANLY  
OBSERVATIONS, RELATED TO THE  
DELICATE INVESTIGATION;  
AND A REPLY TO THE ANSWER TO AN  
ADMONITORY LETTER, TO H. R. H. THE  
PRINCE OF WALES**

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Strictures on Cobbet's Unmanly Observations, related to the delicate investigation; and a reply to the answer to an admonitory letter, to H. R. H. the prince of Wales by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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**STRICTURES**  
ON  
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RELATIVE TO THE  
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AND  
A REPLY TO THE ANSWER  
TO  
**AN ADMONITORY LETTER,**  
TO  
**H. R. H. the Prince of Wales,**

CONTAINING

An Account of the true cause why the Commissioners' Report has  
not yet been published, and many other additional facts.

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BY THE AUTHOR OF THE ADMONITORY LETTER.

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## STRICTURES, &c.

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Hoc ego non credam Venusina digna lucerna  
Hanc ego non agitem ?

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**SINCE** the days of JUNIUS, perhaps no periodical writer has attracted more notice than William Cobbet: scurrility, illiberality, acuteness in detecting the weakness of an antagonist, bold assertions, vigor of argument, an artful but cowardly manner of insinuating what they dare not openly declare, and an utter contempt of truth, alike characterise the writings of both; but the pages of the **POLITICAL REGISTER**, never reflect the brilliancy, wit, or elegance of a JUNIUS.

Upon some occasions, however, the author may be considered an useful man; and had he  
confined

confined himself to an exposure of corruption, an opposition to arbitrary proceedings, and to holding up the torch of Satire, to expose the follies and vices of the age, (even though he had been guilty of that illiberal scurrility, which is the principal characteristic of his pen) I should not have felt justified in censuring his exertions.

Observe, when I declare, that I consider him to be a character *sometimes* useful, I by no means wish to be understood, as approving his *general* conduct, more than I do that of the *public executioner*: their offices, in some respects, resemble each other, and they may be both regarded as necessary evils; the latter, however, is certainly the *more valuable* person, for he never inflicts punishment but on guilt, whereas the former not unfrequently strains the cord around the throat of innocence.

The *extent* of Mr. Cobbet's purity has been pretty accurately estimated by the public, and there is not one in ten, even among the admirers of his publication, who does not reprobate the principles of its author: principles which are  
totally



totally at variance with the doctrine he affects to promulgate.

His address to the electors of Westminster, and his conduct respecting the Borough of Honiton, are criterions by which we may correctly determine, both the *profundity* of his *disinterested patriotism*, and the *exuberance* of his "*downcast modesty*."

In the former, after explaining to the electors, what qualities and acquirements the person ought to possess, who aspires to the honor of representing them in Parliament, he *very modestly* begs them to observe, that it is not his intention to become a candidate *unless no other person, so qualified*, should offer himself to their notice!

Now should any one (after what has been said by this *all-didactic personage*) presume to start for the city of Westminster, who is to decide whether he possess *such qualifications* as will render it unnecessary for the *disinterested*, the *patriotic* Mr. Cobbet to stand forth his opponent. Who but this identical WILLIAM COBBET, the man who conceives himself alone equal to sustaining

taining, and opposing the united attacks of *Tories, Whigs, Broad-bottomites, and Puritans.*— And will such immeasurable vanity conceive any earthly being, so admirably fitted to adorn the senate as his *accomplished self.*—Gentle electors, prepare to behold this *wonder* standing forward to rescue you (as *he* will assert) from the grasp of corruption, and (as *I* will assert) in hopes of obtaining the object of his preposterous ambition. Such are his intentions, and such will be his actions, unless (which will most probably be the case) he find his canvass *not quite so successful* as his vanity induces him to forebode.

My intention not being to animadvert upon the whole of his publication, but to confine myself to that part of it which relates to H. R. H. the P——s of W——s, I must not suffer myself to be led from my subject, by the numerous absurdities and inconsistencies which arrest my attention in searching the pages thereof. What I have noticed may perhaps open the eyes of the few who are blind to his demerits, and induce them to reflect what degree of credit should attach to the insinuations of *suck a man.*

I deny

I deny his position altogether, (see page 266. vol. 10 of his Register) That it does not look well to begin a defence, by impeaching the characters of the accusers. If it were not allowable to do so, our fame, our fortunes, and our lives, would not be worth one twelve month's purchase. There are, alas! so many vicious characters in every country, that few, very few, particularly among the highest order of society, are without enemies, who, from envy, pique, malice, or interest, would rejoice in accomplishing their destruction, provided it could be done with a prospect of impunity. It is a fundamental maxim of every system of jurisprudence, that the accused should be condemned or acquitted by the evidence of *credible witnesses*, and the law regards with a jealous eye the accusations of those, whom it is possible to imagine, actuated by revengeful, or interested motives.

When was any person arraigned for a supposed crime without evidence being adduced, who have attempted to establish his guilt, although there were not the slightest foundation for the charges against him; and how could any man establish his innocence, if he were not permitted