

**INTERESTING COLLECTION OF CURIOUS  
ANECDOTES, SCARCE PIECES, AND  
GENUINE LETTERS: IN  
WHICH SOME OBSCURE, BUT  
IMPORTANT, HISTORICAL FACTS ARE  
CLEARED UP, AND SET IN A JUST LIGHT**

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# **VARIOUS**

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IN A JUST LIGHT.

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## P R E F A C E.

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**M**OST of the Letters, in the following Collection, made their appearance in the public Prints, under various signatures. Whiggism and the Revolution are here discussed, as they are subjects which are not well understood. It is more than a century since the Revolution; and though so long time has elapsed, yet it is still ascribed to a wrong cause. When things are thus misrepresented, and lay claim to what they are not intitled, a fair and impartial view of facts becomes necessary, that men may not be carried away by artifice, and adopt vulgar errors as oracles, which are destitute of truth. Such an attempt is commendable, though it may contradict received opinions, and detect, as counterfeit, what has passed as current coin upon the Public, for a long track of time. And if this, which is now offered for inspection, should be attended with such a happy, such

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such a salutary effect, the Author will think his time well employed. For, to set men right in what so nearly concerns them, is no contemptible object, and must afford great pleasure to those who have inlisted themselves of no party, but are friends to truth, and advocates for right. And what generous mind can refuse to rejoice, when truth emergeth from its obscurity; when facts, which have been so long the theme for eulogiums; are stripped of their varnish, and appear in their genuine dress.

Whiggism, by assuming a false and specious garb, to which it is not entitled, often deceives the people by its pretences, as they are strangers to its wiles, and not acquainted with its duplicity. For it takes care to ring in their ears slavery, tyranny, and depriving persons of the rights and liberties which Nature has invested them with; and these are words of a terrible sound, which cannot fail to alarm their fears. And though these are low artifices, yet they carry sufficient force with them to influence the giddy multitude, and to draw them to their

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their party, as they are such an easy prey to nonsense, and so ready to catch at what is marvellous. And is it strange that such scare-crows, when thus artfully hung out, should be attended with such success, as they are so well calculated for the purpose? For what operates upon the mind more powerfully than fear? Doth not this change the nature of things, and make them to wear another aspect? This converts impossibility into possible, and makes the most ridiculous things appear feasible. Thus imaginary evils supply the place of real ones, by divesting men of their reason, and so making them susceptible of any absurdity, which is thrown in the way. But the delusive bait and gilded pills, which these state-mountebanks prescribe as salutary, bring them into the slavish and abject state, which they were so much afraid of, and had such terrible apprehensions of; and when this is effected, the patriot-demagogues laugh at their credulity, and ridicule them for their folly. From hence you may see the propriety of de-  
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teſting Whiggifm, and pointing out its dangers, that the unwary may be put upon their guard, and ſo not fall into its ſnares. It talks of liberty, property, and independence; but when it comes into play, theſe are found to be words of courſe, and ſoon vaniſh into an empty nothing. It conceals from view its dark and dangerous ſide, and only expoſes what is bright and glittering. It draws a veil over the ſcars, wounds, and bruises, which accompany it; and takes care not to mention the loſs of life and fortune, the poverty and grievous impoſitions, which are its wretched attendants. — Prerogative and arbitrary power are held forth in ſo hideous, in ſo frightful a light, as makes every thing to wear a gloomy aſpect, to appear to be fire and ſword; which are about to burn and deſtroy men by wholeſale; though where one has fallen a victim to theſe, hundreds, nay thouſands, have been taken off in the purſuit of liberty. Can one be named, whom King Charles the Firſt took off wrongfully? But cannot a long liſt of thoſe be produced,

duced, whom the people destroyed without remorse or pity, against law, equity, and reason? Instead of one mild master, Rebellion gives us a thousand cruel tyrants, who lord it over us, and govern with a high and rigorous hand. The easy and moderate taxes under Monarchy are soon increased and multiplied, when the people get the power, and preside at the helm. These Sons of Liberty, when out of power, make large promises, which they never perform, when they have got upon the saddle; for their tender mercies are then cruel; they shew themselves quite strangers to pity and compassion, though these words were ever in their mouths, while they were hunting down their betters. But when they have obtained their point against them, and brought them into contempt, they then appear in their genuine dress, and throw off the disguise, which they assumed, to serve their purposes, with the infatuated and credulous people.

That licentious spirit, which is here described, has lately broke out in France, and  
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bids fair to involve that kingdom in all the horrors and calamities of discord and civil tumult, which these unhappy kingdoms experienced in the last century by the Sons of Violence. Some deceitful characters are brought on the stage, and exposed for their base duplicity: And other great and illustrious names are vindicated from the foul aspersions under which they laboured. The author of these Tracts is of no Party, but professeth himself a friend to his country, and venerates the man, who steadily and invariably promotes its interest; but has in detestation the pretended patriotism of those, who assume it as a step-ladder to preferment. And when they have gained their ends, they lay aside the mask, as they do their garments. Such a Party Spirit at this time pervades most of the Public Prints, as made it sometimes necessary to vary the Paper with the subject. They are not willing to give admittance to what doth not chime in with their partial and confined plan,

L E T T E R S