

**A LETTER TO  
THOMAS  
WILLIAM COKE**

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A letter to Thomas William Coke by Richard Gardiner

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**RICHARD GARDINER**

**A LETTER TO  
THOMAS  
WILLIAM COKE**



A  
L E T T E R

T O

THOMAS WILLIAM COKE, Esq.

OF HOLKHAM.

Wherein a full ANSWER is given to his Advertisement  
published in the NORFOLK CHRONICLE and NORWICH  
MERCURY, MAY 2, 1778.

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By RICHARD GARDINER, Esq.

OF MOUNT AMELIA.

Late Captain in the 16th Regiment of QUEEN'S Light Dragoons.

---

*Sunt quibus in satyra videar nimis acer, et ultra  
Legem tendere opus -----*

HOR.

There are, I scarce can think it, but am told,  
There are, to whom my satire seems too bold:  
Scarce to "Sir Harbord" complaisant enough,  
And something said of "Simkin" much too rough.

POPE.

*Si quis  
Opprobrijs dignum latraverit, integer ipse;  
Solventur risu tabulae, tu missus abibis.*

HOR.

In such a cause the plaintiff would be hiss'd,  
My Lords the Judges laugh, and you're dismiss'd.

POPE.

---

L O N D O N :

Printed and sold by M. Folingsby, Temple-Bar: M. Booth, Norwich;  
Eaton, Yarmouth; Hollingworth, Lynn, and by all the Bookfellers  
in Town and Country. 1778.

47.



L E T T E R

T O

*Thomas William Coke, Esq.*

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S. I R,

**M**ISREPRESENTATION of facts, as it is the most mischievous, so it is the most disgraceful, of all deviations from truth. The man, who tells a downright falsehood, hazards a lie boldly, and till he is detected, triumphs in his audacity; but the man, who misrepresents a fact, by his false colouring shews he is conscious and ashamed of the meanness of the lie he is telling, and by glossing it over, confessedly tries all he can to *sneak away* from the ignominy

nominy of public and general conviction. However this, as in the case of the advertisement under examination, rarely happens: there is a force so penetrating in the ray of truth, that it pierces through all the mists of delusion, and clouds of misrepresentation that can be formed to obscure and hide it: Truth is invincible, and is a brilliant that shines invariably in genuine and unpolluted lustre.

I am sorry to say it, Sir, but your advertisement of May 2, 1778, and so often repeated afterwards, is full of this false colouring and misrepresentation, from beginning to end; and in what an unfavorable light must it make you appear to the world, when I prove from *yourself*, beyond the power of contradiction, that you was conscious of the untruth of your assertions at the time you put your name to this paper, and *knowingly* set your hand to a falsehood? But, Sir, out of regard to your father's memory, I will be as tender as I can, and spare you as much confusion as possible, consistent with my own vindication: I have also, Sir, a pity for your youth, which is visibly led astray by improper connections. Your first *traverses*

*verfes* over the *quick-fands* of life, have been moſt certainly ſteered by very treacherous, and unſkilful pilots; and unleſs you put your veſſel on another tack, and ſhift your helmsman, depend upon it you will bulge and be a-ground before you are aware of your danger. I wiſh no ill-timed partiality, or fond opinion of your own diſcernment, that perhaps has fatally guided you in forming and implicitly adhering to the preſent band, or rather *banditti* about you; may operate too ſtrongly againſt the force of any representation to ſave you, from the united efforts and ſalutary advice of men whoſe friendſhip would do you honor: men of weight in the county, ſolidity and judgment: men of unembarrasſed fortunes, and unimpeached integrity; whoſe opinions carry conviction, and whoſe years command authority: ſuch as theſe are to be found, Sir, and let me recommend to you to make the ſearch in time.

But to come to your advertisement, the main object of this publication; and which, if the known *agent* employed by you and Sir Harbord had not interpoſed and intimidated the printers of the *Norwich Papers*,



pers, would have been answered by an advertisement likewise ; I should not otherwise have given myself the trouble of composing, nor the public of reading, the following uninteresting pages.

I published my letter to Sir Harbord Harbord on Saturday, March 21, 1778. The facts contained in that letter are uncontroverted to this hour. I am told that you have occasionally admitted the truth of those *within your knowledge* and experience ; at least common report says so : the facts alluded to *beyond your knowledge*, the public is the judge of ; and as no contradictory answer has been given to them, it may not unfairly be concluded that they are true also.

A second edition of my letter to Sir Harbord came out in ten days after the first : this too remained uncontroverted ; but after a total silence from March to May, Mr. Coke surprises the public with the following advertisement, which, to use a word he seems very fond of, he " thinks it incumbent upon him to lay " before the public," which made its first appearance in the Norwich papers of Saturday, May 2,

Norfolk Chronicle and Norwich Mercury,  
May 2, 1778.

“ To the PUBLIC.

“ HAVING waited to see the utmost  
 “ Efforts of Mr. Gardiner’s Malice, and  
 “ Abilities for Abuse; at length I think it  
 “ incumbent on me to assure the Public,  
 “ that all his *Affertions* of Sir Harbord  
 “ Harbord’s having done him Disservice  
 “ with me, are absolutely FALSE—and  
 “ that all the Discourtenance I shew’d  
 “ him during his Continuance in my Ser-  
 “ vice, and my final Dismission of him  
 “ from that Service, arose entirely with-  
 “ out the *Advice, Suggestion, or even Know-*  
 “ *ledge of Sir Harbord Harbord, or any*  
 “ *other of the Gentlemen to whom it is im-*  
 “ *puted in his Pamphlet.*—That his Con-  
 “ duct whilst in my Service, being dis-  
 “ approved by me; I therefore exercised  
 “ that Right, which I apprehend every  
 “ Gentleman has, and dismissed him with  
 “ a Gratuity of Two Hundred Pounds—  
 “ which he has not taken the least Notice  
 “ of in his Publication. The public Buf-  
 “ tle he made at Norwich in Relation to  
 “ Sir Harbord Harbord, after the *Affu-*  
 “ *rances*

“ rances I had given, that Sir Harbord  
 “ Harbord had never done him *any Dis-*  
 “ *service with me*, I considered as imply-  
 “ ing his Disbelief of my Assurances, and  
 “ consequently as such an affront to my-  
 “ self, that I thought it necessary to for-  
 “ bid him my House. Some Time after-  
 “ wards finding he did not think the Gra-  
 “ tuity adequate to his Services, I pro-  
 “ posed to refer the Point to Arbitration,  
 “ which he at first refused, though I am  
 “ informed he has since inclined to—  
 “ But as he has now by his CALUMNIES  
 “ and FALSEHOODS forfeited every Claim  
 “ to my Favor, I shall leave him to try  
 “ what the Law will further give him.

THOMAS WILLIAM COKE.”

*Holkham, April 26, 1778.*

It is to be remarked here that Mr. Gay  
 went from a commission at Burnham to  
 Holkham, on Friday, April 24, two days  
 before the *date* of this advertisement, pre-  
 tending great and urgent business with  
 Mr. Coke: probably a cabinet council  
 was summoned for the Saturday and Sun-  
 day, to draw up and issue out the above  
 proclamation from the court at Holkham.

This