

**A LETTER TO R. B. GABRIEL, D.  
D., IN ANSWER TO FACTS  
RELATING TO THE REV. DR.  
WHITE'S BAMPTON LECTURES**

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A Letter to R. B. Gabriel, D. D., in Answer to Facts Relating to the Rev. Dr. White's Bampton Lectures by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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A  
L E T T E R  
T O

R. B. GABRIEL, D. D.

*&c. &c.*

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REVEREND SIR,

**Y**OU have been pleased at last to favor the public with your long promised, and universally expected, pamphlet on Dr. White; and amongst those who may stand forward to acknowledge your condescension, I flatter myself my observations will not appear either destitute of respect to you, or prostituted to calumny. To the professed character of the divine, you seem to have

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added the feelings of the man ; and while you appear, on your own declaration, anxious to vindicate your supposed injured reputation in the eyes of the world, you unfortunately sacrifice your professions of candor to the shrine of private resentment, and the dictates of the vindictive spirit. I am sorry the perusal of your *Facts* has made such an impression on the mind of an impartial reader ; of a person who not reluctantly will unsheath his sword in the defence of injured merit, or assaulted innocence, whether it be in Dr. White, or his antagonists.

Time is required finally to destroy the veil which covers the mysteries of superstition ; and it would be a dangerous attempt to extirpate, at one blow, the pageantry that commands the admiration and reverence of a bigoted nation in the moments of ignorance and barbarism ; but the present age affords a more peaceful scene ; and the hero, whose labours have been rewarded with the palm of victory, the Goliath of christian learning, is suddenly spoiled of his blooming honours, and defeated by the attacks of an insignificant

insignificant individual. Yet not so, Dr. Gabriel ; allow others time to examine facts as well as yourself, and do not presume to impose upon the public opinion, by a hasty intrusion of your prejudices and mercenary sentiments. The Bampton Lectures have gained too much celebrity, that the preacher should be forsaken on the first appearance of opposition, or that he should be condemned unheard, to the ignominy which your pen has attempted to throw upon him. It may be said, that your attack is too feeble, and too much the effusion of resentment, tempered with jealousy, to merit the attention of the public ; but we know that the historian mentions the little trochilus, because he accompanies the huge crocodile, and the astronomer speaks of the spots of the sun, because they obscure the disc of that luminary. So far your composition will be entitled to our observation ; and we will forget it is the production of a Divine, whose meekness ought to be exemplary, whose benevolence ought to be unbounded, and whose charitable sentiments ought to be expressed in the circles of society as much as they are

thundered from the pulpit. We must from beginning to end consider it as the production of a man of honour, whose feelings are of such delicate, such exquisite texture, that the smallest collision calls for the exertion of all its dormant powers, and whose resentment challenges the strongest as well as the feeblest antagonists.

There is a medium between candor and severity, which, if you had observed, might have rendered your accusation of Dr. White more respectable, if not more authentic; but to such rules Dr. Gabriel is a total stranger. Superior to common rules, he flies from the marks which decency ought to have prescribed him; and forgetful of his former professions of friendship, forgetful of his character, and regardless of the respect which he owes to the public in general as an individual, and now as a writer, he wields the weapons of vengeance without producing any sufficient proofs of provocation, and invites us to an entertainment prepared with malice, adorned with cunning, and seasoned with bitterness. There is little to be said  
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in defence of such proceedings as these, Dr. Gabriel; they bear their own condemnation on their head; and not all the waters of the Atlantic would wash away the spot, the ignominious spot, which you have fixed upon your character.

I would not object so much to your appearance before the awful and impartial tribunal of the public, as to the manner in which you introduce yourself. Full of your own conceit, and proud of your titles and preferment, you rush forward to the crimination of a man who is as much an ornament to literature, as you are its disgrace; and who is as much the friend and the favourite of the public, as you are becoming its enemy and its abomination.

With the determined resolution to stigmatize the Arabic Professor, you begin to panegyricize his conduct, and tell us you possess as much veneration for his character, as is due to uncommon talents, and superiority of genius. We, most learned Doctor, we know, as well as yourself, how  
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much Dr. White deserves the approbation of the world; and with what gratitude, I might perhaps add reverence, every thing is received that drops from his pen. Do not suppose you destroy any part of that great character he enjoys; he receives more additional splendor from your malevolent attacks; and among a croud we are sensible that the dog that barks, distinguishes his master more than he that fawns. Excuse the comparison; though I know if you resent it, it is a proof that it is just and applicable.

To say you "are not actuated by motives of ill will to Dr. White," is a piece of falsehood which the most candid and impartial perusal of your *Facts* will evince. Every page, and indeed every word, speaks loudly for itself; and the man who pleads necessity, and "the indispensable and honourable purpose of vindicating himself," most unerringly betrays a harsh and wanton design, to injure the reputation of the Professor.

I congratulate

I congratulate you, Dr. Gabriel, that you can say, not without honest pride, that your acquaintance are numerous and respectable. It is a piece of vanity, which few men perhaps, except yourself, would have betrayed; but we must suppose you deemed such information necessary for the public, that you might not be confounded with the herd of inferior writers; but unfortunately, public justice knows no such exemptions. I do not believe that those numerous friends, whose good opinion you tell us you have not only merited, but obtained, can rely much on the esteem of a person whose officiousness tends to such purposes, and who insinuates himself into the good graces of the world, merely to betray the confidence which is reposed in him. An acquaintance with such a character ought rather to be shunned than courted; for he little deserves the appellation of friend, or the name of the most distant acquaintance, who on the most trifling provocations, the most frivolous pretences, becomes the bitterest enemy; reveals what ought to be sacred, and canvasses half the kingdom to see whether he cannot find  
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