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A N S W E R
T O

Dr. SNAPE's Accusation, &c.

INTRODUCTION.



S I always knew that *Personal Abuses* are made use of, to give life to a *Desperate Cause* amongst the *Vulgar*, by *Men* who have no other *Weapon* against *sincere Lovers* of *Truth*, than *Falshood*; and no better *Way* of defending what *They* call *Religion*, than *Passion* and *Calumny*: So, I believe, there never was a more *Remarkable Instance* of *this*, than what *Dr. Snape* has given the *World* in his late *Controversy*, by *Publickly* and *Positively* Charging *Me* with being a *Personated Jesuit* under the *Shape* of a *Free-thinker*, without any the least *Ground*, or any the least *Relation* to the *Argument* he was then upon.

Whilst it was only whispered about by *such Men*, that I was whatever *They* pleased to call me, tho' I

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could have made the World immediately sensible of their *Weakness* or *Injustice*, I chose to let 'em weary themselves with their short-liv'd *Slanders*; as knowing that Time, and an Unblameable Conduct must wear them off; that they would bring at last the whole Shame upon the *Slanders*, and that the *Considering, Equitable* and *Generous* Part of the World is not at all influenc'd by them.

But since I am now called upon in so boisterous and inhuman a Manner to give the *Protestant* World an *Account of Myself*, (the Sincerity of whose Conversion, and whose Honesty, was never questioned in the *Popish*) and since the Lord Bishop of *Bangor* ought not to be reviled for his Kindness to Me; I shall lay hold of this unexpected, but welcome Opportunity, to put a stop once for all to all manner of *Obloquy*, and to appear in the Eyes of Men what I am in the Eyes of God, and of All who know Me, a hearty and sincere Friend to the *True Protestant Cause*, tho' traduced by Some, who would have us think Them the great Promoters of the same, as one of the most Treacherous of its Enemies.

I shall give Dr. *Snape* as full Satisfaction * on this Point, as He can possibly wish for; and it may be more. I shall set forth Notorious and Unexceptionable Matters of Fact, and trace the different Steps by which an Early and Inquisitive Love of Truth led Me to such Principles as have raised so much Calumny against Me; for the sake of which Principles only, having parted with every worldly Thing that could be dear to Me, I am now pretty well contented to undergo the Reproaches of New Enemies, in hopes of a little Share in the Merit of opposing Once more the True Spirit and Main Foundations of Popery.

After I have done this, I shall let every one weigh in his own Thoughts, how Barbarous and Unchristian it is in a Protestant Clergyman to Rob One, who was

* See his last Page.

once in the *Depth* of *Popery*, and is come over into *Foreign* Countries to seek, with *Uprightness* and *Simplicity* of Heart, for the *Protestant Truth*, of the only Things he has not lost in *Pursuance* of it, viz. his *Reputation*, and new *Friends*: How little *Encouragement* these *Mighty Enemies* of the *Church of Rome* (who are already entitled to its *Thanks* on so many other *Accounts*) give to those who would *Forlake*, or have thoroughly *Forfaken* it; how void not only of *Charity*, but of *Common Equity*, They must be, who attempt to wound the *Character* of a *Christian Prelate*, by *Blacking* that of One of his *Family*; and how weak *Their Malice* will appear, when it shall be seen that They have *trubing* to alledge for Their *Charge* against Me, but that I was ten Years ago a *Jesuit*; a *Misfortune* which I have owned openly every where, and which I have told the World of My own accord six Months ago in *Print* *.

In order therefore to perform thoroughly what I have now undertaken, I must trouble the World with an *Account* of *My-self* from My Youth; which, knowing how little acceptable any thing that is *Personal* is, I shall endeavour to render throughout *Beneficial* and *Instructive*. And in *this*, I cannot forbear, and I hope it will be allowed me, to mention several Particulars relating to Men of Note amongst the *Jesuits*, and Others of the *Church of Rome*; which may perhaps seem not so close to the main Point, but will, I think, be very entertaining to the Curious and Learned World. It will appear from hence, in what Manner I was drawn in to be a *Jesuit*; how I *Behaved* My-self, and was *Treated* among 'em; what *Reasons* perswaded Me to part with them; upon what *Terms* I was then with them, and have been ever since; How some Years after, I came to turn *Protestant*, and to be *Forced out of France*; how I spent My Time in *Holland* first,

* In the Title Page of My Translation of My Lord's Prefative, sold at Mr. Castels, in Greek-street, near Soho-square.