

This morning, at nine o'clock, the Sheriffs met on the hustings in Guldhall, according to adjournment, to proceed upon the scrutiny, when they received the following letter:

**TO THE SHERIFFS OF LONDON.**

GENTLEMEN,

THE respective scrutineers nominated by us, having declared themselves disabled from entering upon the scrutiny, for want of the delivery of true copies of the poll, as required by the act of Parliament of the eleventh of George the First, we object to any further proceedings touching the present election of Mayor for the City of London, as irregular and illegal.

*We are, Gentlemen,  
Your humble Servants,  
THOMAS HALIFAX,  
JOHN SHAKESPEAR.*

Received ten minutes after nine o'clock, Saturday morning, Oct. 24, 1772, of Mr. Edw. Reynolds.

Witness, JOHN PEARL,  
GEORGE DANIEL.

Notwithstanding this letter, the scrutineers of Mess. Wilkes and Townsend are determined to proceed on the scrutiny against the votes of Mess. Halifax and Shakespear before the Sheriffs at Guildhall, agreeable to law, and are determined not to submit to a shuffling pretence for delay and trouble.

**ANNAPOLIS, JANUARY 7.  
TO THE PRINTER.**

YOU will be pleased to give a place in your Gazette to the following dialogue, which was set down by a gentleman who overheard it, after a small recollection, perfectly in substance and nearly in words, as it fell from the speakers. The unhappy and prevailing aversion to read performances of elegance as well as moment to the publick seems to bode that this so deficient in the first point will not find a multitude of readers.—But if I am not grossly mistaken, those few who will not be frightened by its length from travelling through it will receive both entertainment and instruction to requite them, in some degree, for their pains.

*A Dialogue between two Citizens.*

*1<sup>st</sup> Cit.* WHAT, my old friend I still deaf to the voice of Reason? will fair argument make no impression on you? Consider well the irreparable mischief the part you are going to act, may do to the Cause of Freedom: Your Steadiness, your Integrity, your Independence made us set you down, as a sure Enemy to Government, and one too, whose force would be felt.

*2<sup>d</sup> Cit.* Let me repeat to you my caution, against this strain of compliment; it suits not with your professions of OPPOSITION, and is in truth, somewhat too courtly for my palate: But of this however you may rest assured, that no man is more open to conviction, than MYSELF. The publication of the opinionist, which you, with such zeal and devotion, would set up as the only rule of Faith, has let in no new light upon my mind.—I worship not the GOLDEN CALF; but cleave to the religious rites and ceremonies established by my forefathers; and in this, I think, I am both conscientious and polittick. It was for the same despicable idolatry and falling off as yours that the unhappy and misguided king Jeroboam and his people were afflicted with those mighty evils, which are recorded in holy writ. 1 Kings, xii. 2 Chron. xiii. I have impartially examined every thing you suggested in our last conversation, but, cannot discover therein, the least semblance either of reason, or argument; and until you press me with some more weighty objections, I shall still continue a cordial, and determined friend to Government, and, under favour, to Liberty too: But, in the name of Common Sense, no more fruitless experiments on my passions; a truce to your threadbare-topicks of Arbitrary Princes, Proclamations, and your Forty per poll! You pretend at least, to be so haunted with these terrors, that I verily believe in my heart, if it were in my power, to produce the opinions of the greatest Council in England, upon a full and fair state of the case, point blank in favour both of the Proclamation and Forty per poll, you would swear that they were forgeries; or if you allowed them to be genuine, that their authors were barefaced knavish Lawyers, who would at any time, sell opinions contrary to their consciences; to serve a present turn, to get an office on this side the water, for some importunate dependent, or relation in the fourth or fifth degree; or that they would do it to support power, and very likely, that they were downright blunderbusses: And this too, would be all fair argument.

*1<sup>st</sup> Cit.* I say nothing upon that matter for the present, but let such opinions appear when they will, there shall be those which shall confront them, though they come subscribed with the name of CAMDEN, if that could possibly be. But, you declare yourself a determined friend both to Government, and Liberty. Monstrous contradiction! If this however be your final resolve, I am really very sorry for it; Government has but too many, and too powerful friends already; the current sets so fatally strong that way, as to give

\* Here it is difficult to determine the speaker's meaning. He may either intend that Lord Camden, after having been a judge and otherwise dignified, can no longer give opinions as a practising lawyer; or that if he could, he cannot possibly differ from our own great lawyers. And in this latter presumption he may think himself warranted by his Lordship's sentiments, which are cited in that fine monument of reasoning and literature, the Address of the Lower House, which may be seen in the Votes and Proceedings of 1771; page 66; which citation it is well worth reviewing and comparing with another of the sentiments of the same light and ornament of the present age, page 86.

us serious cause to dread, that we shall be overborn in all our struggles to resist it; the friends of the Constitution, with whatever cheerfulness they may affect to gild their countenances, wear a certain sadness about their hearts; they see the strongest symptoms of the sickness of their cause, even unto death; Court-influence, and Corruption, rear their glittering crests.

*2<sup>d</sup> Cit.* Court-influence and Corruption! But, my flowery antagonist, is every man who thinks differently from you on publick measures, influenced, and corrupted? Now, I must confess you give me no reason to complain of your over-complaisance; Is the majority of your fellow-citizens, which you seem to apprehend will be against you, thus all over blighted and tainted?

*1<sup>st</sup> Cit.* God forbid it should BE THE CASE OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL! but alas! it is so of too many. Your conduct, and the conduct of such as you, we rather incline to impute to the irresistible bias of personal attachment, or to a certain unaccountable insatiation, which will sometimes overtake the wisest, and the best.

*2<sup>d</sup> Cit.* Your insinuation is too gross and injurious to be qualified, or atoned for, by this apology of yours; it will not pass upon one of MY STEADINESS you know. You would brand every man with the odious appellations of Court-hireling and Sycophant, who dares to exercise his own judgment, in opposition to yours, and that of your party. Is it not the most criminal, and unpardonable arrogance, thus to strike at the publick reputation? I know not what, or whom you mean, by *We and the friends of the Constitution*; but, whilst you are thus wrongheaded, and I reathe so imperious and tyrannical a spirit withal, you will be the constant objects of derision, or hatred; you may upbraid with the epithets of Tool, or Courtier (than which nothing can be more foul, or reproachful), you will still be regarded with the scorn, or pity of every man of sense and spirit; the blessings of Order, will still be preferred to the horrors of Anarchy; for to such must the principles of those men inevitably lead, who are fixed in their purpose, of opposing Government at all adventures, and preposterously contend, that such a system is neither interest, nor faction, but genuine patriotism. Alas Sir! ill must it fare with the popular interests, when the Leading Representatives, and Great Speakers, instead of making amends to their country, by some matter stroke of wise policy, for having rejected a regulation offered upon such advantageous terms as the most languine, and staunch friend of the people, never dreamed of; still rush on in their destructive career, laying their trains at each outlet of publick business, to blow up every thing into a combustion, in order, that the rage and delusion of the present, may support and sanctify the mischiefs of the preceding Session; whilst the publick Debt, without purchasing any benefits, is swelling to an enormous size, on the Journals; our staple falling into disgrace in foreign markets; and every man's property in a degree, decreasing and mouldering away. Friends to the Constitution, whilst they are stretching every sinew to confound all the publick counsels, and thereby, destroy every good effect of that Constitution. Gracious powers! is not this a monstrous contradiction?

Take a liberal and impartial review of your adventures, in every point of light: Have not they as deep a stake in the safety of the Constitution as you, or your friends? What can possibly tempt them to join in the demolition of that bulwark, which alone shelters them in the enjoyment of their fortunes, and of every comfort that can plead to the reason, and interest the heart of man? If they are Tools and Hirelings for this purpose, then are they a kind of lunatick wretches, that no language can describe. Will the general behaviour of none of them authorize you to entertain more honourable sentiments of their spirit, than you express? Would they not, think you, spurn at an attempt to frighten, or bribe them, with indignation equal to that which would fire the breasts of those, who are eternally crying out as if the enemy were in the gate, and scattering distraction and distrust through the community? Who are for ever reviling others, and bespraying their own integrity, wisdom, and I know not what? Lay this truth sadly to heart, Sir, the Politician who stuns you with harangues on his own angelical purity, is as certainly an arrant impostor, as the woman who unceasingly prates of her own chastity, is no better than the should be; or the soldier who is always the hero of his own boisterous tale, is at bottom but a rank coward. Are there among them no substantial merchants, who are much likelier to be gainers by kicking close to their own business, than by watching the smiles or frowns of a Court? These are men, whom I should hardly expect to find in a plot against Liberty; since Commerce is ever engrafted on the stock of Liberty, and must feel every wound that is given to it; for when Liberty is struck to the heart, Commerce can then put forth her golden fruit no more; but, must perforce droop and die. Do you conceive, that such men can possibly be bribed, unless they be overtaken by the insatiation you talked of, to engage in pulling down a fair and itately and useful edifice, with the ruins of which, as soon as it is levelled to the ground, they and their families are to be stoned to death? For, they are not entitled, by their mercantile education, to keep a constant eye upon the great and gainful publick offices, or to expect that any of them will fall to their share, as those of some other professions are. In all growing cities, and communities at large, they are especial useful and able members, when acting in concert with the Commons, but, put them into the other scale, and they that instant lose all their weight. I fancy you will hear many of my brother-mechanicks raising their voices against you, who scarce know the meaning of your Court-influence, and Corruption, who will stand on the side of him, whom they think, from an unprejudiced observation of his manners, the likeliest to shield them from oppression; or it may be, the encraser of whose business, as it is closely connected with the prosperity of the city, bids the fairest to enlarge the sphere of action, and importance; not only of every tradesman,

but, of every inhabitant who lives by his labour, and the sweat of his brow.

*1<sup>st</sup> Cit.* To these questions I do not choose to give an answer. But, thus much I will venture to assert, that a thousand arguments may be brought to prove, that our LEADERS cannot be either mistaken, or dishonest: I will only mention two, which are abundantly sufficient. First, the clear and undeniable consistency of their publick conduct; and secondly, their noble and uniform abhorrence of being seen at Court, or in the infectious company of Courtiers.

*2<sup>d</sup> Cit.* Consistency, according to your meaning of it, may be now and then the sign of a good heart, but it never is of a good head. It is evident to a man of my plain understanding, that a wife politician, if he cannot steer due on to his point, will shape his course a different way, and win upon it by degrees, and yet be both firm and consistent. He will never scruple to give up trifles, to gain solid advantages. But, the possession even of this consistency, when it is appealed to as a merit, must undergo a severe scrutiny. I am somewhat advanced in life, you know; and eagerness to believe, is a plant of slow growth, in an aged bosom. A man must not pretend to reconcile his conduct with consistency, by deceitful refinements; it will not serve his turn to tell me, that he acts in two different characters, when I find him declaring one thing to day, and another to morrow, on some publick and important question; or; when I hear him pronouncing, that certain bodies of men have peculiar and indubitable rights, at the very time that he is moving heaven and earth to destroy the only Law, which is the foundation of those rights. Neither must this uniform abhorrence of Courts; this excessive delicacy in the choice of company, be received on the mere assertion of the party. When a Candidate, or his friends, warn me of the danger of trusting a man who associates with such and such particular persons, whom they are pleased to traduce as Courtiers and Place-hunters; or who happen to dine at Court, now and then, I am not pained, or disconcerted to ask them, whether, they cannot recollect the time, when they themselves were guilty of this very crime? or when they were even the common objects of ridicule, for being *band and glove at Court*, as it were, *all of a sudden*? Whether, they have not been so hit, so intoxicated, as to forget the old proverb, that *walls have ears*, and to break out into boasts and raptures at their brightening and unexpected hopes of preferment? If I can catch them tripping, or prevaricating upon this trial, they cannot be angry with me upon the matter, if I conclude, that their patriotism is all a cheat, and that in fact, disappointment is rankling in their hearts, nay that, notwithstanding their old sores, if the bait were again thrown out to them, they would be such gudgeons, as to swallow it with the utmost greediness.

*1<sup>st</sup> Cit.* However this feigned trial of yours might turn out, I cannot see how my friends would be affected by it; as it is notorious to the whole city, as well as to the whole province, that no part of their conduct can possibly fall within the description.

*2<sup>d</sup> Cit.* GOD FORBID IT SHOULD BE THE CASE OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL! or indeed of any of them. But to pursue my train: If I can tell them with truth, that I have not only been one of those, who have stared with astonishment at their childish and unguarded Court-familiarities even in the publick streets, but that I can recount to them their courtly voyages by water, and journeys by land, their carousings, their illuminations, their costly and exquisite treats, to gorge the high-seasoned appetite of Government; if I can name the very appointments, they have laid their fingers upon, and assure them, that I have been well informed of their eager impatience for the removal of every impediment, which stood in the way of their exaltation, with many other glorious and patriotic particulars; if

*1<sup>st</sup> Cit.* For Heaven's sake; to what purpose is all this idle talk? You well know, it does not touch us, we are not galled, and therefore cannot wince.

*2<sup>d</sup> Cit.* I shall push it no further then. I only meant to shew you the rules I lay down to myself, for judging on these occasions; and in this, no creature can accuse me, either of ill nature, or foul play; for, I would by no means confine the man of my choice to any particular set of acquaintance. If he has a relish for society, I like him the better for it; since it proves he has a generous heart. I think he may spend his hours of relaxation in the company of sensible and agreeable persons, though they chance to differ with him in their political creed, and yet return to his own parlour, the same hearty and unshaken friend to his old publick opinions as ever. I never tremble on this account. Indeed, if I be rightly informed, the conversation of these kind of people, seldom turns upon the politics of their own country, in mixt circles; they are willing enough to leave behind them, when they go abroad, what is sufficiently vexatious and troublesome, when they are obliged to apply their thoughts that way. I have often lamented, that *Electioneering*, as it is called, should be so ruinous to private attachments and good fellowship, and should generate such black blood in society as it does; and those who administer to this cruel distemper, whether they lurk in secret, or act openly, have (in my humble opinion) much to answer for. We frequently see the bonds of nature rudely torn asunder; and I believe there may be instances produced from Italy, of confederated bands of Politicians hacknied in their trade, who have availed themselves, without remorse, of the avowed rwness, simplicity, and vanity of youth, to accomplish their purposes, though they divided a house against itself, and kindled the inextinguishable flames of hatred and animosity, even in the hearts of brothers.

*1<sup>st</sup> Cit.* Wormwood! Wormwood!  
*2<sup>d</sup> Cit.* This indeed must turn the milkiest nature into bitterness. Had I been trained up in the schools of those orators who were heretofore the subjects of your glowing panegyrick, I should dress my thoughts in such language, as well might justify your exclamation.

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