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the various false statements and mean subterfugas, to which men of bases minds, consious of guilt. will resort, to avert the just indignation of those whose good opinion it is their interest to preserve or secure.

No doubt they expected my feelings would be lacerated by their im-

No doubt they expected my feelings would be lacerated by their impeachment of my veracity. Heaven forbid that I should feel a pang at unmerited reproach, and more especially when coming from such a quarter. As my veracity, however, has been called in question before the public, I may be allowed to state in my defence, that I was brought up among the people of Somerset, where the Trio reside, when two of them were not know there, to be in existence. I had an extensive acquaintance with the people, and more than once represented them in the Legislature. I lived several years in the State of Indiana where I became intimately acquainted with many gentlemen in various parts of that State. I have resided in the city of Washington and been employed in one of the public departments more than five years, and am pretty well known to many of the most respectable citizens (some of whom have known me from youth up.) I have travelled in most of the States, and there is scarcely a place in the Union of any note where I have not some acquaintances. Some of my school fellows still live in Somerset, and old people are yet there who knew me intimately from childhood to manhood. I have transacted various kinds of business, as well for the public as myself, and it is with pride, indeed, that I say, I know of no instance in the whole course of my life, where the truth of my asseverations has been doubted by one of these.

It is very far from being a mortifying circumstance that I lack the good opinion of men guilty of such wanton cruelty. Did I posses it I should have good cause to suspect myself of a dereliction of virtue. I seek not, I desire not the good opinion of men without souls. No! I seek higher approbation,—that of the Searcher of hearts, and of my own conscience.

The only issue between us seems to be this,—was there or was there not an attempt by the mother of the child and myself to take her away? The Trio affirm that there was, and we affirm that there was not. Moreover, we aver, that we never for a single moment entertained a design to take the child from Mr. Henry's. I certainly know that I entertained no such intention, nor did I even suspect that such an idea ever entered the mother's mind. Had she indulged such a thought, she certainly would have communicated it to me, and had she done so, I should have discountenanced it. Rude as was the whole affair, I flatter myself, that every one who knows me well, feels assured that if such an attempt had been made, it would not have passed off so smoothly. But on the sup-

position that such an attempt had been made, however improper on our part,—as I admit it would have been, considering the place and circumstances,—how have they justified their officious intermeddling? Why, to be sure, on account of their great respect for the majesty of the law! But they should recollect that mothers in this country have not so much respect for laws, enacted under a Kingly Government two hundred years ago, so barbarous as to deprive them of their children.

With the impressions, opinions, &c. of those who happened to see but a part of the transaction, and received too in part from previous and subsequent conversations with the Trio, I have nothing to do. It matters little what they were. It is the facts we are contending about, and I repeat, positively and unequivocally, there was neither attempt, or intention under any circumstances, to abduct the child from Mr. Henry's. If the Trio considered themselves under obligation for the fee they received to act a part so ignoble, and believed the time for it had arrived, why not do it in the mildest manner? There were two doors through which we must have passed. Why did they not close them, or guard them with their persons? Was there any actual necessity,-I put it to them and dare them to answer-Was their any actual necessity, had the mother really attempted to bear off the child, to lay hands upon them to prevent escape? And had we got through one door, was not the passage through which we must have passed, filled with persons who would have prevented our egress? Away, then, with all that idle talk about suspicion of intentions, attempts, &c. &c. It is absurd, preposterous, foolish.

For a part of the time I was but a spectator, and it was with great reluctance I put forth my hand, and then only when I found remonstrance vain, and I became indignant from the rudeness and violence of this most worshipful Trio.

They say that the mother started from her seat with the child towards the door. This is positively untrue. While the mother was seated with the child on her lap, Mr. Henry and Mr. Crisfield, in front of her, with their backs towards the door, were endeavouring, as it appeared to me, and as I verily believe, to seperate the child from her. At this time I was a step or two behind them; and not having interfered as yet, I closely observed every transaction. It is possible, nevertheless, being behind Mr. Henry and Mr. Crisfield, that I was in part mistaken in my observations. (But for what purpose other than this did they hold the child and continue to entreat the mother to let her go?) But finding that the mother would not relinquish, they strove to pull her away, in doing which Mrs. Polk and the child were pulled from the chair. As yet I was not an actor, and if I am mistaken in this declaration, (that they