

steps herein as may be necessary, so soon as the purchase is made.

I am with great Truth
Sir, Your most Obedient
& very humble Servant
W. Johnson

Original.

[Hamersley to Sharpe.]

Serj^{ts} Inn London 28th March 1768

Hon^d & D^r S^r

Soon after I last wrote your Excellency, a most unlucky Affair broke out, which was attended with very Disagreeable, and might have ended with serious, Consequences; but, thank God, the worst is now over, and I can again resume my Pen and my Function with Chearfulness & Confidence. So much must have already reached your Excellency upon the Subject (tho' the truth has been wickedly disguised under false Colours to Create a General prejudice) & so much more will soon follow, when the Proceedings come to be Published, that I shall only very Shortly acquaint your Excellency that on Tuesday the 29th of Dec^r last Lord Baltimore was Called upon by Habeas Corpus to produce before Lord Mansfield one Sarah Woodcock, a Pedling Millener, aged between 30 & 31, but an Anabaptist, and of the lowest Degree of Sectarys, who had come to him a few days before from Rosemary Lane, and who, upon being privately Examined before his Lordship for half an hour together, Declared that Lord Baltimore had used her very well, & that she was desirous of going back again with him, But, before she left the House, was prevailed upon by a Body of Saints then assembled to return to her Friends, and in Two hours after to go to Fielding's, & swear a Rape against his Lordship, & Two Women as his assistants.

S^r John, Pleased with the prospect of a good Prize, immediately sent one of the women, whom he had got into his Power, to Newgate, & proceeded with the utmost Violence, by besetting the House with his Myrmidons, (who killed his Lordships Porter in attempting to break in, and Frightened his favourite Daughter of about 14 into a Fever, w^{ch} Destroyed her in a few Days,) to Seize his Lordship Person too; w^{ch} however, he withdrew in time, till proper Enquirys could be made into the truth, & the necessary Preparations made for Bailing him in the ensuing Term, w^{ch} being done his Lordship on the 12th of Feb^{ry} (being the last day of the Term) Voluntarily surrendered himself to the Court of Kings Bench, & was immediately admitted to Bail in Open Court to take his Trial at the Ensuing Surry Assizes, the fact being Charged at Woodcote, & on Saturday last the 26th Instant his Lordship took