

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
April 24

In Answer to your Remark on the second Fact, adduced to shew the Prevalence of a Popish Faction, I shall repeat what I before told you, that those who interested themselves in the young Fellow's Favour, were most of them Protestant-Gentlemen of the Neighbourhood, which, I have heard, has been confirmed to you by a Member of your own House: The Delinquent was a Youth; the Son of a Gentleman who had been universally esteemed; 'twas said to be his first Fault; whether he was made a useful Evidence against Crawford, I never enquired, nor shall concern myself about it: Let it suffice, that I was informed he could be an Evidence; and, tho' the Youth might have imposed on his Friends, by telling them that he had been privy to a Roguery of that Villain's, when he had not, or might, on the Trial, have pretended Ignorance to skreen him, I do not conceive that either myself, or the Gentlemen who applied to me in his Behalf, are accountable for such his Behaviour.

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I must also beg Leave to repeat what I before observed on the Case of that Woman, who is produced as the third Instance of Partiality shewn to Persons of a different Persuasion from my own, since my Administration: She was married to a very loose and extravagant Man; her Husband had been brought up by, and depended upon, an Uncle; the Wife went with a forged Letter of Credit, signed with the Name of the Uncle, to M.^r Roundell's Store, and in Virtue of that Deceit, obtained Credit for some Goods. This she did, as there was Reason to suppose, with the Privity or by the Compulsion of a necessitous and base Husband: So, had the Prosecution been carried on, the simple Wife might possibly have been punished, while the more guilty Husband escaped with Impunity I have been since informed, that, if the Woman had been brought to her Trial, she must, in all Probability, have been acquitted. But, whatever might have been the Event of a Trial, I do not apprehend that in granting a Noli Prosequi, I exercised any Power against the true Spirit of a British Constitution; and I flatter myself you will not widely differ from me in that Opinion, if you coolly consider the Case, and not take into such Consideration the Woman's Religion. I have already told you, that when Application was made to me in her Favour, I was a Stranger to her Religious Principles; and I have been assured by the Gentlemen who spoke to me about her, that they were also unacquainted therewith. M.^r Roundell, I observe, has suppressed some Truths; and, on some Account or other, has not, by his Deposition, informed you of the whole Part that he acted, or how far he was concerned, in having a Stop put to the Prosecution: To supply such Defect in his, I send you another Deposition; from which, and a Letter in M.^r Ridout's Hands, which he will shew any Gentlemen that will ask him, may be seen what Grounds I had for what was heretofore said concerning M.^r Roundell.