

It is plain enough that they thought it inexpedient to *give*, and
 esteemed themselves far above the Apprehension of having
 Occasion to *take* Quarter. The Manner of my Defence has
 perhaps been too much directed by the Conduct of the At-
 tack. I acknowledge that I was at a Loss how otherwise to
 discharge myself; when in my Judgment I had to do with
 Hectoring Bullies, more considerable for fierce Language than
 true Spirit. I found it too great a Difficulty for me to let the
 Merit of their Example be entirely thrown away. I must
 therefore now prepare to muster up as much Courage as I can,
 to stand my Ground: Expecting no other than to be pepper-
 ed off with Vollies of Small Shot, after having borne the
 Thunder of the Great Guns, from the Forts of the two Co-
 lonels, and perhaps other tremendous Batteries, *founded upon*
boasted Rocks of an impregnable Stability, under the Command
of Engineer Reason, as one of the Colonels has it, in a former
 modest and unanswerable Pamphlet, written to the Mer-
 chants of *London*, and designed for the Information of the
 Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations. But what
 Terrors are sufficient to make a free *British* Subject cold in
 the Cause of Common Sense, Common Justice, and Common
 Honesty, when their Enemies are formidable, and would tri-
 umph over them, under Pretence of soaring to superior
 Heights of Virtue? Such Heights of Virtue as lie hid in the
 Clouds of an Understanding sanguine enough to make sure of
 Victory beforehand, and certain to rage under a Defeat, when
 it cannot bring every other Imagination about it to partake of
 its Reveries, and embrace Phantoms for Substances. Yet,
 that I may, if possible, soften the two Colonels, and contri-
 bute towards rendering their next Fire less cruel, and such as
 will not wound me with chewed Bullets; I humbly entreat