

them to consider, whether they have any Reason to be angry, if I have at last endeavoured to scrape off some of the Dirt, which they threw so liberally, and return it to the right Owners; or, to change the Allusion, for one perhaps as proper, if I have taken out, at last, what they owed me for Cash and Reputation, in their *own Way*, after giving them the *usual long Credit*. I hope they will consider, that so far from treating them thus publicly, with too much plain Dealing and Asperity, my Intention was not to answer them at all, any otherwise than by a Trial in the ordinary Courts of Judicature; till I was advised by my Friends, that This was too long a coming, and the Colonels would have Reason to think themselves neglected. And finally, since I am in the Humour of Hoping, I hope the Colonels will think, that I have been punished enough in sustaining the Reproaches already cast upon me; in missing, as several of the Visitors stick not to affirm, an Election into the President's Place at the College; in having been forbid, with others, the late Governor's House, under the Title of Disturbers of his Government; in having been recommended by him, in Conjunction with others, to the Correction of the Grand Jury for being so audacious as to publish under our Names, an Invitation to as many of our Brethren, as were willing to attend, for them to meet us at a Brother's House, before he left the Country; in having been forbid the present Governor's Palace, when I waited on him with the Royal Disallowance of several Acts; in enduring, for some Time, an annual Commemoration or Renewal of this Prohibition; and in losing, no Doubt, many good Dinners, as well as agreeable and improving Conversations, both at the Palace and other Places, *cum multis aliis quæ nunc perscribere longum est*. All this, which some in my Place would