AN
ANSWER
TO THE
Anonymous Author
OF A
FAMILIAR EPISTLE
TO
Mrs. CON. PHILLIPS.

BY
HENRY DENNIS, of Gray's-Inn, Esq;

An Impartial Gentleman,
Who assumes to himself no other Merit than that of being a Friend to Truth, and an absolute Discourager of all Manner of Depredations upon the Public, by Way of TAKE-IN, or CATCH-PENNY.

Scribimus indocti doctique — Passim.

LONDON:
Printed for J. Millan, opposite the Admiralty, Charing-Cross. MDCCLXIX.
A LETTER
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Upon reading advertised a familiar Epistle to Mrs. Phillips, from a Gentleman in the Temple, I must confess, my Curiosity was a good deal heightened for the Perusal of it, expecting that celebrated Seminary for Wit and Learning would produce A some-
something worthy my Attention, upon a Subject that has, with so much Applause, for this last eighteen Months engrossed the almost general Conversation of the Public: But, alas! how grievous my Disappointment, when, to the very great Scandal of the Name of Gentleman, I found that Denomination affixed to a Sheet and a half of the lowest, meanest Ribaldry that I believe ever appeared in Print;—excepting it's Twin Brother, which was published about a Month ago, and I make no doubt was the Excrement of the same Author's Wit.

It would be cruel to fall upon the Place you date your Habitation from; for that respectable and learned Body cannot be supposed to have any Acquaintance or Connection with a Garreteer Hireling; and if I consider you in this your true and genuine Character, I am less displeased with the infamous Imposition you have been so audacious as to put upon the Public. My Resentment abates, when I figure to myself that you perhaps have not eat for many Days; and that the only Way to put off a spurious Brat, at the public Expence, was to affix her Name to
to it.—That you knew was sure to bring the Ready-Penny.

But, after all, since Bread is the only Thing such Wretches as you want, can you not be content with prostituting her Name upon your Title-Page, without giving us a Composition that is enough to make a Man of Spirit go and break a Bookseller's Bones, for robbing him of a Shilling in that impudent barefaced Manner? Besides, tho' a Man steals a Loaf of Bread to satisfy his Hunger, by the Law he incurs the Penalty of a Whipping for it.

Why, pray, is this poor Woman to be hunted down by a Set of Starvelings? What is her Crime?—the Gallantries that you accuse her with?—There she has herself admitted to be so; but abstracted from them, in which it must be confessed she still persisted, she is at this Day countenanced by almost all the Ladies in London, from the highest Rank to the lowest; I say, abstracted from the Liberty she has taken to dispose of her Person, and that I think she has made plain, even beyond Contradiction, almost all her Life has been rather an Act of Necessity than

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Inclination; but take it in the worst Light you could possibly set it,—what are the other Enormities you lay to her Charge?—I'll tell you, from my own Knowledge, that, which I defy you or any Man upon the Face of the Earth with Truth to contradict, the Person, which you seem to think so despicably of, is, at this very Hour, fair, healthy and blooming; and tho' I don't pretend to say, it is the Bloom of Fifteen; yet there is still enough remaining to make her far preferable to most of that Age: Her Spirits gay and sprightly; her Temper, the most affable and agreeable; her Wit lively and piercing, yet mellowed with a Good-Nature that is seldom to be met with in Women of her excellent Understanding, when they have been so very ill-treated by the World: She has a Soul full of Goodness and Humanity; the most steadfast Friend; and, for her Benevolence of Heart, let the Tenderness and Affection with which, in the Midst of all her Distresses, she has, for these fourteen Years, always treated a poor unfortunate Sister and her Children, speak.

These are the Monuments that live to tell her Praise; when such No-named Fellows
Fellows as you, dare not look her in the Face.

Who is the Man she has undone?—Let him step forth and write his Name under the Assertion. But, as yet, that has never appeared; and, to my certain Knowledge, there lives no such: But I am personally acquainted with Numbers, to whom and their Families she has been, while it was in her Power, the most generous Benefactress: Nor throughout the Multitudes who I have heard speak of her since the Appearance of that Apology, did I ever hear one who accused her of a base, unjust or dishonourable Action.

The Truth of what she has asserted, stands every Tittle fair and uncontroverted; nor has any one appeared bold enough to call into Dispute a single Fact. Therefore, it would be the most bare-faced Partiality to call them in Question, 'till something appears to contradict them, equally well attested as the Accusation; and I am pretty certain, that will not soon happen:

First, That, having dined one Day at the Table of a Member in the present Parliament, just at the Time her first Num-
ber appeared and engrossed all the public Conversation, I was I must confess one of the Unbelievers; and having expressed myself to that Effect with regard to Mr. Grimes, (for I really did not conceive, how profligate forever young Fellows will sometimes be in their Amours) that it was possible a Man in his maturer Reason could be such a steady Villain, as to suffer a poor Creature to want Bread, under the Circumstances she has set forth. To which the Gentleman, at whose Table I sat, made Answser:

I am sorry, Sir, I cannot join with you: Mr. Grimes is my Friend: We have been Acquaintance, and together in Parliament; and he is a Man I have the highest Esteem for, but in this Particular I cannot take his Part; for, to my Knowledge, the Story is true, and I have had most of the Particulars from his own Mouth above twenty years ago. Therefore, I think he was highly to blame not to do any thing she required, to silence this Affair; and, had I seen him before it was printed, I should have made Use of all the Influence I had over him to have done so.

Mr.
Mr. Muilman comes next; and tho' I myself am not personally acquainted with him, farther than having once been accidentally with him and the Lady whom he lives with, and some other Company, upon a Party of Pleasure at Dulwich for a few Days; yet, to my certain Knowledge, he does not deny one single Word she has asserted; neither does he pretend to lay any thing to her Charge.

I have taken some Pains to satisfy my Curiosity by enquiring of all the most eminent Persons in the Law, who have been any way concerned of either Side, and they unanimously declare, that every Word she has set forth is strictly true, not exaggerated but barely told; and really comparing Facts with Records, and Mr. Muilman's Letters, the Deed of Settlement he made upon her to suffer the Sentence; I say, take all these together, they are so exactly connected, I believe the nicest Casuist that ever was, would be puzzled to find out a disputable or improbable Fact throughout the whole.

Mr. B——- is the next introduced. This Gentleman I believe I have heard five Hundred People say, she had ruined; and,
and, to make Use of her own Words, *It is not enough to say he is not ruined, but in exceeding happy Circumstances; that will not content the malevolent Part of Mankind:*---But we hope this will:

That Gentleman, who is a Man of strict Honour, in my Hearing did absolutely declare, that every Word she had said was strictly true; and added, that he verily believed her to be a Woman of the greatest Goodness and strictest Honor upon Earth.

The next extraordinary Personage is Mr. Tartufe. This Man I know nothing of, but I never was in a Company that did not admit the Portrait she had given of him exceeded by far any of Titian's Drawing; and could we change Forms with other Men, I must confess I know no Man's I would not sooner take than his; not even the famous *John Catch, Esq*;

Sir *H---P*---is dead; and I must confess, I think her Account of that poor Gentleman, a most humane and good-natured one.

Who
Who would not be Lord F? But, if I was obliged to be a Woman, I do assure you, I would not chuse it should be the Duchess of N.

The French-bred young Nobleman is, I must confess, a Character I am no way fond of; but no one can tell him better than she herself has done, what he ought to be.

The neighbouring Lady of Quality cannot be mistaken:——There is but one Duchess of R--ch--d!——

But where am I wandering? I am insensibly making a Progress through her whole Book, which was no Part of my first Intention. I hope to see that done by a far abler Pen than mine.

But it may possibly be here expected, I should give some further Reason for becoming her Advocate, than barely the Love of Truth; for did that inestimable Virtue animate the Minds of Mankind as it ought, she would stand in no Need of my feeble Pen to justify either her past or present Actions.
But I will frankly tell you, from whence this voluntary Act of Justice proceeds.

Upon reading just such another infamous Performance, which appeared about a Month ago, I was so highly incensed, I took a Resolution then to answer it: But these Sort of Promises which we make ourselves, expire in the thinking of, if not immediately put in Execution. But the second Epistle determined me.

This then is, upon the Word of a Gentleman, the true Reason.

A near Relation of mine, one Mr. Br--ggs, a young Gentleman of a good Family and genteel Fortune, happened to come to his Estate rather before he was at Age of Discretion; and the Consequence was, that in a very few Years he ran thro' the greatest Part of it, and was in a most deplorable Situation; having contracted several large Debts, for which he was every Moment in apprehension of being arrested.
In this unhappy Situation, almost in Despair, he (Mr. B——) took a sudden Resolution of going to Jamaica, 'till his Affairs could be settled.

To this End, he applied to General H——d, Sir William T——g, and several other Gentlemen of his Acquaintance; to whom, having communicated his Resolution, he begged they would give him Letters of Recommendation to Governor Trelawney, which they accordingly did.

And without further Consideration or Preparation, he set out for Gravesend; where he was informed, there was a Ship ready to embark for that Island; though he was provided with no one Conveniency fitting for such a Voyage, and without the Value of Five Pounds in his Pocket.

When he arrived at Gravesend, he enquired for the Ship; which he found to be the Constant, commanded by Capt. Phillips; and was the same in which Mrs. Muilman was the next Day to embark for Jamaica.
Having sent for the Captain to a Public House, whom he perceived was a very Gentleman-like Man, he very frankly told him his Circumstances, and desired the he would accept of him as a Passenger.

The Captain told him, that all the Accommodations in his Ship, fit for a Gentleman, were let to a Lady; to whom he had engaged himself not to take any other Passenger on board: That, however, his present Distress had so affected him, if he would submit to give him Leave to tell the Lady the Story, he did not doubt but it would influence her to dispense with the Promise he (the Captain) had given her, in Mr. B——'s Favour.

To this my Friend agreed, and the Captain went immediately to her, and told her the Story; and at the same Time conjured her to give him Leave to receive the poor young Gentleman on board, whose absolute Ruin might be the Consequence of his being disappointed of a Passage in that Ship; for, as his Intentions of leaving England might, by some Means or other, be blown before any other
other Ship failed, he would infallibly be arrested, and thrown into a Prison, where he might languish out an unhappy Life.

The Captain, in a very small Time, returned to my poor Friend, whose Heart and Soul was on the Rack, with the Apprehension of being refused a Passage; and told him, That he had acquainted the Lady with the Affair, who seemed to be greatly moved with his unhappy Circumstances, but said, that as he very well knew she was going to Mr. Worthy, to whom she looked upon herself as strictly accountable for her Conduct, she could by no Means consent to his taking him without consulting some Friends of Worthy's, who had waited on her down to Gravesend: That therefore it was to them the young Gentleman must talk, and make himself known; and if, upon their being made acquainted with the Affair, they should approve of it, she had no further Objection.

Upon this, the Captain and my Friend went together to the Gentlemen she mentioned.
To home the Distress, Mr. B—frankly told his whole Affairs: But, upon perceiving in them a sort of Doubt of his really being the Person he pretended to represent, he gushed into Tears, half Indignation, half Despair; and, pulling out his Pocket-Book, he broke open five or six Letters to the Governor, and gave them to read.

This having removed all sort of Objections, they begged he would compose himself, and excuse the Freedom they had taken; that he (the Captain) had full Liberty to receive the Gentleman on board; and they would take upon themselves to answer, Mrs. Muilman should have no Objection to it.

Accordingly, the next Morning they set Sail; and the first Day at Dinner Mrs. Muilman desired the Captain to give him a general Invitation to their Table, where he constantly eat during the whole Voyage; and whenever he wanted either Liquors or any other Sea-Stores, by her Direction, he was supplied out of her's.
This I have heard my Kinsman declare above an hundred Times; and that, during the whole Passage, he saw nothing in her but the most affable, sweet, engaging Behaviour; strictly temperate in her Way of Living; he breakfasted, dined, and supped with her every Day, and never saw an Action, or heard a Word out of her Mouth, but what would have well become the modestest Woman upon the Face of the Earth: And farther;

That when they came in Sight of the Island, and she perceived him sitting upon the Deck in a very dispirited, melancholy Condition, she had the Humanity to say every Thing she possibly could to comfort him; and, taking him aside, presented him her Purse, in which were Ten or Fifteen Guineas, and begged he would accept of that, assuring him, she would make it her Business to recommend him in such a manner to Worthy, that he should be soon taken Notice of by the Gentlemen of the Country.

My
My Friend was struck with Astonishment at this singular Piece of Generosity, from a Lady, to whom he was an absolute Stranger; and which she could have no other motive for but Humanity, and the natural Goodness of her Heart.

Neither did her Compassion for him end here: She kept her Word with him, as to her Recommendation; and by that means, he was received by Col. Price, and several other Gentlemen of that Island; by whom, in general, no Woman in the World could be more esteemed, nor, by his Account, more deservedly so.

And to every one of these several Particulars, Captain Phillips, who is still living, and commands one of the Packet-Boats at Harwich, can faithfully, and, I make no doubt, will testify.

He also gave me, Word for Word, the same Account of Worthy's Affair with B—— B——, which he must know the exact Particulars of, as he was in Spanish Town when it happened; and indeed his Account of all she has related concerning that Island, exactly tallies with her's; with
with this. Addition that he is sure no one born, ever behaved with a Con-
duct more unblameable than she did in that Island; nor was there ever Woman
who left a better Character behind her.

My Friend was struck with the highest Indignation, upon reading the first Letter
addressed to her; and most solemnly as-
tured me, that he knew himself every
Word it contained to be untrue. So far
as concerned her Voyage to Jamaica,
he was an Eye-Witness to; and to her
Behaviour there the same, and so far
from her being sent away by Worthy for
her Debaucherries and Extravagance, as I
have before said, no Woman’s Life could
possibly be more sober and innocent than
her’s, while there.

And this I have not only heard from
my Friend B——, but have had confirmed
by all the Gentlemen of that Island; who
likewise say, that no Woman could live
in a more frugal Manner; and that, Mr.
Worthy’s Fortune was bettered by some
Thousand Pounds, by her prudent Care
and frugal Management.

C The
The Assertion of Mr. Manning's Barbarity to his Wife, is of equal Truth; for I believe there is no Man can have a more general Character for Sweetness of Temper, and every other good Quality that could center in Mankind, capable to make a Woman happy.

But that Lady is dead, and therefore I forbear raking into her Ashes for further Particulars.

But I think there cannot be a better Picture drawn of the general Indignation of a whole People, than my Friend gives, upon the breaking out of that Affair; so generally beloved was the injured Husband.

First, the Assembly unanimously expelled the Gallant;

The Governor next took the Country-Regiment from him, of which he was Colonel;

And lastly, in a Trial, before the grand Court, they gave Mr. Manning very large Damages.
And it was some considerable Time before any of the Inhabitants would receive him into their Houses; such a Detestation they expressed for the inhospitable, dishonorable Action he had committed.

I come now to the Person, whom she gives the Name of the *perfidious Maskwell* to; and whom the *ingenious Letter-Writer* pretends to be alive, and that he is well acquainted with.

That Man did, as she says, actually die in *August 1740*; and under all the Ignominy and Disreputation she has described, for the traiterous Part he had acted with *Worthy's* Father to his Friend’s Prejudice.

Old *Worthy* was not *Maskwell*'s Uncle, (as falsely insinuated) and at most but a very distant Cousin; and so far from young *Worthy's* doing any Thing in his Life ever to disoblige him, no Son ever adored a Father more, nor was Son ever more beloved: And it is a very disputable Matter, if the poor old Gentleman's Hand was not set to the
pretended Will after he was dead; at least, this we are sure of; that when old Worthy was clofeted up at the House of Mr. Jacob Golettes, a Jew, and that this Will was pretended to be signed, every Body looked upon him to be out of his Senses, and he died in that Condition in a very few Hours after.

The Account of her Voyage home, which, 'tis pretended, he had from a white Maid-Servant, stands as fair to be believed as any other Part; for that, in Fact, the white Servant, who went over with her, staid in Jamaica not above three Months; and, when she came home to England, she had no other Maid Servant with her but one Mulatto Woman, who to this Hour waits upon her.

The rest of that scurrilous Letter is best answered by herself, in No. 4. Vol. III. of her Apology.

Therefore, I believe every impartial Reader will admit, that the scandalous Author or Authors of these anonymous Libels justly deserve every Punishment the Laws have provided for such Delinquents.
And I sincerely wish, a late Charge given to the Grand Jury would put those Gentlemen in Mind, to bring such Libellers to condign Punishment: For, if People presume to lay Complaints before the Public of Injuries they pretend to have received from Magistrates in high Power, and People of high Rank, I am of Opinion, that nothing can justify or intitle them to the public Protection, but the setting their Names to such Performances; and, without that Sanction, they ought justly to be deemed Libellers.

In fine, Sir, these were my Reasons for taking Pen in Hand in Defence of this poor Woman, whom, I believe, every honest Man and Woman in this Kingdom will admit, let her personal Failings have been ever so great, has been loaded with Oppressions of every kind that can be thought of; and I think it is Coward-like, and shews a Meanness of Spirit few Men will have Reason to thank you for, to sum up the total Accusation against her, in no other Offence than that which she has committed by her Condescensions for our Sex.
If you would influence the World to
despise and contemn her, shew us, That

*What she has said is untrue.*

You have no sort of Merit in abusing
her for those Faults she condemns in her-
self.

But, fairly speaking, as Man and
Man, who are we that blame the Slips
a Woman has the misfortune to make in
her Conduct? Does the Difference of Sex
make the Sin less a Crime in *Man* than
*Woman*? No,—no: 'Tis *Men* who are
their Judges and Accusers; and, to our
Shame be it said, 'tis *Men*, *base disho-
orable Men!* who are their Seducers,
and Betrayers.

*Hush then for ever, scribbling Garret-
teer!* left your Attempt to render her
odious, should make your Sex more hate-
ful and contemptible, than the tragic Ac-
count her Narrative has given of us.

*I am, &c.*

*Henry Dennis.*