

THOUGH your Letter of the 4th instant required no immediate Reply, I cannot let it remain long unanswered.—You say my Note has not been in your Possession these six Months; and yet the Writ, on which I was arrested, was taken out in your Name;—you must have made Oath to the Debt, notwithstanding the Note is paid into other Hands, and is now out-standing against me, for it has not been presented to me here for Payment.—There is an *Informality* in this *Proceeding* which I do not understand; but I pass it, as your *Demand* upon me is valid, and admits of *no Objection*. You misunderstood me if you thought, by any Thing I hastily wrote in my last Letter, that I complained of being only *arrested*. I cannot take amiss any legal Means which you may employ to get Payment of your Money. But what I justly complained of, was your getting me arrested *here*, in a Country Town exposed to the Derision of many new Acquaintances, and to the Suspicion of having run away from my Creditors, an Action the farthest from my Intention. This was adding Insult and Punishment to the just Remedy of the Law, which Treatment from you I do not think my former Behaviour any-ways deserved.—You acknowledge I offered, a Year ago, to let my Taylor arrest me; and my late Conduct did not shew I was less willing, if required, to give up my Person.—I returned from Scotland, but a few Months since, on purpose to put it in the Option of my Creditors to arrest me,—when I waited on Mr. Mayne, the Day after my Arrival in Town, to know what Answer there was to the Letter I had wrote to him on that Subject, and which I had desired him to shew to you and the other Gentlemen, he gave me to understand that nobody meant to molest me;—and, after *that*, I remained almost two Months in London, without any of the Gentlemen shewing the least Intention of proceeding to this Extremity. It is true that (excepting Mr. Innes, to whom I applied for some little Money for a Bill on my Father) I did not visit any of them, after my Return from Scotland; for I was really ashamed of the ill Success of my Journey, and had nothing to say to them but the Repetition of a Story of two Years standing. But then, if you will enquire among any of my other old Acquaintances, you will find I visited *them* as little. It hurt me to be received with Pity or Contempt by those with whom I had formerly been on an equal or intimate Footing.—You say, you enquired for me at Bishopsgate-Street, and at the Haymarket.—At the *first* Place (though my Books and Papers lie there still) you know I have not lodged for this Year past. The House in the *Haymarket* has been repairing, and was, for several Months, uninhabitable to any Lodger; but I constantly called *there* two or three Times a Week for my Letters; and, if you had left a Note for me there, as you used to do formerly, I should certainly in consequence of it have waited on you ~~as usual~~. The *Jellies* at the Haymarket never told me that you called on me;—and if they did not know where I lodged, it was because, from my calling regularly there for my Letters, they never had Occasion to ask where to send them to me; and I had ordered my Letters to be directed there, intending they should forward them to the Country when I should have found a proper Place of Retirement; which alone was to terminate my Stay in London, and fix the Direction of my foreign Letters.—I am the more circumstantial on this Subject, as I have to vindicate my own Conduct, and to remove from the Minds of some worthy Acquaintances here, (for whom a Copy of this Letter is intended) the Suspicion of my having absconded. I do not mean so much to reproach you for your unfriendly Treatment, for I believe it has proceeded from the Mis-interpretation of my Reasons for not having visited you in Town, and the false Information you had received of my Intention of going abroad. I believe I can guess in what Quarter the Storm gathered.—Though I never meant to conceal the Place of my real Abode, you know a single Man does not always choose to tell where he passes the Evening;—and my earnest Desire *that* should be kept secret, and the Advice certainly given me to go abroad, having both happened in the Presence of a Person who visits Sir Thomas Mills, it was natural the News should reach you, by a voluble Tongue and a fertile Imagination, highly ornamented.—But if you will enquire at Mr. Hudson's, Hosier, in Bridge-Street, Westminster, where I really lodged after my Return from Scotland, and where I passed above Half of my Time, you will hear, that I was denied to nobody that called on me;—and several Gentlemen did unexpectedly call on me, and were admitted.—Among these was Col. Maitland, whom you know, and by whom can be certified the Truth of this Assertion.—I shall farther add, that if you will enquire of my ~~Taylor, Messrs. He~~ and Crozier, in Pantion-Square (whose Bill amounts to a larger Sum than your Debt) you will learn, that they generously declined the Offer, I made them but a Month ago, of returning to Town whenever they should think proper to desire me.—This, and my having wrote to Mr. Innes, shortly after I came to Northampton, ought to convince you I had not the least Intention of keeping the Place of my Retirement secret.

As I can say little to the rest of your Letter, till I hear from my Relations in Scotland, I shall leave it to them to justify their own Conduct. In Approbation of *mine*, Mr. Mayne can tell you, Lord Hope wrote him a very satisfactory Letter, about eighteen Months ago, from Scotland; after having promised him, in my Hearing, before he left London, that he would do his best Endeavours to get my Affairs settled.

I am, &c.