

TO THE PUBLIC.

Having pledged myself to give, to the Public at large, my reasons for having posted Mr. Frederick Mansell, of this Island, as a Poltroon, and Cowardly Assaffin; and finding some difficulty would occur in getting them inserted in the Public News-papers, I have taken this method of fulfilling that engagement.

Guernsey, April 8, 1801.

ON Monday 6th instant, being at the Rohais, (in the large Public Room, adjoining the house occupied by Mr. WARD,) about 9 o'clock in the evening, Mr. Frederick Mansell, Mr. John Priaulx, and Mr. Peter Maingy, jun. entered the said Room, in their Militia Regimentals and Sashes.—Mr. Mansell immediately began clapping his hands so loud, as to entirely drown the noise of a fiddle at that time playing in the Room.—I was then dancing, but in order to avoid a quarrel, would not expostulate with Mr. Mansell.—He then posted himself between the Lady I was dancing with and me; and addressed himself to her in some insulting language, which I did not perfectly hear.—The confusion and fright into which she was thrown by his address, convinced me however of its impropriety; and, I calmly desired him to desist in the following terms: “Mr. Mansell, you see how you distress this Lady,” “you have no acquaintance whatever with her,—I beg you will leave her, there are others in the Room who will perhaps be more pleased with your company.” This I repeated at least six or seven times; but finding it of no avail: I said, “Mansell, this Lady is now under my protection,” “while she is so, she has a right to expect it:” “and, by God, I will protect her whatever may be the consequence.”—Mr. Mansell then burst out into invectives against me, among which the following caught my ear.—“You Bishop;”—“You English Butcher;”—“I will mark you,—I will mark you,—I will mark you. I replied, “as to Butcher,” “Mansell, you and I, are there nearly on a level: “You are just as much a Brewer, as I am Butcher; “and if you mark me, you will find me much at your service.” Mr. Mansell then called me Scoundrel, and attempted to strike me, but was withheld. I was likewise prevented from approaching him, by the bye-stander's. He attempted repeatedly to get at me, in order “to mark me,” “do for me,” “and have at me,” as he expressed himself; but the People in the Room prevented his approaching me.—Mr. Priaulx and Mr. Mansell then fetched their broad swords from the house where they had left them, and immediately drew and cut about them in all directions.—I was forced out of the Room. On regaining my liberty, and re-entering it: Mansell, looked furiously towards me, and called out, “Let

"me come at him,—I will do for him,—Damn him,—a Butcher,—I will do for him." I folded my arms, walked up to him, and said, "Here I am, Mansell,—What will you do." I was then again forced out of the Room, and on again freeing myself, I flew to the assistance of my friends, and was soon after informed, that Mr. S. Goodwin had received a wound in the arm. I now found that these *Gallant Soldiers* had nearly cleared the Room, and saw myself beset in a Corner, by Prialux and Mansell;—their swords flew about within an inch of my head several times. I now thought it high time to preserve myself; and as I saw my friends had nearly all been obliged to retire. I opened the Sash, sprang out into the Green, and joined my friends, who were now assisting Mr. Goodwin. — When I saw the *Gash*, I was so exasperated, as almost to be bereft of reason, and had I succeeded in an attempt I made to gain Mr. Maingy's sword, I should probably have effectually revenged the injury.

I now determined to call on Mr. Mansell for satisfaction, and in consequence wrote him the first of the following Letters; but as from my knowledge of some former affairs of honor, in which Mr. Mansell was implicated, I entertained some doubts of his *sober courage*.—I prepared the second Letter, which I sent him, on hearing he had exposed the first to Public view. I then posted him at the Public places in the terms before mentioned; and now leave it to the World to judge to whom the appellation of Gentleman best belongs.

Mr. Mansell has thought proper to arrest me in £500 Bail, for my appearance, to answer, having written to, and posted him.—This obliges me to remark, that Mr. Mansell has confirmed my former opinion of him. — *Tho' he dares not meet me with equal weapons*, he will seize every opportunity of attacking where he has an *Evident advantage*.

T. BISHOP.

(COPY)

GUERNSEY, 7th April, 1801.

"SIR,

"The insults you offered me last evening, need not I suppose be repeated, to convince you, that they were too gross for any man of spirit to bear quietly. I now request, Sir, you will not shelter yourself under any mean evasion; but convince me by an honorable and equal meeting, that your courage does not depend on the Wine you may have drank, or the Sword you may happen to wear, when you meet with unarmed men.—I shall attend you to-morrow morning at seven o'clock, in the Brickfield, beyond Fort George."

"I am, &c.

Capt. Mansell.

(Signed)

"T. BISHOP."

GUERNSEY, 7th April, 1801.

“ SIR,

“ The dastardly injury received last night by Mr. Goodwin in my defence.—The unprovoked insults offered to a Lady, then under my protection; and the mean insinuations you thought proper to use against my Character, lay me under a triple obligation of calling on you for satisfaction.”

“ The latter, among which I reckon the Epithet of Butcher applied to my name; could not when I heard *you* utter them, but force a smile.—To yourself, I have no doubt, but the equality between us is evident: but as in the event of your sheltering yourself under any false pretext:—this Letter must, and shall become public; it may not be improper to state the Points on which I conceive that equality to rest.

“ The word Gentleman, as I take it, Sir; implies a superiority to the general mass of the World, in Family, Fortune, Education, and Behaviour.

“ Tho I conceive no just respect to be due to Family, yet you cannot claim in this point a superiority:—if we trace back our lineage but for thirty years—mine was, I scruple not to say it, *far more respectable*.

“ In point of fortune, I allow you have *now* the advantage, for which reason it might perhaps be unjust in me to decide what weight ought to be ascribed to this *qualification of a Gentleman*.

“ As to Education, I think I may safely, as well in relation to that received in my Youth, as to subsequent improvement,—Claim the superiority, and to this point, and to this only will I allow any weight.—*Mine has taught me, that retaliation is Justice, it has effaced fear from my bosom, and has determined me in defiance of the dastardly prejudices of the World to assert my rights.*”

“ Behaviour now remains alone to be discussed, and on this head *your* conduct and mine in this affair will give the World an opportunity of Judging.”

“ I have now only to remark, that in future, I shall take care to hold myself prepared to meet the *Cowardly assassins* as well as the Gentleman.”

“ I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

Mr. Frederick Mansell.

(Signed)

“ T. BISHOP.”

P. S. Since the above has been sent to the Press,—the following circumstances have come to my knowledge.—At the moment I jumped out of the Window (as above related) Mansell made a cut at me and had not his sword been intercepted by the Window-frame, it must have alighted on my *back*, and, would probably as completely have *done for me*, as Mr. Mansell could have wished, as it penetrated the wood to a great depth. I also find Messrs. Mansell and Priaulx went to a house, about fifty paces distant, to fetch their swords, and Mr. Mansell afterwards declared that, could he have been revenged on me he should have been satisfied. I scorn to retaliate Mr. Mansell's abuse,—'tis a meanness far beneath me.