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THE
C A S E
OF
MISS GUNNING,
IMPARTIALLY STATED AND DISCUSSED.

(Price One Shilling.)

THE

CASES

OF

MISS CUNNING

EMPHATICALLY STATED AND DISCUSSED

(Price One Shilling)

THE
CASE
OF
MISS GUNNING,

IMPARTIALLY STATED AND DISCUSSED:

IN A
LETTER FROM A BARRISTER,
ADDRESSED TO
THE MARQUIS OF BLANDFORD.

LONDON,

Printed for J. ADAMS, at the Corner of the Piazza,
Ruffel-Street, Covent-Garden.

1791,

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no. 19(6)
Trials

THE
CASE

MISS GUNNING,

IMPAIRED STATE AND DISCUSS:

IN A

LETTER FROM A BARRISTER,

ADDRESSED TO

THE MARQUIS OF BLANDFORD.

LONDON,

Printed for J. Agnew, at the Corner of the Library,
No. 1, St. Paul's Church-yard, Covent-Garden.

11991-19911

THE

C A S E

OF

MISS GUNNING,

IMPARTIALLY STATED AND DISCUSSED.

MY LORD,

THE imaginary courtship between Miss Gunning and your Lordship, was begun, carried on, and relinquished, before your Lordship knew that any such business was in agitation. Overtures were made and approved; marriage-settlements

B

drawn

drawn, ingrossed, and executed; jewels and bridal habiliments prepared; and the hymeneal torch ready for illumination; when your Lordship, still ignorant of what had been planned and propagated, thought proper to break off the tender negociation.

A little vanity, my Lord, usually occupies a part of the female bosom; and if the female is young and handsome, a greater portion is allowable. Actuated solely by vanity in the first stages of this eventful history, it seems perfectly clear to me that Miss Gunning raised and propagated a report, that she was speedily to interchange vows with your Lordship at the altar: the intelligence became current, and the young fabricator for a time enjoyed the envy and feliciations of the circle in which she moved. She well knew that her enjoyment of this enviable imaginary rank was transitory; but while the tale was credited she was happy beyond imagination.

At

At length, however, she found it necessary to feign an abrupt termination of the tender negociation. The General, her father, entertaining suspicions of the truth of what she alledged, of a treaty of marriage being actually on foot, and in an advanced state, between that lady and your Lordship, wrote a letter to your Lordship's father, that his suspicions might either be removed or confirmed.

Alarmed at a step which must have instantly exposed her to contempt and ridicule if not prevented, she prevailed on the reluctant groom not to deliver that letter as it was addressed, but to give it to her. She then directed him to be absent from the house for so long a time as he might be supposed to go to Blenheim and back again; and then to deliver a letter to General Gunning, as from the Duke of Marlborough, Miss Gunning having furnished him with such letter.

This fact is supported by the following affidavit:

“ WILLIAM PEARCE, groom to General Gunning, aged fifty, or thereabouts, maketh oath and faith, that a pacquet and a letter were delivered to him by General Gunning, on the morning of the day on which he was directed by General Gunning to go to the Duke of Marlborough's, and that he was directed to carry them to the Duke of Marlborough's at Blenheim; that immediately after the pacquet and letter had been so delivered to this deponent by General Gunning, Hannah Hales, who was at that time Miss Gunning's maïd, came to this deponent, and requested him to go to Miss Gunning; that he accordingly went to Miss Gunning, who was then in her bed-chamber; that it was about ten o'clock in the morning; that Miss Gunning met this deponent at the door of her room, and said you are going to the Duke

of Marlborough's. — That this deponent answered, yes. — That then Miss Gunning said to this deponent, you must not go; that this deponent answered and said, Miss Gunning, it is a matter of trust — I must perform my trust — upon which, Miss Gunning said, I would not have you go for five thousand pounds: And that she insisted upon his not going, time after time, and said, that the business he was going upon was concerning a letter, which she had had two or three days — And that she knew what the paper was which he had from her papa, and that it was of her own hand-writing. And this deponent saith, that Miss Gunning desired him to leave the papers which had been delivered to him by General Gunning with her, which she many times insisted on. And this deponent saith, he went down stairs and brought the papers which he had received from General Gunning, and delivered them into Miss Gunning's

ning's own hand.—That when the witness had delivered the papers which he had received from General Gunning, to Miss Gunning, she delivered to him a letter, which she said was a letter from the Duke of Marlborough, and which she told this deponent she had opened and sealed it again, with the Duke of Marlborough's arms.—And this deponent saith, that he hath looked at the papers now produced, and shewn to him this deponent, at the time of swearing this his affidavit, marked with the letter (A) being the cover of a letter; and that these words and figure “ Gen. Gunning, St. James' Place, London, “ February 3d” wrote thereon, are, as this deponent verily believes, of the same handwriting as the direction of the letter, which Miss Gunning delivered to him; and that this deponent particularly observed the day of the month written upon the said cover, and that he verily believes the said cover so
shewn

shewn to him to be the same which was delivered to this deponent, by the said Miss Gunning. And this deponent further saith, that Miss Gunning ordered him to go out of town, and to stay such time as he thought he ought to take in going to and returning from the Duke of Marlborough's; and upon his return, to deliver the letter which she gave him to General Gunning. And this deponent farther saith, that he, this deponent, went out of town to *Twickenham*, and returned to town the next day between nine and ten o'clock at night. And this deponent saith, that he carried the letter which Miss Gunning had given him as aforesaid, and which she had directed him to deliver to General Gunning, to his master's, General Gunning's house. That his master was not at home, but that this deponent delivered it to Thomas Walkis, his master's valet. And this deponent saith, that the day before his master

found.

found it out, that is, before his master had discovered that this deponent had not been at the Duke of Marlborough's, Miss Gunning overtook this deponent in Piccadilly in her father's carriage; and that she called him to the door of the carriage, and said to him, you must stand to it, and if you are called upon, you must say you will take you oath of it, or used words to that or the like effect. And this deponent saith; he understood Miss Gunning to mean by such words as aforesaid, that if this deponent was asked about the letter which he delivered to General Gunning's valet as aforesaid, he, this deponent, should say that he received that letter from the Duke of Marlborough, &c. And this deponent saith, that he has never seen Miss Gunning since she left her father's house; but that in the course of the last week, Hannah Hales, whom this deponent believes is the servant of Miss Gunning, came to General Gunning's house between six and seven o'clock

o'clock in the evening, and said she wanted to speak with this deponent, and that she pulled a paper out of her pocket which she said Miss Gunning desired her to give to this deponent to read; and that this deponent read the same two or three times, and that to the best of this deponent's recollection, the contents of the paper were, that if this deponent would take his oath that he had not delivered the papers which had been delivered to him by General Gunning, as before is mentioned, to Miss Gunning, that she would settle twenty pounds a year on him for life, and that he might go to Wales, or where he pleased, and that she would pay him quarterly: That this deponent told the said Hannah Hales he would not do any such thing for all the world, and desired her to tell Miss Gunning that he would do no such thing; and Hannah Hales then said to this deponent, that she had before told her mistress

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trefs

trefs so. And this deponent saith, that when he had read the paper, which he did two or three times, he returned it to Hannah Hales, who refused to let this deponent keep the same, and said she was ordered not. And this deponent saith, he believes that the paper shewn to him by Hannah Hales was Miss Gunning's hand-writing, he, this deponent, having often seen her hand-writing; but that it appeared to this deponent to have been written fast. And this deponent saith, that he never was at Captain Bowen's house, and that he does not know Mr. or Mrs. Bowen if he was to see them, and that he does not know where Captain Bowen lives.

WILLIAM PEARCE."

Sworn at my house
in Lincoln's-Inn
Fields, this 21st
day of February
1791, before me

JOHN ORD.

It

It is with concern that we find this deposition contradicted also upon oath. Perjury lies at the door of somebody; both these affidavits cannot be true. Miss Gunning* has sworn as follows: "I never spoke to Papa's groom, or caused him to be spoken to, prior to, or on the subject of his journey to Blenheim; I gave him no orders whatever, or any letter whatever, or any bribe whatever; I believed he had been at Blenheim, and that the letter he brought back was from the D— of M—; and I felt happy and grateful for the honour his Grace had done me."

It would be but a poor extenuation of the offence of false-swearing, to say that it does not amount to perjury, unless it is in some judicial proceeding; for though, in a legal sense, it does not amount to perjury,

* See Mrs. Gunning's Letter to the Duke of Argyll, page 117.

in point of conscience, a distinction between them cannot very easily be made.

Miss Gunning, having sufficiently regaled her vanity, seems to have conceived a plan of fabricating a breaking-off, as well as a commencement and progress of a treaty; and, as Captain Bowen informs us, conveyed to him a copy of a pretended letter from the Duke of Marlborough, which she prevailed on him to make another copy from; and it appears that such letter, so copied by Captain Bowen, was given by Miss Gunning to General Gunning's groom, to be delivered to the General, as coming from the Duke of Marlborough at Blenheim. This fabrication, as it is generally supposed, contains the following words:

“ SIR,

“ I take the earliest opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and
 “ to answer it with that explicitness you are

“ so

“ so much entitled to. From the first of
 “ the acquaintance the Duchefs of Marl-
 “ borough and myself *had* with Miss Gun-
 “ ning, we were charmed with her, and it
 “ was with infinite fatisfaction we discover-
 “ ed Blandford’s sentiments fimilar to our
 “ own. It had been long the wish of both
 “ to fee him married to some amiable wo-
 “ man—your daughter was the person we
 “ had fixed on, and we had every reason to
 “ fuppose, the object of his tenderest affec-
 “ tions; and, from the conduct of both
 “ himfelf and his family, yourfelf and Miss
 “ Gunning had undoubtedly *every right* to
 “ look on a marriage as certain—indeed
 “ when I left town laft fummer, I regard-
 “ ed her as my future daughter, and I muft
 “ fay it is with sorrow I relinquish the idea.
 “ —The actions of young men are not al-
 “ ways to be accounted for; and it is with
 “ regret I acknowledge my fon has been
 “ particularly unaccountable in his. I beg
 “ you

“ you will do me the justice to believe that
 “ I shall ever think myself your debtor, for
 “ the manner in which you have conducted
 “ yourself in this affair, and that I must al-
 “ ways take an interest in the happiness of
 “ Miss Gunning. I beg, if she has not
 “ conceived a disgust for the whole of my
 “ family, she will accept the sincerest good
 “ wishes of the Duchess and my daughters.
 “ I have the honour to remain,

“ Sir,

“ Your much obliged and

“ Most obedient humble servant,

“ MARLBOROUGH.”

“ General Gunning.”

It was perhaps supposed that this epistle,
 conveying a kind of negative to the pro-
 ceedings on the part of your Lordship,
 would occasion the subject to die gradually
 away, and the young lady's want of veracity
 might escape without detection. But Ge-
 neral

General Gunning was so well pleased with the letter, that he went immediately to the Duke of Argyll's with it, and showed it to his Grace; but very soon after the General was convinced he had been abused, and that the letter was forged.

It appears by Captain Bowen's statement of facts, (page 9.) that on or about the 20th of January, Mrs. Gunning informed him and his wife, that her daughter's match with Lord Blandford was at length settled, and would very shortly take place—that the marriage-settlements were signed, &c. At this time it is probable that Mrs. Gunning might imagine a match between your Lordship and her daughter would take place, though perhaps she did not think it in such forwardness as she pretended.—A fond mother, believing a marriage was actually on the *tapis*, might be allowed a little anticipation with regard to the execution of the writings, &c.

The

The General, supposing his daughter culpable, desired Miss Minifie to tell her to quit his house, and Mrs. Gunning voluntarily quitted his house, choosing, as she says in her letter to the Duke of Argyll, “rather to follow an *Angel*, than to remain with the very *reverse of an Angel*.”

Soon after the separation, Miss Gunning received the following letter from her father:

“Monday Evening.
 “From a heart that still feels most sensibly the affections of a father, for her who was dearly beloved, proceeds this letter. That afflicted father desires an interview with his unfortunate daughter, in which she may depend on having no more to fear, than the workings of an anxious, and perhaps over indulgent parent. The time and place of meeting is left entirely to her, who is even now dear to
 “J. GUNNING.”

Copy

Copy of Miss Gunning's Answer.

“Monday Evening.

“Turned from your doors defenceless,
 “pennyless, and robbed by you of what is
 “and ever will be dearer than my life—
 “my character—stigmatized for forgeries,
 “which those who really did forge the
 “letters, and *you*, Sir, *must* know I am as
 “innocent of as Heaven is free from fraud;
 “*you*, who I never in my life offended,
 “in thought, word, or deed, to cast me
 “out upon the wide world as a guilty
 “creature, when you know my heart
 “would not have harboured a thought that
 “could have dishonoured you, myself, or
 “my sex; and after you have thrown me
 “off, to pursue me as you would the bit-
 “terest of your enemies, to raise up false
 “witnesses to crush that child whom you
 “should have protected with your life.
 “Innocent as I again repeat you know me

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“ to

“ to be, even had I been guilty, which
 “ God be praised I am not, still you should
 “ have screened me, and your chastise-
 “ ments should have been softened with
 “ pity. You call me unfortunate; I am
 “ unfortunate; who has made me so? This
 “ unfortunate never will appear in your
 “ presence, till you announce, and that in
 “ the most public and most unequivocal
 “ manner, to the whole world, how much
 “ she has been wronged by scandalous con-
 “ trivances, and unheard-of calumny.

“ E. GUNNING.”

I fear, my Lord, it will be thought
 that Miss Gunning deserves at least the
 epithet of *unfortunate*, when the three af-
 fidavits immediately following, have been
 compared. That Lady has sworn as fol-
 lows: “ I never was in Mrs. Bowen’s
 lodgings in my life; I never met her by
 appointment or by chance, at any third
 place

place ; the only place in which I have ever seen her has been at my father's house, or in my father's carriage, and never without my mama or my aunt being present. I never wrote her a note or letter in my life ; I never spoke to her confidentially on any subject whatever."

Audi alteram partem—" Essex Bowen, Esquire, and Lisetta his wife, make oath and say, that Miss Gunning, of St. James's Place, came to their lodgings at No. 23, Queen-street, May-Fair, on Sunday the 6th day of February instant, when the said Miss Gunning wrote two letters, which she requested might be shewn to Mrs. Gunning, her mother ; and that the said letters were inclosed and delivered to Mrs. Gunning the same day when she called on Mrs. Bowen."

Again, " Francis Lugrin, late servant to Captain Bowen, maketh oath and faith, that last Sunday se'nnight, the 6th of February instant, he, the deponent, let into

Captain Bowen's lodgings (at No. 23, Queen-street, May-Fair) Miss Gunning, of St. James's Place, which lady he knows by sight; and the said Miss Gunning, having remained about three quarters of an hour at his master's, he, the deponent, let her out."

Wishing to be fully informed of all the particulars relative to this imaginary marriage, General Gunning wrote a letter to your Lordship's most noble father, in which he mentioned that he had done himself the honour to write to the Duke on the 3d of February, 1791. The following answer was the consequence of this epistle.

" Sion Hill, Feb. 12, 1791.

" SIR,

" I take the earliest opportunity to thank
 " you for your letter of the 11th of February,
 " which I have just now received, and I
 " must assure you at the same time, that
 " your letter of February 3, of which you

I

" inclose

“ inclose me a copy, was never received by
 “ me ; nor did I *ever write to you* ; so
 “ that the letter you shewed my son,
 “ Henry *, must have been a forgery. I
 “ am heartily sorry for the uneasiness you
 “ have felt on this business, and can only
 “ say, that I really believe there never was
 “ any foundation for the reports you allude
 “ to.

“ I am, Sir, with great truth,

“ Your most obedient

“ Humble servant,

“ MARLBOROUGH.”

Unwilling am I to believe accusations,
 though most unequivocal, of a person thus
 described by her mother : “ It was not
chance that presided over the destiny of a
being like this—she had not disgraced the

* Lord Henry Spencer, to whom General Gunning
 had shewed the letter, which had been played off as from
 the Duke.

work of her maker—the immaculate *pure-ness* with which she came from his hands had never been *sullied*—she could with confidence look up to him for protection, and he protected her.”

It is a melancholy consideration, my Lord, that disgrace should ensue, where nothing more was intended than a temporary feast for vanity. Your Lordship, I believe, need not be informed, that a very tender *penchant* never existed between you and the fair inventress; your Lordship, therefore, could not be injured; and you have too great a partiality for the sex, to be offended at her framing a transient happiness on your *supposed* affection for her. Had the lady been deficient in the graces and personal charms, the report of your being influenced by such an object, might have given birth to restrictions on your want of discernment and taste; but the lady in question is rich
in

in beauty and perfections, and might have been considered as a rich gem, capable of adding splendour even to a ducal coronet.

So far as the epistolary fabrication goes, I am ready to pardon and forget; not doubting but similar contrivances are daily formed and carried into execution, among people of rank, and perhaps for the same purpose; to create a pleasing topic of conversation among the circle of the propagators' acquaintance, in which she figures as the happy heroine. Let every one, my Lord, appeal to his own experience; let him ask his own bosom if he has not known many instances of the kind, which have been circulated for the moment, and on which they have courted and received the congratulations of the public, though the lady whose imagination gave birth to the tale, well knew there was no foundation for it, and only sought the enjoyment of temporary felicitation.

Had

Had the fair subject of this epistle proceeded no further, of what could she have been accused ; but having borrowed a temporary felicity for herself, without infringing upon that of others, or effecting any thing that could be injurious to any person in the universe but herself ? To deviate from the paths of veracity is certainly censurable, whether such deviation be detected or not ; but, among young ladies, where vanity is expected to be predominant, we can hardly term it a crime, especially where a lover, or an imaginary lover, is the subject of conversation. It is entitled to a softer appellation from a lady's lips.—Call it, my Lord, a *trait* of imagination — Class it among the weakneses, the foibles of the sex, but let it not be magnified into a vice.

But affidavits are serious things, though not within the pale of legal distinction. If a person, my Lord, should unfortunately incur the momentary censures of the world
for

for a trifling offence, how imprudent, as well as irreligious and immoral, to launch into an ocean of impurity to conceal one inconsiderable impure speck? Let us hope, my Lord, that the fair one, though arrived at the legal state of womanhood, did not perfectly understand the nature of an oath; she might have consulted a confidante upon this business, who could with propriety inform her, that such an offence was not punishable as a forgery by law; and thence perhaps concluded, that a crime for which a person was not amenable to the law, could not be considered as having much turpitude in it.

Her mother, however, informs us (in page 118 of her Letter) that the following preamble was affixed by her daughter, and written by herself, immediately after the accusations, and her answers to them, and before the awful oath was administered to her:

“ As I may perhaps, from my time of life,

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“ be

“ be supposed not to understand the nature
 “ of the solemn oath I am about to take, to
 “ attest my innocence of the above charges,
 “ I beg to assure the magistrate who shall
 “ administer the oath to me and the wit-
 “ nesses present, that I know, on the truth
 “ of what I am going to assert, depends my
 “ character in this world, and my everlast-
 “ ing salvation in the world to come.”

That Mrs. Gunning thought the affida-
 vit true, is evident from the following ob-
 servations; observations which would na-
 turally arise in the breast of an affectionate
 mother, where a daughter is supposed to be
 innocently accused: “ The residence of
 “ honour and virtue,” says she, * “ was in
 “ the chaste bosom of my daughter, they
 “ directed her where to appeal for justice,
 “ and for judgment; it was not to the
 “ courts of man, it was to that tribunal
 “ before which all men and all women too

* Mr. Gunning's Letter, page 115.

“ must

“ must account, not only for their actions
 “ but for the motives of them, and the
 “ blessed evangelists were called upon by
 “ their indisputable evidence to attest her
 “ innocence. When she took the sacred
 “ pledge in her steady hand, and with an-
 “ gelic composure of countenance and of
 “ voice, carried it to lips uncontaminated
 “ by falsehood, I triumphed in the adorable
 “ object of my heart, and at that moment
 “ I could have received but one additional
 “ gratification, which would have been to
 “ have had all her enemies spectators of the
 “ scene before me.”

It has been supposed by some that Cap-
 tain Bowen connived at the imposition in-
 tended to be practised by Miss Gunning,
 by copying a letter which she intended to
 pass on General Gunning as a genuine
 epistle from your Lordship's father; but
 those who entertain such an idea, cannot
 have bestowed a moment's consideration on

the business. The affair is no longer mysterious: that Captain Bowen wrote a letter, which was afterwards converted to the purpose above-mentioned, seems incontestible; but that he knew it was intended for such a purpose, cannot possibly be supposed. The letter appears to have been conveyed to him, as a copy of a genuine letter, which General Gunning had *already* received from your Lordship's father; and that she wanted another copy of such letter to transmit to a friend, not choosing to part with the *only* copy of it which she then possessed.

Having frequently heard, both from Mrs. Gunning and her daughter, that a match between your Lordship and the young Lady was in a progressive state, Captain Bowen had not any reason to doubt of the letter's being genuine and authentic, and that the avowed purpose for which she wanted a transcript of it was fair and reasonable. If any person should entertain

entertain a doubt to the contrary, the following affidavit will certainly remove it:

“ ESSEX BOWEN, of Queen-street, May-Fair, Esquire, maketh oath and faith, that on Tuesday, the 1st day of February instant, Mrs. Bowen, this deponent's wife, gave to this deponent the note or letter now produced and shewn to this deponent at the time of swearing this his affidavit, *marked with the letter B.**, and which this deponent, from the signature—E. Gunning—concluded to come from Miss Gunning, the daughter of General Gunning. And this deponent further faith, that, together with the said note or letter, was inclosed under a cover, directed to Mrs. Bowen, a paper writing, purporting to be a letter from his Grace the Duke of Marlborough

* Miss Gunning's first letter to Mrs. Bowen, received the first of February, requesting her to prevail on Captain Bowen to copy a letter, pretended to have been received by General Gunning, from the Duke of Marlborough.

to General Gunning; and which paper writing this deponent, in compliance with the request expressed in the said note or letter marked (B), did faithfully copy and transcribe. And this deponent further saith, that the said paper writing, purporting to be a letter from the said Duke of Marlborough to General Gunning as aforesaid, together with the said copy thereof so made by this deponent, were inclosed in a cover, and directed to the said Miss Gunning; and which this deponent understood and believes was afterwards given to a servant, or other person, who called for the same, as coming from the said Miss Gunning. And this deponent further saith, that on Sunday, the 6th day of February instant, he was given to understand that suspicions were entertained as to the authenticity of the correspondence which had been represented to have taken place between the Duke
of

of Marlborough, the Marquis of Blandford his son, and the said Miss Gunning, and her father, General Gunning.—Upon this intimation, this deponent requested General Gunning to call on this deponent, which the said General Gunning did on Tuesday, the 8th day of February instant; at which meeting this deponent put into the hands of General Gunning a copy of the aforefaid paper writing, purporting to be a letter from the Duke of Marlborough, to give General Gunning as aforefaid; which copy had been taken or made by the said Mrs. Bowen from that enclosed, and sent with the aforefaid note or letter marked B.—And this deponent further saith at the same time, he this deponent, or the said Mrs. Bowen, produced to General Gunning, the said note or letter marked (B) as the note or letter in which the said paper writing was inclosed under a cover, directed to Mrs. Bowen as aforefaid. And
this

this deponent further saith, that the said General Gunning discovered much surprize at this deponent's having in his possession a copy of the aforesaid paper writing or letter, which the said General Gunning considered himself to have received from the Duke of Marlborough, in answer to one which he, the said General, mentioned that he had written to the Duke. But this deponent saith, that at such time, the said General Gunning did not express, nor as this deponent believes, does the said General Gunning now entertain, any doubt respecting the note or letter marked (B)* and then produced to him, the said General Gunning, being of the hand-writing of his said daughter Miss Gunning. And this deponent further saith, that at such meeting, the said General Gunning took out of his pocket the paper or letter now produced, and shewn to this deponent at the time of

* The said above-mentioned Letter.

swearing this his affidavit, and marked with the letter (A), as a letter received by him from the Duke of Marlborough on the preceding Friday; but which, upon being shewn to this deponent, proved to be the copy which this deponent had made of the aforesaid paper-writing, purporting as aforesaid, to be a letter from the said Duke of Marlborough to the said General Gunning, except that in making the said copy, this deponent had written the word "copy" at the top, and the word "signed" opposite the signature Marlborough, which said words "copy" "signed", do not now appear on the said copy, the said words having been erased since the said copy was wrote and sent as aforesaid. And this deponent further saith, that the said paper or letter marked (A) is the same paper or letter which was produced by him, the said General Gunning to this deponent and his said wife, as herein before mentioned. And

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this

this deponent further saith, that although his Grace the Duke of Argyll, Lord Frederick Campbell, the Right Honourable General Conway, Andrew Stuart, Esquire, and the aforesaid General Gunning, to whom the foregoing facts have been stated by this deponent, are fully satisfied of the truth of such this deponent's statement; yet this deponent, anxious to relieve the feelings of General Gunning, and in the hope that Mrs. Gunning and her daughter, the aforesaid Miss Gunning, may be brought to a right sense of the serious consequences which may result from a public investigation of the reports which have gone abroad, is induced to make this affidavit.

“ESSEX BOWEN.”

Sworn at the Public-
Office in Symond's-
Inn, the 24th day of
February 1791, be-
fore

E. LEEDS.

That

That Captain Bowen was imposed on, and actually believed the letter, which had been transmitted to him to copy, was really such as the letter which inclosed it had declared it to be, appears certain, from his writing the word *copy* on the top, and *signed* opposite the signature *Marlborough*. Had he known the use intended to be made of this epistle, those *words* would certainly have appeared to him as unnecessary, and more than unnecessary; for he would know they must be erased; and if such erasure was not made with dexterity and care, the letter would appear to have been mutilated, and create suspicions respecting its authenticity.

I cannot conclude, my Lord, without observing, that your Lordship has acted with infinite tendernefs and propriety, in not officiously standing forward to declare, what is pretty universally believed, that the whole of the love tale is fabricated. Your
 Lordship

Lordship seems unwilling to raise an additional blush, in a cheek already too much crimsoned.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient servant,

A BARRISTER.

Lincoln's Inn,

May 3, 1791.

*49
over
your
Lordship*