

Nemesis or A letter to Alfred / from *** [i.e. Philip Withers].**

Contributors

Withers, Philip, -1790.

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N E M E S I S
 O R A
 L E T T E R
 T O
 A L F R E D.

FROM * * * * *

SOLD AT No. 9, QUEEN-STREET, NEAR DUKE-STREET,
 GROSVENOR-SQUARE.

Where may be had the FIFTH Edition of A L F R E D.

☞ The Public are requested to take Notice that pirated Copies of
 A L F R E D are on Sale—mutilated and incomplete.

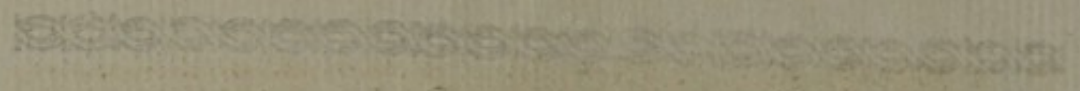
On the 21st instant, will be Published, a REPLY to a LETTER
 from a NOBLEMAN.

Also, another LETTER to the PRINCE.

Price One Shilling each.

157. Philet Withen

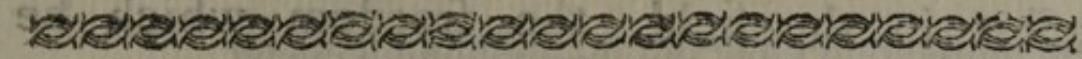
W. B. B. B. B.



ALFRED ... PUBLIC

MY motive for ... and honor

With the ...
needed the ...
attention ...
will defend ...
unfounded ...
sanctions ...
make every ...
will give ...
help ...
loyal ...
to the ...
of a Co.



ALFRED TO THE PUBLIC.

MY motive for publishing this letter is pure and honorable.

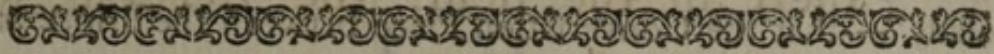
With the LIBERTY of the press, are connected the dearest interests of society. The LICENTIOUSNESS of the press, no Patriot will defend. On the contrary, if a charge unfounded on fact be published under the sanction of his name, he will be eager to make every atonement in his power. He will privately acknowledge his error, and publicly renounce it. If the offence demand legal reproof, he will submit with resignation to the verdict of his Peers, and the judgment of a Court. But if the affair be of a nature

to justify an appeal to Heaven, he will firmly assert in the field, the freedom which he claims in the closet.

I credit the narrative annexed, or I should blush to publish it to the world.* Sincerely persuaded that the contents are of the utmost consequence to the Realm, I disdain that abject prudence, which prefers the safety of the individual to the happiness of the state.

Mr. Sheridan may storm in the House of Commons, and menace with destruction all who presume to investigate the secrets of the PARTY. He may arraign Horne Tooke of treason, reproach Mr. Rolle with sedition, and insult whom he pleases, with impunity
 ——ALFRED excepted.

* The narrative is concise, but the facts are of sufficient magnitude to create detestation and alarm, in every patriot-breast.



I Embrace this opportunity of repeating my acknowledgements to the Public, for the great and unprecedented sale of Alfred and the History of the Royal Malady. And I sincerely rejoice that the political influence of the Pamphlets has been equally extensive and encouraging.

With no less pleasure I hear the general and deserved abhorrence of the fabrication of the PARTY in *Page 58* of the Royal Malady. It has been insinuated, indeed, that the tale is of my own invention. I wish any *Gentleman* of the PARTY would declare this belief to my face. I add---if a solemn and satisfactory promise be made, that the promotion of the Officer of the Navy shall not be affected, either directly or indirectly, I will instantly give up his name. If the promise be refused, I will cheerfully sustain the censure, and encounter even Death itself, rather than betray an innocent Man, to the prejudice of his fortunes.

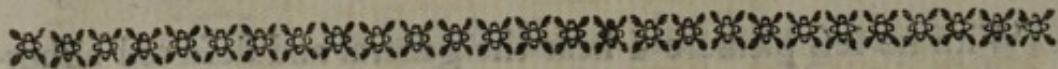
With respect to the attempts made by an enraged and despairing PARTY to impede the sale, I treat them, as they merit, with

with contempt. I will only remark that I have NOT "received four thousand pounds to publish an imperfect copy of the Royal Malady"---that the Conversation Piece between the Prince and Lady ****Herbert is NOT "omitted"--and, finally, that if any of the PARTY go to Sloan-Square, Chelsea, they may be satisfied as to the EXISTENCE of

PHILIP WITHERS.

PRINTING-OFFICE,

13th Feb. 1789.



A F F I D A V I T.

Middlesex *I* Hereby declare that the Letter annexed was
to wit. *brought by the Penny Post, that I am totally ignorant of the Author, and that I believe every Part of the Contents to be strictly true—except what relates to myself.*

PHILIP WITHERS.

Sworn before me, WM. HYDE,
one of His Majesty's Justices of
the Peace, this Eleventh Day of
February, 1789.

T O
A L F R E D.

S I R,

IN these degenerate times, when the freedom of the press has so much suffered by false delicacy and timidity of spirit, unworthy of Britons, and highly injurious to that glorious privilege which was the boast of our ancestors, and which has been esteemed the chief bulwark of the Constitution, it is with infinite satisfaction we meet

B

with

with an author, who dares assert the glorious privilege of warning his Countrymen of those impending dangers which, at this awful † crisis, threaten both church and state.

Whilst it is impossible for the most rigid Critic to

* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * * †

one laments that, probably from your

† The King, God be praised, is convalescent.

‡ It is a prevailing practice with authors to *puff* their own works; witness, the encomiums bestowed on the Prince's letter by—Mr. Sheridan. But neither necessity nor inclination urge Alfred to any such inglorious expedients. Happy in the applause of the Public, he cheerfully conceals the praises of an individual.

private

private situation in society, you have not those opportunities of being acquainted with many circumstances that would tend to render your book more interesting, and throw much light upon the mysterious situation of the Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert.

The first time the Prince saw Mrs. Fitzherbert was in Lady Sefton's box, at the Opera, and the novelty of her face more than the brilliancy of her charms, had the usual effect of enamouring the Prince. But he had not to do with a raw, unpracticed girl. An experienced dame, who had been twice a widow, was not likely to surrender
upon

upon common terms. She looked forward towards a more brilliant prospect which her ambition might artfully suggest, founded upon the feeble character of an amorous young Prince. She adopted the stale artifice of absenting herself for some months; and went to Plombiers in Lorraine, where she contracted an intimacy with the Marquis de Belvoeye,* with whom she withdrew for some time, and lived in the greatest familiarity.† The consequence of this intercourse

* Reputed the handsomest man in France, before he was shot in the face, but that accident cooled Mrs. Fitzherbert's passion.

† I do not pretend to know what idea the Author affixes to the term—familiarity. It may mean such habits

intercourse was a necessity of retiring to Paris,* where, by means of her two Scotch Toad-Eaters, † the scandalous transaction was industriously concealed.

habits as exist between the Prince and Mr. Sheridan—and it may mean a closer attachment, a more expressive intercourse, such as exists between their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

* Does the author design to insinuate that Plombiers was unable to furnish a midwife and the other accommodations necessary for a lady obedient to the divine command—increase and multiply?

† *Scotch Toad-Eaters.* In every work which I have the honor to submit to public animadversion, I religiously avoid—*national reflections.* I reverence a brave, upright man, without regard to country, parentage, or profession. The phrase of my correspondent is retained, from an idea that it may be necessary to a discrimination of persons.

C

Left

Left the matter should come to the ears of the Prince, it was thought right to come to England immediately, and by Mr. Bouverie's and Mr. Errington's* assiduity the marriage was concluded. Whether in Grafton-Street or Cleveland-Square, † shall be fully disclosed. Her relations,

* With Mr. Bouverie and Mr. Errington, I have no personal intimacy. If the freedom taken with their names give offence, they have my address. I hope to see them soon in the House of Lords. Nothing but the interposition of Heaven will stop the enquiry.

† It is of little consequence to know where the Priest pronounced his benediction. It is evident he had no authority from Almighty God to say to the Prince—thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine upon the walls of thy house—thy children like the olive branches round about thy table—lo, thus shall the man be blessed, that feareth

relations, particularly her uncle Mr. Farmer and Mr. Throgmorton, were first proud of the event, but since the publication of your book they have been very shy upon the subject.

The Marquis came over last winter, and became known to the Prince. Mrs. Fitzherbert, fearing a discovery, spoke of him as a man unworthy the Prince's

feareth the Lord—the Lord out of Sion shall so bless thee, that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity, all thy life long.

It is clear, without a comment, that the Priest did not utter the language of truth and inspiration. Not that I suspect Her Highness to be destitute of the means of fruitfulness, or Jerusalem of happiness—The Marquis de Bellevoye might be justly displeas'd with the former insinuation, and Mr. Pitt with the latter.

acquaintance.

acquaintance. The Marquis, picqued, demanded the two thousand pounds she had borrowed from him; she refused to pay him, unless he gave up her letters, with her notes of hand, which he refused; she then sent Anthony St. Leger and Weltje to negotiate; and after much debate, by means of the Abbe Sechamp, the matter was comprised for the sum of two hundred pounds,* but the letters were not given up, and may hereafter

* That is to say, the Lady rated her favors at eighteen hundred pounds.—I mean the favors of friendship and familiarity—and cheap enough, considering how dearly England has been obliged to purchase them. “*There is no part of Your Royal Highness’ life unfavorable to virtue.*” [ALFRED, Page 29.] I am afraid I must make an *index expurgatorius*.

be published, to the disgrace of a P----- who stands in so eminent a relation with respect to this Country. Her brother Wat. Smith, whom she had ill-treated, divulged many of the secrets, but he has been lately silenced by a large sum of money. Immense sums have been lavished in trinkets, and much is due to Gray and Castlefranc, on her account. The expences of puffing paragraphs in her favor, and of suppressing others against her, have amounted to large sums, which must come out of the public purse.* There is a plan to
introduce

* No axiom in Euclid more just. If two dimensions be each equal to a third, they are equal to each other.

introduce a number of Catholics into the next Parliament. Mr. Howard will come in for Gloucester.* Lord Petre will bring in one, if not two, for Thetford. Sir John Swinborne, Sir Thomas Gafcoyne, and many others. The Duke of Norfolk comes into a high office; so there is danger, if this woman's influence continue, of seeing Popery greatly encreased. She has correspondence in France through the Gros Abbe, the Duke of Orleans' bastard brother; and through Abbe Taylor, and some Irish

If the Prince discharge, as he ought, Her Royal Highness' debts, and the Public discharge the Prince's debts, the Public do truly discharge the debts of Her Highness. Q. E. D.

* Mr. Pitt is chosen in the *present* Parliament.

Friars in many parts of Italy. There is no doubt of a secret cabal forming which will counteract the purposes of every wholesome administration.

I rejoice in seeing announced for the 14th another edition of Alfred, and I hope these hints will come time enough to assist you; and if you wish it, you may depend upon further communication of what is interesting and authentic.*

I am

Your sincere, &c.

* I shall be happy in the correspondence of so intelligent a writer. A letter is now at the Office, and if the Author will be so obliging as to send a card with the signature of his present favor, it will be instantly delivered, and no questions asked.

P. S.

P. S. The House of Commons, on Saturday, behaved in a dastardly manner, and betrayed their constituents by suppressing the enquiry. They seemed conscious of the truth, when they were asserting a lie. Mr. Rolle did not fulfil his promise either to the House or his constituents; and his being so much softened had a very suspicious appearance.*

In my next, I will give you many details of the DUKE of YORK.

* This censure of Mr. Rolle, and the House of Commons (I mean the honest part of the House) is unmerited. Mr. Dundas's speech was clear and satisfactory—"what has been written on the subject ought to excite mirth and good-humour, but cannot be a ground for a new Act of Parliament. If the Prince be married according to the Rites of ANY Church, without the consent of the King, and especially if to a PAPIST, the marriage act is no security for the religion and constitution of the Country. It calls for a Parliamentary enquiry."

☞ And this enquiry will certainly take place as soon as the Regent is settled in office. *Editor.*

F I N I S.

ERRATUM. For Bellevoeye, read Bellois.