

Aristarchus

Dec. 13 1780

4030

Neehar and Franklyn, who last year play'd off Lord George Gordon merely to harraſs and embarraſs your Maſteſty's Miniſters, are this ſeſſion of Parliament playing the ſame Game, but their plan is much improv'd in every reſpect.

No leſs a perſonage than Lord Surrey is now their Engine. This young Nobleman is ambitious, active, intriguing; hath much ſuperficial, ſhewy Learning; his judgement is not yet ripen'd: he plays Deep, wins very great Suſes, when loſt, and loſes ſtill much greater, in his Cups: he is allied to moſt of the Crown'd-Heads in Europe, and never forgets that Katherine Howard was Queen to Harry the Eighth. He hath oſtendiſhly quitted the Church of Rome, yet is no Convert to the Established Church of England. Neehar & Franklyn have taught him that both the Roman and Anglican Churches in this Kingdom are too much weakened & diſpirited to afford him that aſſiſtance which he looks for, and which is only to be found amongst the Preſbyterians.

Thus qualified, this young Nobleman is pitched-upon to ſow the ſeeds of Confuſion & Diſtraction in the Britiſh Senate, and his Virgin Motion in the Houſe of Commons for a Reviſion of Mr. Keppel's Trial, is admirably well-calculated to effectuate that important Work. For this motion was not only ſupported by Mr. Wilks and other Diſſenters, but as it is in ſome Degree a private Affair, & conſequently the Supporters of it will not be underſtood to incur the King's Diſpleaſure, Ariſtarchus ſpeaks from good authority when he ſays that the whole influence & family Connections of Mr. Keppel will be ſo exerted on this Occaſion, that from the Canvaſſing which hath already been very ſecretly taſten, they are pre-aſſured of a Majority of more than Sixty. The Conſequence therefore may be very fatal to Sir Hugh, for They have one of Sir Hugh's own Witneſſes ready to prove, that Sir Hugh himſelf altered the Log-Book: & if upon an Address to your Maſteſty (which is pre-determined-on) this own Majority ſhall not ſcruple to call that alteration by the harſh name of a Forgery, it muſt unavoidably work his utter Ruin: at leaſt he hath more to dread from that Quarter than he is at preſent aware of, more eſpecially as the motion which Lord Surrey made did not originate from any of your Maſteſty's Servants or Friends, but from himſelf, or more properly, from Meſſieurs Franklyn
and

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[Faint, illegible handwriting on a large sheet of paper, possibly a ledger or account book, with a grid pattern.]

[Faint handwriting on a narrow strip of paper, possibly a continuation of the ledger or account book.]

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4030 (2)

Necker, who spared neither pains nor Costs to carry this
Favorite measure, if possible, into Execution, well-knowing
that the Revision of this Trial must occasion the calling home
a very great number of Officers now on actual Duty, & that
must necessarily impede, and retard the naval Operations
of Great Britain. Besides, they foresee, that if the House of
Commons who have no power to administer an Oath, shall
assume to Themselves a Right to revise & perhaps to reverse
a Sentence of a Court martial which in its own nature is
final, it will supersede the naval Judicature, it will create
a Ferment between the two Houses of Parliament, & most
probably set the whole Nation in a Flame, which are the
principal Objects of this important Intrigue.

Aristarchus.

No. 97.

Dec. 13.
1780.

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No 37

Antistarches

13th Dec: 1780



The King.

No 37.