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London
For the Public Advertiser
Wednesday February 3. 1773.

Mr. Woodfall

Several Paragraphs having appeared in the public Papers, which have, under the specious Pretence of giving a true State of the Transaction between the Lords Bellamont and Townshend, introduced the most false Conclusions, by a Preamble of real, known and avowed Fact, it is become our indispensible Duty to make public the following true State of that Proceeding, which we hereby authorize you to do.

On Thursday the 24th. of last Month, Lord Bellamont employed Lord Charlemont to wait on Lord Townshend with the following Paper, which he read to Lord Townshend. It will fully explain the Nature of the Offence given to Lord Bellamont at the Castle of Dublin in February 1770. and was as follows:

"I wait upon your Lordship by desire of Lord Bellamont: first, "to return your Lordship his Thanks for the Recommendations to the "King, with which you honoured him, and, for which it was his Intention "to have thanked you in Person, if you had done him the Favour to "receive him the last time that he attended by your Lordship's "Appointment, for private Audience. I am, further to acquaint your "Lordship, that Lord Bellamont thought it his Duty not to break in "upon your Lordship at an earlier Day, lest he should interrupt you

in

"in giving an Account of your high Commission to the King, or in
"taking an Account of your own important affairs. But as your Lordship
"has now been twelve days in Town, he conceives that he may with —
"Propriety remind your Lordship of the Disrespect thrown upon him
"by the Message delivered to him from your Lordship by your Aid de
"Camp, of which Lord Bellamont makes no Doubt that your Lordship —
"retains a perfect Recollection; it having been of that Force as to have
"obliged him to resign his Employment in the Army in order that he
"might be at Liberty to call upon your Lordship for an adequate Apology
"without incurring the King's Displeasure. But lest Your Lordship should
"not have a minute Recollection of that Transaction at this Distance of
"Time, Lord Bellamont has stated it as follows."

When Lord Bellamont, after several repeated Attendances by —
Appointment, on all which Occasions he had been put off without
seeing your Lordship, did again wait upon your Lordship, did again
wait upon your Lordship by Appointment, the Aid de Camp in
waiting having gone down to your Lordship and returned, addressed
Lord Bellamont in an audible Voice, and acquainted him, that
he need not stay any longer, for that your Lordship <u>would</u> not be at
Leisure to <u>see him</u> that Day; and at the same time turning to
several Persons of different Rank and Professions, he told <u>them</u> that
your Lordship requested <u>they</u> would wait, as your Lordship <u>would</u> see
<u>them</u>, however late it might be, before you could finish with them, or

words

words to that effect. Lord Bellamont replied to the Aid de Camp: His Excellency will be pleased to ascertain at what time he will see me. I have already waited several times by Appointment, and have been sent away each Time. To which the Aid de Camp brought back the following Message to Lord Bellamont; His Excellency commands me to tell your Lordship, that he usually does military Business on Wednesday, and any other Business on Thursday; that if your Lordship comes on either of those Days, and that his Excellency shall be at Leisure, he will see you among others in your turn. To which Lord Bellamont replied, Sir you will be so good as to inform his Excellency, that as a Peer of the Realm I have a Right to Audience: but if his Excellency does not know what he owes to me, I know what I owe to myself, and therefore will not wait upon him here or elsewhere. I will write a letter to his Excellency, stating my Business, to which I request he will shew due Attention, as it nearly concerns a respectable Corps of Officers. This my Lord, is as Lord Bellamont conceives an exact state of the reciprocal Messages which passed between your Lordship and Lord Bellamont: but as he did not take them down in writing, he cannot possibly aver each Syllable. This he can positively affirm, that such was the matter of the Messages, and the Terms in which it was conceived, though manifestly softened by the Aid de Camp, that the idea which it conveyed to every Person present was that of an intentional indignity wantonly cast on Lord Bellamont by your Lordship. Lord Bellamont conceives that

as

an Aid de Camp is the Authentic Messenger of his Superior, and therefore that a Message delivered by the one is as the Litteral Receipt of the other. Lord Bellamont considers your Lordship alone responsible to him, and your Lordship the only Person with whom he is to account. The injury is of public Notoriety, and therefore an Affront upon Record, which does not admit of any Negociation.

Lord Townshend having asked what Apology Lord Bellamont required, Lord Charlemont read the following Articles.

The only Apology which the Nature of the Affront will admit of is that of asking Lord Bellamont's Pardon. Lord Bellamont does not mean to hurry your Lordship in any thing, but expects your Lordship's Answer in a reasonable Time, at all Events the day at least before your Lordship leaves Town.

Lord Townshend made answer: I cannot ask Pardon, as it would be an acknowledgement of an Offence I never intended.

Lord Charlemont replied, I am not at liberty to take back any other Answer to Lord Bellamont than that your Lordship asks his Pardon, or desires to take time to consider of asking it; Therefore I entreat your Lordship will reflect before you lay me under an absolute necessity of delivering another Message to your Lordship, which Lord Bellamont sends with the utmost Regret, and which I shall deliver with equal Reluctancy.

Lord Townshend having persisted in his refusal, Lord Charlemont read to Lord Townshend the following Message.

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I am enjoined by Lord Bellamont to tell your Lordships, from him, that he considers you divested of every Principle that constitutes the Character of a Man of Honour.

Upon Lord Charlemont's Delivery of this last Message, Lord Townshend begged his Permission to call in a Friend to be Witness of it. Colonel Frazer having come in, Lord Townshend requested that Lord Charlemont would again read this last Message. Lord Charlemont thereupon read the entire Paper a second time, and being requested by Lord Townshead to carry back an Answer to Lord Bellamont; Lord Charlemont conformable to his private Instructions from Lord Bellamont replied, that any Message Lord Townshend might have to send, must be sent by a Messenger of his own.

On Saturday the 26th at half hour after Eleven o'Clock at Night, Lord Bellamont received the following letter, from Lord Ligonier.

December 26th 1772.

"My Lord

"I have a Message to deliver to your Lordship from Lord Townshead, "and beg to know when I may be allowed to wait on you. I have the "honour to be

"My Lord

North Audley Street "Your Lordship's most obedient

To the Earl of Bellamont "Most humble Servant

"Ligonier

To which Lord Bellamont sent the following answer.

"My Lord

"I this Moment received the honour of your Lordship's letter, "communicating to me that you have a Message to deliver to me from

Lord

"Lord Townshend, and desiring to know when I shall be at home to
"receive your Lordship. I shall not go abroad tomorrow, but will wait at
"home to have the honour of receiving your Lordship, and any Commands
"you may have for me. I have the honour to be

"My Lord

"Your Lordship's very humble

Saturday Night half past 11. "And obedient Servant

To Lord Viscount Ligonier "Bellamont"

On Saturday Morning at Eleven o' Clock Lord Ligonier waited on Lord Bellamont, who anticipating Lord Ligonier said, Before I receive the Message your Lordship has to deliver me, I must beg leave to call in Lord Charlemont, in order that as Col. Frazer was present at the Delivery of my Message to Lord Townshend, Lord Charlemont may be present at the Delivery of Lord Townshend's Message to Me; to which Lord Ligonier immediately consented. Lord Charlemont being called in, Lord Bellamont said, the transaction had, he supposed, been related to Lord Ligonier on the part of Lord Townshend. He wished it should be related by Lord Charlemont on the part of him, for he should be concerned to be misconceived by Lord Ligonier, for whom he had an high respect; and that, from the moment that Lord Ligonier should have delivered Lord Townshend's Message, he did not think it proper for himself or Friend to speak another word; of which Lord Ligonier having expressed his approbation

Lord

Lord Charlemont read the paper to Lord Ligonier, which he had by Lord Bellamont's desire read to Lord Townshend. Lord Ligonier then addressing Lord Bellamont said, "What will your Lordship when notwithstanding the form of this Message, I tell you I am authorized by Lord Townshend to assure your Lordship he never meant to offend you? Lord Bellamont after a little pause replied, I confess my Lord this is more than I expected, but since then Lord Townshend's first care is to justify his intentions towards me even under his present situation, let him do it in such a manner as to justify me in releasing him from that situation. The apology your Lordship has now delivered to me is not yet entirely sufficient. Lord Ligonier desired leave to go back to Lord Townshend, and shortly returned with the following Message: Lord Townshend has already assured your Lordship he never meant to offend you. He further assures you he is sorry for the Affair. Lord Bellamont then said, Before I proceed any further, I must desire that Lord Anneram be sent for, as he has this morning accepted the Office of being my Friend in the field if I shall be called upon. Lord Anneram being arrived, and informed by the Lords Charlemont and Ligonier of what had passed, the Lords Charlemont and Anneram declared that nothing more could be demanded; and then with Lord Ligonier said that Lord Bellamont could not surely require that Lord Townshend should ask his pardon for an Offence which he has now in the most satisfactory manner declared he had never committed. Lord Bellamont

made

made answer, My Lords I feel as you do, that every thing is implied in this Apology; but it is necessary that it be fully expressed; and having desired leave to retire into another room to consider the matter more clearly, he returned with the following written paper which he gave to Lord Ligonier, telling him at the same time that he did not tye him down to the letter, but that was the purport of the only Reparation he could receive viz. Lord Townshend does admit that the Message delivered to Lord Bellamont by his Aid de Camp was highly offensive, he therefore disavows it as such, and declares that it was not ~~in his intentions~~ to give Lord Bellamont any Offence, and that he was very much concerned for the mistake.
Lord Ligonier accordingly waited on Lord Townshend with said paper and brought back to Lord Bellamont an apology consonant to the full and entire purport of it conceived in the most satisfactory terms.
Lord Bellamont immediately requested Lord Ligonier would assure Lord Townshend, that as Lord Townshend had by that last Apology done away the foundation of the Message delivered from him to Lord Townshend by Lord Charlemont he had very great pleasure in declaring it cancelled and annulled

Charlemont
Aneram

I cannot refuse signing the Paper delivered to me this morning without

without assigning my Reasons for it; and I flatter myself the Motives of my declining it will justify me to the World.

"I assent to the Facts and Progressions as stated, but I was misunderstood if what I said relating to Lord Townshend was considered as a Message from him. It certainly was not Lord Townshend's Intention it should be so, tho' I was authorized to say it from Lord Townshend to Lord Bellamont, which Distinction I did not make to Lord Bellamont.

"As I wished, from Motives of Humanity, to bring the Affair to an honourable Conclusion without coming to Extremities; I proposed returning to Lord Townshend: My View in so doing was that of promoting an Accommodation honourable to both.

"If I conveyed any other Idea to the Lords on my Return from Lord Townshend than a Confirmation that his Lordship had intended no Affront or Injury to Lord Bellamont, and that he disapproved the Manner the Aid de Camp, I have to regret that I had not the good fortune to explain myself according to my own Ideas and those of Lord Townshend.

"In justice to Lord Townshend I must beg leave to observe, that whatever Expressions of Concern he might make use of on this misunderstanding, arose from the regret every Man of Honour must feel under a Supposition of having given Offence. This is what I understood from Lord Townshend, and what I meant to convey.

I

"I cannot but persevere in declining to sign the Paper, as I find upon Consideration that what I thought an Explanation equally honourable to both, may be construed into a submissive Apology, which must appear humiliating to Lord Townshend.

"What Impressions may have been received from any Expressions of mine in the many private Conversations I have had on this painful Event, I will not presume to determine; but I declare upon my Honour I have had no other Views than to terminate this Affair to the Honour of all Parties, and shall lament if my Endeavours should be frustrated.

Jan. 29th 1772.

Ligonier (C.-in.)

This is a true Copy of the Original in the hands of Lord Bellamont

Charlemont

Ancram

The Public Advertiser
Wednesday Feb.y 3.d 1773.
Dispute between E. of B—
and Dr. T—d.