

TRUTH IN A MASK

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Truth in a Mask by Philip Skelton

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PHILIP SKELTON

**TRUTH IN
A MASK**

TRUTH
IN A
MASK.

Ades, & primi lege litoris oram.
VIRG. GEOR.
Garrit aniles

Ex re fabellas.

HOR.



DUBLIN Printed.
LONDON,
Reprinted for M. COOPER at the *Globe* in
Pater-Noster-Row.

MDCCXLIV.

T O

The RIGHT HONOURABLE

J A M E S,

LORD VISCOUNT

CHARLEMOUNT.

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordship may remember, that, during the short Space of Time in which I was charged with the Care of your Education, I asked,

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iv DEDICATION.

ed, and obtained Leave to dedicate the following ALLUSIONS to you: Although for many and weighty Reasons, which, in Charity, I forbear to mention here, I chose to quit you so soon; yet, so far as You were considered, it was with the greatest Regret I did it. As neither of us can justly charge the other with the Cause of this Separation, so give me Leave to hope, that these little Performances will not be less acceptable to you on that Account, especially as they are not presented with less Goodwill and Esteem. As your Lordship, and every body else who knows me, are sensible I am very far from being a Flatterer;

D E D I C A T I O N . V

terer ; and as I have not now the Honour to be a Relative to you in any Sense ; so, I hope, I should not be suspected of Design or Infincerity, though some of my Sentiments, on this Occasion, should be delivered in the usual Style of *Dedications*. That Style, however, and the Baseness of those who use it, as an Instrument of their own Designs, and an Incentive to the Vanity of their Patrons, I, from my Soul, abhor ; and the Publick, to your Honour, shall observe, that I, who know you, can, without the least Fear of offending, address you in quite another Manner.

THAT Estate, that Rank, and those natural Endowments, which,

vi DEDICATION.

in another *Dedication*, might be called yours, and much enlarged on to flatter your Pride, on this Occasion, shall be called the Property of your Country, and of Mankind, and be mentioned only to alarm you. Do not, my Lord, let any low, designing Flatterer persuade you, that such Talents were absolutely *bestowed* on you by a wise and provident God. Do not listen to him; the Wretch gapes at a Reward for his detestable Casuistry. I must insist on it, they were only *deposited* with you for the publick Use, and must be accounted for to the real Owner. Infinite Wisdom could never intend so much for the Use of one Man. No, my Lord,
we

DEDICATION. vii

we have (I speak in Behalf of the Publick, of which I make a Part) a just Right to the utmost Improvement, and the best Application you can possibly make, of all the aforementioned Talents, particularly the great Abilities with which God hath enriched your Mind, in Comparison of which we esteem your Fortune and Title as Trifles. My Intention in speaking thus to you, is to apprise your Country of the great Things they have a Right to expect from you; and you, of the mighty Debt, which, in a few Years, you must begin to discharge. It is happy for you, my Lord, that, to your excellent Talents, God hath joined the most a-

A 4 miable

miable Dispositions, without the Assistance of which, it is incomparably more difficult for Reason and Principle to govern a great, than a little Mind: Yet, though good Dispositions are qualified to reflect such Lustre on great Talents, and lend good Principles such powerful Succours, they may be, and often are, so unhappily turned, as totally to subdue the latter, and, by that Means, fatally corrupt and pervert the former.

How amiably will your good Nature adorn your Title, if it humbles you to a prudent Degree of Condescension for Persons in a lower Rank! How happily will it help you to apply