

TO THE
RIGHT HON. EARL STANHOPE.

MY LORD,

As far as an obscure individual like myself can judge of exalted characters, I am induced, in unison with public opinion, to hold a belief that your lordship is possessed, in a very superior degree, both of genius and a knowledge of the sciences, as well as a known predilection for every thing that is calculated to improve and extend the mechanic arts, or to meliorate the condition of mankind.

To acknowledge also that your lordship is equally pre-eminent in the senate is but paying a tribute which is *very justly due* to your patriotism, and the great exertions which you have made in advocating the cause of humanity. Every *friend* to his country must hold in grateful remembrance the energetic and manly opposition which your lordship evinced to prevent the commencement of a war more undefined in its object, more inefficient, and more direful and ruinous in its consequences to our country than any war it was ever madly and unjustly plunged into.

My countrymen have *now* great cause also to remember, with indignation and deep regret, that, in return for your opposition to the origin of those baneful effects, which your lordship clearly foretold, and are now but too severely felt; in return for your wise counsels and patriotic zeal, your lordship met with every coarse insult and contumely which blind folly

and malice could suggest. But your lordship has this inestimable consolation, that your life has been most *honourably* engaged—not with the savage arts of murder; not with the burning of towns and the destruction of their unoffending and defenceless inhabitants; not with the filling of Europe with miserable widows and orphans; not with the ruin of manufactures and commerce, and the violation of the sacred constitutional rights and liberties of your countrymen; not with the low, base, and contemptible arts of any corrupt and venal faction; not with the arts of tyranny and oppression, or force and fraud; not with the machiavelian arts; but with the *noble arts* which are conducive to *peace, civilization, and the convenience and happiness of mankind.*

Had I invented a diabolical engine that would effectually have swept off from the earth a considerable portion of its *unwary* inhabitants, I should never have thought of addressing your lordship; I must have sought patronage from another quarter; but, considering the subject of this work, I thought no one was more able than your lordship to form a just estimation of its merits. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of dedicating it to you, flattering myself that the theory it contains will be honoured with your lordship's approbation, which will greatly contribute to the pleasure of,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's humble Servant,

THOMAS WALKER.

HULL, FEB., 1810.