

I humbly beg leave to represent to you that I did not
intend to give the Government one moment's uneasiness, or, by
any means in the least to serve its enemies by publishing
Ascanius. I saw, with indignation, a virulent Jacobite Tract
called Alexis, in every body's hands. Liking the plan, but abhorring
the manner in which it was executed, I determined first to
write an impartial thing of the same kind, after which,
knowing that such a work would prejudice all parties in the
author's favour, I proposed to serve the Government the more
effectually, by exhibiting the young Pretender's Character
in another light; and as I had before fairly and like a generous
enemy allowed him the few good Qualities he may have, so
now to expose all his faults and Misconduct; but the execution
of this design is at present suspended by my confinement.
However, before I was taken into custody, I had begun to pub-
lish such a History of the late Rebellion, in small Numbers, and
under the Title of Ascanius, (that it might the more effectually
spread itself among all ranks of people) as sufficiently shows
my Zeal for my King and Country. In other instances, Sir,
I have exerted my poor abilities against the Pretender and his
party, as many pamphlets of my writing can witness; but
never did the least word against his Majesty's person, Family,
or Government ever fall from my tongue or pen; but on every
on the other side of the question.

75/ And now, Sir, I humbly submit my case to you. I may have
been somewhat indiscreet, and perhaps played too freely with
edge tools; but I hope you will not too severely punish a well-
meaning, ^{the foolish} young fellow, who may learn to be wiser for the
future. I beg, Sir, you will not insist on my giving bail. ¹⁷⁴¹

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I may possibly find friends in any distress, but this not speedily,
as all my interest lies as far off as Shropshire. In London
my acquaintance all know that I am engaged so far in the
literary way, as not to be able to quit it immediately; and
they have terrible Ideas of giving Bail in Cases wherein they
tell me it lies in the Solicitor's power to wrest, ^{almost} any future
expression so as to make it imply a misbehaviour and
forfeiture of the Penalty; which might ruin both one and my
bail, tho' innocent of the least ill intention.

I beg pardon Sir, for taking up so much of your time,
and shall only add my earnest intreaty that you will gene-
rously stand my friend but this once. Were I to be discharged
without any further trouble and expence, I should always preserve
a grateful remembrance of your goodness; and if ever hereaf-
ter I do any thing to deserve your displeasure, may no
mercy or favour be shewn to, Sir,

Your most humble petitioner
and most obedient Servt.

Wm. Griffiths.

S. Martin's Lane

Jan. 13.th 1746-7.