

APPENDIX 8

WALPOLE'S SPEECH ON THE BUCKINGHAM ASSIZES

From his MS draft of the undelivered speech, now wsl. It is preceded by the first part of the explanatory note printed *ante* iii. 470, n. 32, and is followed by the last part of that note.

Mr Speaker,

SIR, when I rise to second the Honourable Gentleman, I hope nobody will think that I have the most distant imagination of being able to enforce anything he has said, or to supply anything that he may have omitted—indeed, Sir, I am not so vain; I think it an honour to follow him, no disgrace to be far inferior to him. My motive for giving the House this unusual trouble, is to acquit me of something I owe to myself and to convince my friends, that even when I differ from them, I would study to serve their interests. And I shall do it Sir, in such general terms, with such tenderness to those I offer to counsel, that if they do not taste my prescription, at least they shall confess that it is not nauseous, and composed of no personal ingredients. That sort of debate I shall totally neglect, for though personalities are often the strongest reasons, yet they are the worst arguments; and as I really wish this motion may be fortunate, I would have it as fair in its progress, as it is in its intention.

The attention of the public, Sir, has been so long engrossed with the factions of these two towns, which I will not even mention, as I wish they were never more to be named as antagonists, and as everybody must be tired with hearing of them, even you Sir who are master of such inimitable patience, are I am persuaded rather satiated with hearing of nothing but this provincial war; I say Sir the public has been so long taken up with this contention, that I will not hint at any one argument relative to either side. The arguments on one side have had the happiness to convince the majority both of Lords and Commons—I beg your pardon, Sir, I mean of both Commons and Lords; and what convinces them will I dare say never want its proper weight with the Supreme Part of the legislature, who I am persuaded will never think his prerogative diminished, when rescinded in compliment to the inclinations of