

To the Excellent Mr. Lock.

SIR,

I Do not presume to address these Papers to you as a Champion in your Cause, but as an Offender, to make the best Apology I can for a Bold unlicenc'd Undertaking; that Excellence of the Essay of *Human Understanding*, which gave me Courage in encountering a Caviller against it, strikes me with Shame and Awe, when I think of coming before you; like a Rash Lover, that fights in Defence of a Lady's Honour, the juster his Cause is, the more Reason he has to fear her Resentment, for not leaving it to assert it self by its own Evidence, and the more it secures him of Success against his Adversary, the less Pretence he has to her Forgiveness: But, Sir, The Essay of *Human Understanding* is a Publick Concern, which every one has a Right and Interest to defend; It came too late into the World to be receiv'd without Opposition, as it might have been in the first Ages of Philosophy, before Mens Heads were prepossess'd with imaginary Science; at least, no doubt, if so Perfect a Work cou'd have been produc'd so Early, it wou'd have prevented a great deal of that unintelligible Jargon, and vain Pretence to Knowledge of things out of the reach of Human Understanding, which make a great part of the School-Learning, and disuse the Mind to Plain and solid Truth.

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