... And here I shall send a distinct Challenge to The Review, Observer, Gaz[te], Post-Master, Post-Man, Post-Boy, Daily Courant, English Post; for these Eight are Authors of Credit, and for that Reason I'll say the worst (that I know of 'em) to provoke 'em to a Paper Duel.

And the First that (deservedly) leads the Way in our Secret History (or Panegyrick on the Weekly Writers) is Daniel De Foe. This Man has done me a sensible Wrong, by Interloping with my Question-Project. Losers may have Leave to speak; and I here declare, I'm £200 the worse for Foe's Clogging my Question-Project; for, his answering Questions Weekly, put a Stop to my Monthly Oracle: For, tho' his Answers were False and Impertinent (and for that Reason his Interloping continu'd but a few Weeks), yet being Publish'd every Tuesday, they ruin'd my Monthly Oracle: For, most are seiz'd with the Athenian Itch, and chuse rather to be scratch'd Weekly, than stay till the Month is out for a Perfect Cure. Such a Dolt as I, have laid the Plan of near 50 Books (besides 60 which I have writ since my Confinement), then 'tis strange that such a First Rate Author as Daniel De Foe shou'd be so barren of New Projects, that he must Interlope with mine; but the Mischief he endeavour'd to do me, will fall on his own Head; for I have now set up a Whipping-Post, and resolve to Lash him (if he dare draw either Pen or Sword) 'till he has done me Justice. And in the mean Time, I'll take the Satisfaction to tell the World, That whatever Questions Foe has answer'd shall be all answer'd again (with the best of his Thoughts, and my own Improvements); my Resolution being to Publish an entire Volume of the New Oracle every year, till the Question-Project is Completed.

To this (sneaking) Injustice of Interloping, Foe has added that of Reprinting a Copy he gave me.¹ He cou'd not but know, that the giving or selling a Copy, gives the same Right to the Printer: And therefore, till he gives me the Satisfaction upon this Head, He continues to pick my Pockets; And if he think that Expression harsh, I'm ready to meet him, when and where he pleases, to prove it. But tho' Foe has wrong'd me in these Copy's (and once in protecting his Platonick Friend, yet I must do him that Justice to say, He is a very Ingenious Usefull Writer[ ]?) and I hope (as much as he talks of Debt) is in no Danger from Serjeants.

His Body shou'd not be confin'd
Who's a true Monarch in his Mind;
One who with his majestick Pen
May give the Law to other Men.

Then if Foe quarrels with this Journal, he shall never fail of an Answer. And, to provoke him to fall upon me, I now Draw upon him in an honourable Challenge: I mean, I here dare him to answer the following Questions:

(1) Whether the Author of The True-Born-English-Man, Reformation of Manners, &c. han't, contrary to all Grammar and good Sense, mistaken himself in the Use of This and That, These and Those? And whether a Gentleman who don't know how to dispose of such little Words as these, may, notwithstanding, be well enough qualify'd for a Judge of Stile and good Language, and to answer
all New and Curious Questions, as he pretended? I must take the Liberty to imagine, that Author has never met with this Rule in the Common Syntax, *Hic & Ille, cum ad duo anteposita referuntur; Hic ad posterius & proprius; Ille ad prius & remotius proprio ac usitatissime refere debet.*

(2) What Authority has the Author of the *Review* y for his Metamorphosis of Time into a Female? Where’s the Rod, and the Ferula!

(3) Whether there be any such Thing as a *Genus Epicænum*?

(4) Whether have the Greecians a Casus sextus? If not, why do we meet with this Verse in Juv. *Penelope melius, levius torquetis Arachne,* and with many mix’d Sentences, such as these in other Authors, [Greek text]?

(5) Whether can Father Lilly be defended for putting *Vir* among his *Masculina acute crescentia,* and *Mulier,* also an Exception to *Mascula* in E.R. scil. *acute crescentia?*

When Foe has given a satisfactory Answer to this Challenge, I shall send him a Third; for this is the Second Pass I’ve made at Daniel de Foe in vain. ² So that it he does not answer it now, I’ll Post him up for a --Friend: But if he thinks good to answer my Challenge, (I mean, to *Review* that Nonsense I charge him with) I’ll either Renew the Fight, or fairly own him the Victor. But (to do him Justice again) take him with all his Failings, it must be acknowledg’d, that Foe is a Man of good Parts, and very clear Sense: Whatever he says upon the Subject of Peace, and War, is so True and Correct, that (like Pythagoras his *ipse dixit*) it might almost stand for an Infallible Rule. He’s Master of the English Tongue, can say what he please upon any Subject; and by his Printing a Poem every Day, one wou’d think Rhim’d in his Sleep. ’Tis his Misfortune that a Prejudic’d Person shou’d write his Character: But (with all my Revenge) I can’t but own, His Thoughts upon any Subject, are always Surprising, New, and Singular: And tho’ he writes for Bread, cou’d never be hir’d to disgrace the Quill, or to wrong his Conscience.

And which Crowns his Panegyrick, he’s a Person of true Courage. ’Tis true, I have Reason to think Daniel de Foe dares not quarrel with John Dunton, but I believe he fears nothing on Earth but my self: And he says as much, in telling the World “I adhere firmly to Truth, and resolve to defend it against all Extremities.”³ He *Reviews* without Fear, and acts without fainting. He is not daunted with Multitudes of Enemies; for he Faces as many (every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday) as there are Foes to Moderation and Peace. Loyalty to the Queen is his Guide, and Resolution his Companion, and a Lawful Occasion makes him truly Brave. ⁴ ’Twas this sent him to Weymouth, Exeter, Crediton, to Preach Peace and Moderation to the High-Flyers: And tho’ they had not the Manners to thank him, yet I hope to see them all on their Knees, for not listening to his wholesome Doctrine. Peace! ’Tis a Dangerous Experiment the Western Tackers cou’d not approve of, and for that reason *The Weymouth Gothams* had fetter’d him, Whip’d him, and (perhaps) burn’t him, had not his Known Courage (and “Great Party of Two Men”) set him above their Malice. ⁵

To Sum up all, Foe has Piety enough for an Author, and Courage enough for a Martyr. And in a Word, if ever any, Daniel de Foe is a True Englishman; and for that Reason, he’s more respected by Men of Honour and Sense, than he can be affronted by Alderman B--, Justice S-- and the rest of the Western Blockheads. Now, if such an Author as this shou’d attack my Journal, I shall think there is Reason for it, and will endeavour to answer him. And to speak the Truth, ’tis Pity this Peace-Making
Traveller shou’d have any Enemy but Error, and such a weak Assailant as John Dunton.  

---

1 Viz. The Character of Dr. Samuel Annesley.  
2 As he’ll find, if he consults the Athenian Catechism, Number 16.  
3 In his Review Volume 2, Number 75.  
4 Ibid.  
5 They are Foe’s own words, ibid.  
6 See his Character more at large in the History of my Life and Errors, 240. And in Defoe’s Review, ibid.