“Blessed is the man who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed” was the ninth beatitude.

And, after all, what is a lie? Tis but the truth in a masquerade.

A person who is too nice an observer of the business of the crowd, like one who is too curious in observing the labor of bees, will often be stung for his curiosity.
Introduction

You are John Gay. Gratefully, you are not the murderer.

Personality Suggestion: You work at art for art’s sake. Well, and also for the stipend, but only as a secondary motivation. Life is too short to worry about offenses or to cower behind what-might-have-beens. Don’t take anyone or anything too seriously. Don’t murders occur with predictable frequency, and to much better men than Bolingbroke?

Tips: Review the Game Rules, Scenario, and List of Visitants with the other players. Remember, a murder, however nefarious, requires three constituents: means, motive, and opportunity. Seek these Elements in your investigation.

Godspeed
Round One

John Gay
Contrary to the advice of your other friends and supporters, Bolingbroke encouraged you to invest in the South Sea stock. But for him your precious financial interests might still maintain their illustrious vitality. He should suffer for his perfidy.

Succinctly, your hate of Bolingbroke is a personal matter. Though you didn’t commit the murder, you very well could have.

John Gay
Round One

Pope and Arbuthnot did not support you when your play failed completely. They also failed you as regards to menu. Pope did not bring Pheasant with Tewkesbury mustard or Rice Pilau with Mango, and Arbuthnot undercooked the dish he offered.

Voltaire was showing Parnell and Pope some copies of his recent works before the dinner began. Henry St. John entered, then left abruptly when he saw the tomes. Later, you noticed pages with “Pangloss,” “El Dorado,” and “Candide” inscribed on them burning in the fireplace.

John Gay
Pope published some inflammatory lines about Henry St. John in “An Essay on Man”: Awake, my St. John! leave all meaner things / To low ambition, and the pride of kings. / Let us (since life can little more supply / Than just to look about us and to die) / Expatriate free o’er all this scene of man; / A mighty maze! but not without a plan.”

Confidentially, Pope confessed to you that he plagiarized some of Henry St. John’s work, reprinting 1500 copies of his book. Ah well. As Pope said in his Essay on Criticism, “To err is human, to forgive, divine.” You have a difficult time believing Bolingbroke could swallow that platitude. He seemed furious when you spoke with him, and threatened Pope with legal ramifications that could have destroyed Pope’s career.

John Gay
Round Three

John Gay
Pope tried to comfort you with a line he deemed fitting: "If you want to know what God thinks about money just look at the people He gives it to." What exactly is he trying to get at?

Arbuthnot worried excessively that Henry St. John might continue his disparaging remarks about his medical profession. Bolingbroke pushed him one step too far with the inflammatory lines he published.

Voltaire interrupted Bolingbroke’s explanation of a new parliament bill with a curious turn of phrase. "Le secret d'ennuyer est celui de tout dire." Bolingbroke retorted, asking Voltaire how he intended to spend his exile. Swift narrowly avoided an altercation by offering both another glass.

John Gay