

to himself, but to his family and his friends, and perhaps to his country."

"Let any person, the most private and least employed in business, study, or correspondence, pause only a moment, and consider if he would choose his closet ransacked, his most private repositories rifled, his papers carried he knows not where, and exposed to he knows not whom. Let him likewise reflect that in this matter every man is dependant upon another in a singular, but unavoidable manner, to an unspeakable and inextricable degree; and that every person may, in a great measure, or to an equal effect, suffer the same inconveniences from the misfortune happening to his friend, as if it had befallen himself; so that, in proportion to the extent of a man's connections and correspondents, is he exposed to this hardship, and to all the mischievous consequences of it."

"What can be more excruciating than to have the lowest of mankind enter suddenly into one's house, and forcibly carry away scrutoires with all one's papers of every kind, under a pretence of law? In the hurry too of such a business, notes, bonds, deeds, and evidence of the utmost consequence to private property may be divulged, torn, lost, or destroyed, to the irreparable injury not only of one, but of many; friends, relations, orphans, to whom he may be a trustee, those who have no other father, friend, or protector, may have their little property put in jeopardy, or annihilated, by the seizure of any man's papers."

"The Parliament, to make private correspondence sacred, has enacted that a single letter shall not, under the highest penalties, be opened at the post-office, without an express warrant in