

and Commons? A warrant *truly* that commissions three or four common Messengers to take up the Authors, Printers and Publishers of the Libel, and bring them together with their papers before a Secretary of State! Could this be Law, which but to state in a country, not governed by will or pleasure, is to refute; three or four of these Greyhounds, or ordinary Messengers, having nobody named in such warrant, might by virtue thereof have taken up ever so many persons in the kingdom, because, forsooth, they suspected them to have a hand in the publication! without any information upon oath, or shadow of positive proof; and have then hurried them away directly to the Issuer of the Warrant, who might thereupon have committed them all to the closest confinement, out of possibility of access to any one friend whatever.

Even if somebody had been named in the warrant, must there not be an Information upon oath, of his being Author, Printer or Publisher?

And if somebody were named and alleged to be charged upon oath with being Author, Printer, or Publisher of a Libel; could his Papers be seized? Since the time of Algernon Sidney, and the reign of the last Stuart, every man that has the faintest notions of Law or Liberty, must know the position *Scribere est agere* has been condemn'd, and that the mere writing and leaving in one's own study, any discourse whatever, is not criminal, it being no act which the Law takes notice of; for, any man is at liberty to think, and to put what thoughts he pleases upon paper, provided he does not publish them. In the case, therefore, of a Libel, this inquisitorial power of ransacking
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