

Attorney General from Mr. Secretary Pitt's office. Now, the fact is, that he never was consulted at all, and but once even spoke to, about any Secretary's warrant; and then, as Mr. Pitt avowed in a certain august Assembly, "his friend, the Attorney, told him, *the warrant would be illegal, and if he issued it, he must take the consequence*; nevertheless, preferring the General Safety in time of war and publick danger to every personal consideration, that he run the risk (as he would of his head, had that been the forfeit, upon the like motive) and did an extraordinary act, against a suspicious foreigner just come from France; that he was ready to answer it before his country, if they called him to an account; and that, in his opinion, the apparent necessity of the thing, and the real exigency of the time, must always be the test, and alone vindicate, and be the safeguard of any Minister, who, at a crisis, exceeds the known laws of his country." By the bye, Why this Minister, on account of his popularity, or this his bold defiance, should not be brought before the Public to answer for such a breach of the law, notwithstanding his pretences of its being in the cause of the nation, in time of actual war against their most formidable enemy, and not for the sake of wreaking a personal resentment against any particular party-writer, ⁽¹⁾ I do not well see. Nothing but the present Ministry's lenity, together with a peaceableness of disposition arising from a natural firmness of mind, and a consciousness of real power, as well as an unwillingness to be severe, where no immediate ill consequences followed, and where the people did not cry out, can be any thing

(1) *like Wilkes*