

In the 2^d place, Let me mention, as one of the more immediate causes of our present danger, that unbounded licentiousness, which, for a long time, has prevailed in writing and discourse.

The liberty of the press is indeed a most sacred right of British freedom ; but, like all other privileges, it may be abused, and, and when it is, may be productive of the most pernicious consequences. No character has been sacred enough to be safe from the torrent of calumny and reproach, which, for some time past, has poured itself upon the public ear. The most private asylum of domestic peace has not been secure against that malignant poison that glides in every breath, and is scattered about on every page. The throne has been openly attacked ; and not only have the measures of government been arraigned, as in former times, but the legislature itself has been ridiculed, traduced, and almost libelled in its own hearing. And what is the consequence of this vile licentiousness ? Has the tongue of sedition, and the pen of faction proceeded to such outrage, that they are now no longer