

tuent part of the Legislature itself, How can any Particular think himself safe in calling in question with his pen, any action of a Minister? And, Why should he? The advantage of inoffensive speech or writing, and of absolute submission to government, is so great, that I am sure every man ought to rejoice in such wholesome regulations. For, perhaps, a slight subsequent error of conduct might induce a Judge to be of opinion that a man had forfeited the pledges for his good behaviour; or, at least, might be sufficient to involve him in a long and expensive litigation with the Crown. A man once charged with writing a libel, might be easily caught this way, whatever should become of the original prosecution on the libel itself. It seems to me to be really an excellent device for keeping the scribbling race from meddling with political questions, at least from ever drawing their pens a second time upon such subjects. All the reasons, I suppose, that wit, ingenuity or learning, could invent in behalf of parliamentary privilege in the case of the mere charge of a libel, may be seen, by the curious examiner into this point, collected and set in a strong light in the late protest of some discontented Peers; and yet, altho' all these very reasons were urged at the time *viva voce*, a Majority of Members in the two Houses, in this country of Liberty, being overcome by the still more cogent reasons given by the Ministry, concurred in declaring that *privilege of parliament does not extend to the case of writing and publishing seditious libels, nor ought to be allowed to obstruct the speedy and effectual prosecution of so heinous and dangerous an offence.* It was the more
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