

is the suspension of the Habeas Corpus, of which you complain. In its effects it is perfectly consonant to the common law of the land against Piracy, and an Act of Parliament of this nature was the only method of comprehending those, who, after having committed the most direct acts of Piracy, might endeavour to shelter themselves under the name of Rebellion. If we wish for proofs of this, it is well known, that, during the continuance of this unhappy war, a numerous sett of men, unlicensed by any species of hostile Justice whatever, and without direct authority from their own Powers, have purchased vessels on their own account, and gone out to sea with the hopes of paying themselves by their depredations. These men, though sheltered under the appearance of open and declared war, have converted to their own use alone the profits of such captures. I need not mention the various ships from the West Indies that have fallen into their hands, which they have plundered without any pretence of justice, and whose Owners they have treated in the vilest and most barbarous manner. I appeal to every one, whether Piracy is too harsh a name for such actions; or whether it is cruel that against these People the present Act of Parliament should be directed, that they might no longer have a pretence for concealing themselves under the general banner of Rebellion, or be exchanged as prisoners of war. However highly, Sir, you may think of the honour of Rebellion, you will allow,

C.

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