

deal out its infamy to convicted guilt and declared apostacy.

To act on the principles of the constitution, with the best men the time affords, has been from the beginning the rule of my conduct; and I mean to continue it, as long as such a body as I have described, can by any possibility be kept together. For I should think it the most dreadful of all offences, not only towards the present generation but to all the future, if I were to do any thing which could make the minutest breach in this great conservatory of free principles. Those who perhaps have the same intentions, but are separated by some little political animosities, will, I hope, discern at last, how little conducive it is to any rational purpose, to lower its reputation. For my part, Gentlemen, from much experience, from no little thinking, and from comparing a great variety of things, I am thoroughly persuaded, that the last hopes of preserving the spirit of the English Constitution, or of re-uniting the dissipated members of the English race upon a common plan of tranquillity and liberty, does entirely depend on the firm and lasting union of such men; and above all on their keeping themselves from that despair, which is so very apt to fall on those, whom a violence of character, and a mixture of ambitious views, do not support through a long, painful, and unsuccessful struggle.

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