

political vessel, where, tho the steerage may be in other hands, the cargo is ours : and by consequence, while the storm is up, our lives and fortunes, our very being as well as safety, are exposed to the same common dangers, and must share the same general fate.

If this great crisis calls loudly upon us, to examine how we have been brought into it ; whether by real faults in our management, or by accidents unavoidable ; such is the excellence of our constitution, that we may enquire with the utmost freedom. This still is, may it ever continue to be, the birth-right of Englishmen ! But then,

That such an enquiry may be useful, it must be calm, dispassionate, impartial. As to the decency to be observed in examining the conduct of other men, of our superiors more particularly ; no one, who possesses and who is conscious he deserves the character of an honest man, will break through that boundary, which both reason and self-regard have established. Public order, private security, all the relations we stand in to one another, require that this fence should be preserved sacred and inviolate. From writers of a