

sions of the people have been kept in a constant state of the most extravagant excitement. Every act of the government has been placed in the most revolting point of view. To the administration have been successively ascribed the most odious objects, pursued by the most detestable means.

About two-thirds of the papers published in New-England are opposed to the present administration. They are all ex-parte. I think it is doubtful whether a single number of the Centinel, Repository, Boston Gazette, &c. has been published for years, free from attacks on the administration. And I am pretty well convinced, that attempts at vindication are hardly ever allowed a place. The object steadily, and invariably, and industriously pursued, is to run down the incumbents in office at all events. To this object every thing is made subservient.

On the injustice, the cruelty of this procedure, it is needless to descant. It is treating the highest public functionaries of the country, chosen by the unbiassed suffrages of a free people, worse than we should treat the veriest rascal in society. If he were accused of any crime whatever, his defence would be patiently heard before sentence was pronounced. But our first magistrate, and other public officers, are accused, tried, and condemned, without a possibility of defence.

This is a great and deplorable evil—an evil so inveterate, as to render a remedy almost hopeless. It is hardly possible for any government to stand against such an unjust system. It is pregnant with the most awful consequences to society.

I am not to be told, that there are many papers devoted to the defence of the government as well as to run it down. This I well know; but this does not remove the danger. Such is the folly of the times, that the mass of our citizens confine themselves to those papers calculated to strengthen their prejudices. They rarely read defences if any appear. And thus it is not surprising that those prejudices become daily more and more inveterate—and that through the address and industry of artful men, they are prepared to overturn that Constitution, to whose abuse and perversion they ascribe all those sufferings which have really flowed from the rapacity and injustice of the helligerents.

Besides the party in New-England, who are determined on a separation of the States for their own aggrandizement

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