

peaceable demeanour therein. If any Member of Parliament then refuses to find such securities for his future good behaviour, he will be committed till tried, and if he should be acquitted of the charge by a Jury, who should conceive that he never wrote or published what was charged, or that what he wrote was no libel; he will nevertheless be entitled to no amends upon the score of his imprisonment: but in the first of these cases must take what has happened for being of so suspicious a character, and, in the latter, regard it as the mere political consequence of treading so near upon the borders of sedition. By the simple charge of a libel in an information by an Attorney General, all this may be brought about, and any representative of the people instantly lose his privilege of parliament, and be arrested forthwith. All the Judges, indeed, before whom this question first came, were unanimously of opinion, after taking several days to consider thereof, that the privilege of Parliament was not thus at the mercy of the King's Attorney General; but, they were all of them mistaken, and let me add not a little aspersed and ridiculed, (notwithstanding the old and reverend intrenchment of dignity and solemnity with which their offices are defended, and the oath under which they execute them) for pretending to decide about privilege, and for presuming to construe the words of a resolution of either house, although they were legal and technical words; and in particular for so rash, so erroneous, so unworthy, and so unbecoming a determination as this was. Now, if this be so in the case of a Member of Parliament, who is a consti-