

but simple  
individuals.

their selves, in respect to us at least, they are but  
*simple individuals.*

Were they  
more, still  
a simple in-  
dividual  
might an-  
swer them.

WERE they more, yet, in this country, the measures even of Government are open to the examination of every subject. The right of *enslaving* what they disapprove, the partisans of America have exercised, and still exercise, without scruple and without shame. They will not surely deny to me the right of defending what I approve. *Here* at least they will not be backward in acknowledging, that it is no mean advantage, which we derive from the happy form of our Constitution, that private individuals are competent to those tasks, which, under more jealous governments, can be executed only by officers commissioned for the purpose. *Here* at least they will allow that an insult offered to *every* man may be repelled by *any* man<sup>1</sup>.

AND

Total de-  
struction of  
the liberty of  
the press in  
America

<sup>1</sup> I say *here* they will acknowledge this. Not so in that unhappy country, over which these assertors of liberty have assumed jurisdiction. *Here*, so much as to think of doing any thing to impair the liberty of the press, is represented as the most atrocious tyranny. There, this liberty, has been utterly destroyed. And when was it destroyed? Did these men wait till they were already under the irritation of long continued and reciprocal hostilities? No. It was at a time of pretended *suffering*, and pretended *patience*. It was one of the first *preludes* to the execution of their design.

effected at  
the begin-  
ning of this  
contest.

So fore were they, so conscious, from the very beginning, of their guilt, that in the midst of a people, groaning, as they would have it believed, under the pressure of injuries, then actually inflicting on them by the hands of unrelenting tyrants; they dared not leave the people at large to express their real feelings; they dared not leave the channels of conviction open. To their own party alone was reserved the privilege of expressing their sentiments. To them only the press was open. To their opponents; to those whom they but *suspected* of opposition, it was irrevocably shut. Whatever could be said to blacken the designs, mis-state the words, misrepresent the actions, of the latter, was received with eagerness,