

neither corrupt nor persuade to desert their liberties, were written in characters of blood by the chancellor Jefferies, who had been lord chief justice of the king's bench, and recorder of the city of London. This man had been petitioned against both by the metropolis and the parliament, for discouraging petitions and remonstrances against grievances under which the nation laboured. Under so servile a chancellor it was not difficult to condemn every measure that was opposite to the ministry, were it ever so just or ever so legal. It need not therefore be wondered at that the petition of the seven bishops against reading the declaration for the suspending power in the church, should be pronounced to be *publishing a seditious libel against His Majesty and his government*. This has always been the language of the ministers in similar cases. The bishops were sent to the tower. Their triumphant passage to the place of their confinement is described at large in the histories of this reign, and the perusal would force every lover of liberty to exclaim, "O might I be confined in the same manner, that my confinement might operate as theirs."

The frowns of royalty being unable to stop the torrent of petitioning, the ministry had recourse to finesse; and to counterbalance the cries of freedom, brought forward the approbation of sycophants. Addresses poured in as fast as petitions, perhaps rather faster, for he who is bought to profess friendship, generally overacts his part. But when the voice of petitioners was stifled, the sighs of liberty were disseminated by the press. As it was in the power of more people to see the critical state of liberty than to feel it, these publications opened the eyes of many, who were before supine; and the torrent, which had been restrained, overflowed every barrier that could be opposed to it by ministerial power.

(To be continued)

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