

Whoever, therefore, endeavours to divest us of respect for the supreme authority in the state, labours to eradicate from our minds every idea of a Free Government, and either to reduce us to the condition of slaves whilst we submit to it, or to excite us to destroy the constitution and ourselves by overturning it. It is indeed the duty, as well as the privilege, of *Englishmen* to discuss every public measure, and to trace the consequences of every important act of state; but, in so doing, we ought to be guided by truth and reason, and carefully avoid misrepresentation of facts, and unfounded imputation of motives. We ought to expect no more of our rulers, than to do what upon the whole appears to be the best; and, if that can be made out to the satisfaction of our unbiassed judgement, we have surely no right to suppose their conduct to be governed by sinister or wicked motives. Had these considerations been attended to,