

Crown lawyers, a description of men ever unfriendly to liberty, have of late affected to talk in high terms of the *right* which the King has to exercise his prerogative. But this word *right* has two significations, which it is very dangerous to confound. In one sense a man is said to have a *right* to do all that is not forbidden by the laws, however contrary to sense and justice: in the other he is said to have no right to do even what the law allows, if it be contrary to the dictates of reason and morality. On the former interpretation, the most extravagant and criminal excesses may be justified.

What then is the criterion by which we are to distinguish right from power. In private individuals it is honour and conscience; and in the governors of the people it is the public advantage; every exercise of power, therefore, which has not the public good for its object, however supported by theory, or by whomsoever exercised, is arbitrary and illegitimate.

But to return to the more immediate object of this Address. I have endeavoured to show that the establishment of immediate