

of their Understanding and Spirits, by imagining they had lost one of their Senses. — What a Deficiency would such a Stagnation of Politics occasion in his Majesty's Revenues! all the Trades, that at present administer to Politicks, would sensibly decay. The Custom House, the Excise and Stamp Offices, Taverns, Coffee-houses, Vintners and Brewers would unanimously deplore this Practice, of leaving the State to those, who preside in it, as a general and heavy Calamity: — Moreover the Liberty of the Press, that invaluable Birthright of *Britons*, which our Ancestors had before the Conquest, and which we hope to retain to the End of the World, must be in imminent Danger. As it is a Privilege not founded in *Law* but in *Custom*, and Customs, by our Constitution, lose their Force after a long Disuse, this new Reasoning of yours would in a certain Number of Years, deprive us of this, the most inestimable Species of Liberty we can transmit to our Posterity.

In short, Sir, your Manner of judging is big with every Kind of Mischief: it threatens our Trade, our Liberties, and Constitution, and even breaks in upon the little innocent Enjoyments of social Life. It is therefore, that;