

cause Mr. Pitt is out of power; I should have said the same had he been in. I am not in the intimacy, much less in the pay, of the present, or any other, administration. In short, I am of no party. A man may think very differently from the great men of either side, upon many important points; and yet have an extremely good opinion of the integrity of several who are in, as well as of several who are out, of place. Their actions and management are alone the object of disinterested speculations; and great allowances are, I know, to be made for the mistakes, obliquities, and even injustices, of ministerial, political conduct in any great kingdom. A Jobb, or even the waste of public treasure, is a temporary, and much less evil, than any violation of law that lays the foundation for arbitrary rule, and saps the constitution to its bottom. In short, to use the expression of a consummate

(1) lawyer upon the same subject; "In such extreme cases I like to speak out; and what I am afraid of is the Power of the Crown." It is the consequence of establishing dangerous precedents, that is so much to be dreaded, when Secretaries of State depart from the Laws to attain a favourite point, and the King's Attorney General either sets up a pretended prerogative for a defence, or else devises means for the smothering or defeating of all prosecution: in a word, when the servants of the Crown use the utmost of their abilities, and their power of office, to prevent and to baffle the most regular pursuits of Justice, and thereby exceedingly aggravate the original offence. If an alarming Practice has been once brought to light, and inquired into,

and

(1) *Mr. Hylsey speaking in the H. of Commons*