

cates of your cause (for I will do you the justice to believe you have none but what *are hired*) have published, are disregarded by the public; and those very noblemen and gentlemen, whom your scriblers have attempted to slander, look down with contempt on both the libels and the libellers; and consider them, as every honest man does, the pitiful and wretched shifts to which the ministry are reduced, in order to acquire, what they never had, some little credit with the people. Nay, so odious and obnoxious is your cause to the honest and sensible part of the nation, that if a man in any public company, from the greatest to the meanest, were but to attempt to speak in defence of the ministry, he would be shun'd by every man present, and looked upon as one of your tools or emissaries, *sent about to deceive*.

Since the North Briton was seized, for asserting the rights of every free-born Englishman, to canvas and scrutinize with the utmost freedom, what is vulgarly called the king's speech; and since the ministry have attempted, and are still endeavouring to confound, the sacred name of their sovereign, with the acts performed in his kingly office by their advice, and for which they alone are responsible, as if any canvas of them were an insult upon majesty; the people have taken the alarm: because such a step seems to lead to an invasion of their liberties by an arbitrary extension of the *prerogative*. I am sorry there should be any occasion for mentioning the word *prerogative*; my lord Bute's advocates* raised such a cry about the *prerogative*, that many are inclined

* It would be justice to his lordship to acquaint him, thro' your means, that he is continually exposed to the most severe censures and suspicions, by the stupid defences of a monthly understrapper to a Scottish printer and publisher. The piece thus issued forth is called the Critical Review, the design of which now is, and of late has been,