

conveyed; and a counteraction of its legitimate functions is an implied, if not an actual, attack upon the power (right) of the people, to remonstrate to (with) their rulers under (against) grievances; to demand redress for wrongs; or, to exert a prerogative which appertains to them by right. The press must ever be, in opposition to despotism, a stronger defence than the sword, because its operation is continual, and uniform; and its very nature is inimical to oppression or slavery. It guards us against the insidious attacks which are made upon our freedom secretly and in the dark; while the sword only defends us when they are open and avowed: it arrests the danger in its birth, while the sword but cuts it off in its full grown existence.— The press, in the hands of those who look to the fulfilment of their duty as their chief merit in its guidance, stays the growth of evils, which the sword but removes by destroying their instruments. *It is to be hoped that in this country there never will exist a power by which the press shall be debarred the exercise of its proper functions—the defence of the people from the encroachments of those in (to) whom their interests are entrusted. This is vitally a part of our natural liberty; and if we neglect it in times when its necessity is not openly apparent, we shall lose, gradually, the habit of using it at all; and such is the frailty of human nature that we can not trust that those who reign over us will not take advantage of such a state of things, to entail upon us the perpetual obligation of keeping silence on subjects of the most immense importance to the community; and then, the powers that be, can lord it unquestioned and unrestrained; then will unbridled license, “pluck justice by the nose” with impunity; and then, what for ages patriots have suffered to support, will die under the fangs of despotism.*

[To be continued.]

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