

Parliament must speak out; or all will betray their office. And, more, the exigency is so instant and so urgent, that it behoves even private individuals to come forward, if any, from peculiar opportunity or observation, be enabled to suggest what may appear to deserve consideration; every good subject seems called upon, by his duty to the crown and the empire, to declare what advice he can offer, or what opinion he has formed, that may profit his country, or serve the present occasion.

A deep sense of this obligation, no less than an attachment to such studies, and a peculiar interest in their present application, have been among the principal motives for the present publication. Safer, undoubtedly, and far less anxious and laborious would be the task, to expect some measure of her Majesty's Government, and reserve oneself for either alleging the errors, or accusing the absence, of any such bill. That, however, is an office which persons will never be wanting to undertake. But a worthier effort, and one more suited to the emergency of the times, is at once to assume the responsibility of humbly tendering counsel upon a subject, which, had adequate counsel been already possessed, or heretofore adopted, would never have been brought to so momentous a crisis. The attempt, whatever its character or success, may at least serve to attract attention, aid deliberation, and hasten a solution of the