

A very laudable intention truly! a man's house is broken open and his papers are carried away for the purpose of bringing him to punishment. Some of these papers are supposed to afford materials for a prosecution; others may contain the ground of defence. By producing the former, the accusation is established; by withholding the latter, conviction is ensured. The fate of Algernon Sydney, the "daring and dangerous offender" of his day, is well known. They seized his papers "manifestly with an intention of bringing him to punishment," and in those papers found the means of accomplishing their ends. He was executed for high treason, and the overt act for which he died on the scaffold, was that precious manuscript found in his closet, which never had been published and was not completed, the handwriting of which was not proved, a fiftieth part of it not produced, nor even a tenth part of that allowed to be read at the trial.

"So, what was the pretence of this late violation of rights so sacred in their nature; this invasion of property in a critical point, which comprehends every valuable interest a man can have? A person is suspected of being the author of a printed paper, which, in the judgment of the Secretaries of State, was a seditious libel, and the proof of the fact is to be sifted out of his *own* papers: for your Lordships have said in your letter which is published, that *such of the papers seized as tend to make out the guilt of the owner, are to be kept and used for that purpose.*"

"If there is a circumstance that can aggravate the injury, which is in itself too great almost to be conceived, it is this use that is to be made of the papers; and nothing can so much add to the