

and prostitute, to the Purposes of Faction, the boasted Liberty of the Press? What the constitutional Liberty of the Press *is*, it may be difficult to say with Precision: Perhaps, like the Privilege of the Peerage, it is more secure by not being strictly and minutely defined: And every one who wishes well to this Liberty, (as I very cordially do) should wish also that the Blasphemy and Licentiousness of the present Age, the wanton Abuse of Religion and Government, may not render it necessary for the Legislature to *determine* its Boundaries by a clear and positive Law.

— *in Vitium Libertas excidat, et Vim Dignam Lege regi.*

But I think it is easy to say what *is not* the constitutional Liberty of the Press. It is *not* then the Overflowing of personal Calumny and Invektive; It is *not* the Sowing of Sedition in the Hearts of the People, and the seducing of their Affections from their native Sovereign; It is *not* the torturing of Texts of Scripture to the most profane Senses, in equal Defiance of the Laws of God and Man. Whoever commits these enormous Offences against his Country, and yet pretends to shelter himself under the Privilege of the Press, appears to me to be acting the Part of another *Clodius*, who first destroyed the House of *Cicero*, and afterwards had the Assurance to consecrate the whole