

That many valuable works of wit and humour prove abortive, or die in embryo, for want of this liberty, in one instance, and from dread of ecclesiastic tyranny in the other, cannot be questioned. It may ('tis true) be attended with some disadvantages, but where throughout the boundaries of nature, is absolute *undulterated* good? Every poison has its antidote, and, it is to be feared, most human advantages their attendant inconveniences. Gold has its alloy—licentiousness is the alloy of liberty; and as it gives currency to the one, it may lend a zest to the other—and not without its use—as the human passions are ordained by the omniscient author of Being to be the test of virtue, marking out our moral boundaries by the variety of light and shade, and giving to virtue both its struggles and its triumphs.

The advantages arising from the liberty of the press, like a self-evident proposition, stand in no need of proof or illustration; they are instantaneously apparent, from the many useful and entertaining productions, which, in our island, solely owe their birth to it. It
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