

ment on what kind of Government may be esteemed the most free, we may ask, whether it is only at this instant that this great, this vital principle has started forth into being, and whether it has only lain dormant for the uninterrupted space of a number of years? Have they not quietly submitted to our Government, and thought it perfect Freedom, till those troubled Spirits, those Catilines of the Age, who exist but in national troubles and distress, persuaded them that untried forms were better, and told them, that under the present Government of England they were no better than slaves? There is frequently in words something that degrades us for a moment in our own opinions, and leaves us not at liberty to examine on what basis such declarations are founded. The heat of parties was excited by degrees, and men, who to that moment had esteemed themselves perfectly free, began to think there was some reason in what was so frequently asserted, that the Freedom they felt was a limited permission, not a right, and which they were liable to be deprived of every moment. Animated with Zeal on one hand, and Suspicion on the other, they resolved to hazard something which might bring this opinion to the test. In every Country whatever, there are a thousand people who, having neither talents nor occupation, are ready, at the call of some desperate Innovator, to be the humble instruments of his Ambition. It is observable, that in the first commotions in America, not one
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