

and are charged with the Affairs of Government. Successful Obloquy, in the latter Instance, is of a worse Complexion; because it spreads a fatal Poison far and wide, and makes even the Virtues of our superiours dangerous to themselves, and useless to their Country. I wish the Gentlemen who indulge and cherish a Fault of this Malignity, would consider both its Guilt and its Aggravations.

It is one of the clearest and most indisputable Principles of Liberty, that the *Governed* have a Right to interpose their Opinion upon every Subject of national Importance; Yet the more important the Subject is, the greater ought to be the Decency and Candour with which it is debated. A sober Appeal to the Reason of the People will always be attended to with Pleasure, and often with Conviction: But an inflammatory Address to their Weaknesses, or their Prejudices, is nothing better than a *Libel* upon Freedom itself. It turns into Poison the very Food which was intended for our Nourishment, and shakes our whole political Sytem under the Pretence of preserving it: And I could almost venture to ask my Countrymen in their cooler and more dispassionate Moments, if the popular Suspicion and Jealousy which brake out with so much Fury on the first Report of the negotiating of the Preliminaries, did not offer Violence to the acknowledged Prerogative of the Crown, affront the Virtues of the Prince who wears it,

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