

in view, and of impressing it, with the will-
ed for effect, on the minds of his audience.

I would wish such to understand, who
have been misled by erroneous representa-
tion, that the very circumstance which is
urged in diminution of Mr. Fox's excellence,
is equally a proof of his skill and of his ge-
nius. His sentences, if minutely examined,
are so exquisite, and so profound, that they
seem rather the result of philosophical in-
vestigation, than borrowed from the schools
of rhetoric. They are sometimes confined
to disquisitions of a personal nature; at
others, they involve the history of past,
or the occurrences of modern times; occasion-
ally, they comprehend subjects of an univer-
sal nature. The better to excite and fix
the attention, he disposes them in various
points of view. With infinite skill he ac-
commodates his speeches to the different
tastes and prejudices of different hearers:
he introduces so much novelty, calls to his
aid such strong and unexpected arguments,
and applies them so admirably to the occa-
sion, that he fascinates even those who are
prejudiced against him, or hurries them un-
resisting along with him.

I have before remarked, that the abilities
of Mr. Fox are adequate to every possible
occurrence. But whenever a subject pre-
sents itself, which claims the full exertion
of his talents, he stands forth with a kind
of luminous activity, and shows how vast
are the powers of eloquence. He then
seems like a torrent hurrying the mountain
rocks before it, and disdaining all restraints
of bridges or of banks. This force and ce-
lerity in speaking, Eupolis formerly admir-
ed in Pericles; and the most violent oppo-
nents of Mr. Fox hear, confess, and are
astonished.

When I contemplate the unworthy for-
tune which has attended this most exalted
character, I am indignant from the memo-
ry of the past, and full of grief from the ex-
pectation of the future. He himself, how-
ever, may proudly claim the public grati-
tude; for in the midst of calamity, which
menaces the security of the most deserving
citizens, he consoles himself with the con-
sciousness of integrity, with the fair and
unclouding hope, that posterity will render
justice to his fame.

ON AMBITION.

THE best of all good things, says Mr.
Retz, is repose. All the pleasures which
nature can bestow, become insipid to him
who is agitated by ambition, who is tor-
mented by vanity, or torn by envy. You
shall see a man on whom fortune has been
prodigal of her choicest favours, to whom
nature has given a sound and vigorous body;
who is beloved by his wife and his children,
whom he cherishes; whose presence spreads
pleasure and joy in his family, where he is
only an apparition; who, if he lived on his
own domains, would enjoy the pleasure of
doing good to a set of numerous vassals, but
he there makes his appearance only three or
four times in a year; and is then scarcely
seen till he is gone again. This man does
not feel the value of health; he does not
enjoy his fortune. His life which might
flow on in that kind of animated leisure,
which results from the exercise of acts of
benevolence, is consumed in agitation and
in fear. Independent by his riches, he de-
votes himself to servitude, and is torment-
ed by chagrin. His sleep, which ought to
be pleasing, is troubled by envy and disqui-
etude. He writes, he cringes, he solicits,
he tears himself from pleasures, and gives
himself up to occupations that are not suit-
ed to his taste; he in a measure refuses to
live forty years of his life, in order that he
may obtain employment, dignities, marks
of distinction, which, when he obtains
them, he cannot enjoy.

RUTLAND (Ver.) Nov. 10.

On Thursday last, water was publicly
raised in this town to the perpendicular
height of 38 feet, by means of a machine
newly invented by Mr. Barnabas Langdon.
Tubes were unfortunately wanting to make
an experiment to a greater height. It is
not known that any machine heretofore
constructed has ever raised water, by the
pressure of the atmosphere, to a greater
height than thirty four feet.—We under-
stand that Mr. Langdon has applied for a
patent, for securing to him the benefit of so
useful an invention. The small compass
of the machinery, the facility of its opera-
tion, and height to which it might raise
water, seem strongly to recommend it for
drawing water, in tubes under ground, for
family use.

AN ADDRESS ON THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS, Delivered some years ago by MR. ERSKINE.

THE peculiar excellence of the English
constitution is, that it creates an equal rule
of action for the whole nation, and an im-
partial administration of justice under it.
From these principles result that happy, un-
suspecting, and unsuspected freedom which
for ages has distinguished society in En-
gland.

To maintain this tranquility of human
life, the power of accusation was not given
to uninjured individuals, much less to vol-
untary, unauthorised associations, acting
without responsibility; but was conferred
upon the supreme executive magistrate; and
even that trust, guarded by the personal re-
sponsibility of those officers by which the
crown exercises its authority, and in the
higher order of crimes, guarded again by
the office of the grand jury.

These admirable provisions appear to be
founded in a deep acquaintance with the
principles of society, & to be attended with
the most important benefits to the public;
because, tempered again with the trial by
the country, they enable the English consti-
tution to ratify the existence of a strong,
hereditary, executive government, consist-
ently with the security of popular freedom.

By this arrangement of the royal prerogative
of accusation, the crown becomes an
object of wholesome, but not dangerous
jealousy; which, while it prevents it from
overstepping its limits, endears the people
to one another from a necessity of union a-
mongst themselves for the preservation of
their privileges.

Under this system, state accusations in
modern times have not often been rash or
malevolent, and the criminal has been sup-
ported by the fraternal tribunal of his coun-
try.

But, under the circumstances which as-
semble us together, all these provisions ap-
pear to be endangered.

A sudden alarm has been spread through
the kingdom, by the ministers of the crown,
of imminent danger to the constitution,
and to all order and government.

The existence or extent of these evils since
they have been sanctioned though not as-
certained, by the authority of parliament,
we have not assembled to debate. But we
may, without sedition, congratulate our
fellow-subjects, that, without the punish-
ment of a single individual for an overt act
of treason, the people have recovered all that
tranquility and respect for the laws which
they appeared to us to have equally possess-
ed at the time when the alarm burst forth.

That large classes of the community
should nevertheless give faith to the asser-
tions and acts of a responsible government,
is not to be wondered at. When the En-
glish constitution is represented to be in dan-
ger, we rejoice in the enthusiasm of English-
men to support it. When that danger is
further represented to have been caused or
increased by the circulation of treasonable
and seditious writings, we acknowledge
that it is the duty of every good citizen to
discountenance them.

We assemble only from a principle of
public duty, to enter our protest against the
justice of those associations, which are
spreading fast over England, for the avowed
object of suppressing and prosecuting writ-
ings, more especially when accompanied
with rewards to informers; and when these
rewards are extended, to question and to pu-
nish opinions delivered even in the private
intercourses of domestic life.

We refrained, at our former meeting,
from pronouncing these proceedings to be
illegal and punishable, but we consider them
to be doubtful in law, and unconstitutional.

In the first place, we object to them as
wholly unnecessary; and there ought to be
a visible necessity or expediency to vindicate
every innovation in administering the laws.

If the ordinary sittings of the courts are
found at any time to be insufficient, the
king may appoint special commissioners for
the trial of offenders.

If the revenue, devoted to the ordinary
purposes of justice, should be found insuf-
ficient for an unusual expenditure, parlia-
ment is ever at hand to supply the means.

If information, also, become necessary,
the crown may at any time, by its authori-
ty, set even informers in motion.

But under this awful process, public
freedom would still be secured, while the
public safety was maintained. The crown
acting by its officers, would continue to be
responsible for the exercise of its authority,
and the community would be found and pure
for the administration of justice.

But when, without any necessity, bodies
of men voluntarily intrude themselves into
a sort of partnership with the executive
power; and when the people may be said

to be in a manner represented by them—
where is the accused to find justice among
his peers, when arraigned? Where is the
boasted trial by the country, if the country
is thus to become informer and accuser?—
Where is the cautious distrust of accusation
if the grand jury themselves have informed
against the object of it, brought in the very
bill which they are to find, and subscribed
for the prosecution of it? Where, in the
end, is the mild, complacent countenance
of the jury for trial, if the panel is to
come reeking from listening to harangues
concerning the absolute necessity of exting-
uishing the very crimes and the criminals
which they are to decide upon in judgment.

But, if these proceedings must thus evi-
dently taint the administration of justice,
even in the superior courts, what must be
the condition of the courts of quarter ses-
sions, whose jurisdictions over these offences
are co-ordinate—where the judges are the
very gentlemen who lead those associations,
and where the jurors are either their ten-
ants or dependents?

By these observations, we mean no disre-
spect to the magistracies of our country.
But the best men may inadvertently place
themselves in situations incompatible with
their duties.

The incongruities arising from this rage
of popular accusation, are not our original
observations. We are led to them by the
analogies of the law itself.

On this principle, criminals impeached,
not by the people heated with a sense of in-
dividual danger, but by the House of Com-
mons representing them, are tried, from
the necessity of the case by the Lords, and
not by the country. This anomaly of jus-
tice arose from the wisdom of our ancestors.
They thought that, when the complaint
proceeded from the popular branch of the
government, it was more substantial justice
to the meanest man in England to send him
for trial before the Lords, than to trust him
to a jury of his equals.

These principles apply, by the closest an-
alogy, to the proceedings which we assem-
ble to disapprove. For the offence must be
tried in the country, and frequently in the
very town where it is charged to be com-
mitted; and thus the accused must not only
stand before a court infected by a general
prejudice, but, in a manner, disqualified.

These objections to popular associations,
apply with double force when directed a-
gainst the press, than against any other
object.

Associations to prosecute offences against
the game laws, or frauds against tradesmen,
distinctly describe their objects, and have
no immediate tendency to deter from the
exercise of rights which are legal, and in
which the public have a deep and important
interest.

These associations, besides, cannot be so
universal as to disqualify the country at
large, by prejudice or interest, from the
office of trial. They are botomed besides
upon crimes, the perpetration of which is
injurious to individuals as such, and which
each individual, in his own personal right,
might legally prosecute. Whereas we as-
semble to object to the popular prosecution
of those public offences which the crown,
if they exist, is bound in duty to prosecute
by the attorney general.

The press, therefore, is a very different
consideration; for if the nation is to be
combined to suppress writings, by the
general denomination—seditious; and if
these combinations are to extend to what-
ever does not happen to fall in with their
private judgments—no man will venture
either to write or to speak upon the topics of
government or its administration—a free-
dom which has ever been acknowledged to
be the principal safeguard of that consti-
tution which a *Free Press* by its circulation
gradually brought to maturity.

We will therefore maintain and assert,
by all legal means, this sacred and essential
privilege, the parent and guardian of every
other. We will maintain and assert the
right of instructing our fellow-subjects by
every sincere and conscientious communi-
cation which may promote the public happi-
ness; and if, in the legal and peaceable as-
sertion of freedom, as our fathers before
us have suffered; we will, like our fa-
thers, also persevere until we prevail.

Let us, however, recollect, that the law,
as it stands is amply sufficient for the pro-
tection of the press, if the country will be
but true to itself. The extent of the ge-
nuine liberty of the press on general sub-
jects, and the boundaries which separate it
from licentiousness, the English law has
wisely not attempted to define; it is the of-
fice of the jury alone to ascertain them.
This system appears to us amply to secure
the government, while it equally protects
the subject.

It is justly observed by the celebrated
Judge Foster, that words are transitory and
fleeting, easily forgotten, and subject to

mistaken interpretations; all is to rest on
the oaths of hired informers. Is this in the
end of the 18th century, to be the condi-
tion of our country? Are these to be our
chains? And are we to sit down to forge
them again for ourselves, and to fasten them
on one another?

Our last objection to popular accusation,
is the love we bear to the government of
England, and our wish that its functions
may be perpetual; it being our opinion, as
expressed in our seventh resolution, at our
former meeting—

“That a system of jealousy and arbitrary
coercion of the people has been at all
times dangerous to the stability of the
English government.”

For the truth of which we appeal to hu-
man nature in general, to the characteris-
tic of Englishmen in particular, and to the
history of the country.

In the career of such a system of combi-
nation, we foresee nothing but oppression;
and when its force is extinguished, nothing
but discontent, disobedience, and misrule.

When we consider the great proportion
of the community, that has already hastily
sanctioned the proceedings which we dissent
from, the great authority that countenances
them, the powerful influence which sup-
ports them, and the mighty revenue raised
upon the people, which through various
channels reward many of those who lead
the rest;—we feel the difficulties which
this Address has to encounter; and, judg-
ing of man from his nature, we expect no
immediate success from our interposition.
But we believe that the season of reflection
is not far distant, when this humble effort
for the public will be remembered, and its
author vindicated by the people of Great
Britain.

PITTSBURG, Nov. 21.

By the report of the Commanding Of-
ficer at Fort Massac, (near the mouth of the
Ohio) there passed that place from the 1st
of June to the 31st of Aug. 1806, inclu-
sive, EIGHTY NINES BOATS of vari-
ous descriptions, from Kentucky, Ten-
nessee, the North Western territory, & the
Western of Virginia and Pennsylvania,
destined for the Natches, New-Orleans,
and other ports on the Mississippi. The
cargoes of these boats consisted of the fol-
lowing particulars:

2,675 barrels flour, 27 barrels gin, 62
barrels nails, 182 coils cordage, 2 sugar
rollers, 3 hogheads oil, 30 bales blankets,
11 saddles and bridles, 4 tons logwood, 1
barrel wine, 4 hogheads molasses, 10 bar-
rels taffia, 15 pair boot legs, 205 bushels
cords, 1,011 yards country linen, 4,200
weight bar iron, 11,200 weight castings,
4 barrels brandy, 9 barrels peach brandy,
496 barrels whiskey, 83 barrels beer, 7
barrels sugar, 6 barrels indian meal, 121
packs Peltry, 7 barrels coffee, 300 pounds
loaf sugar, 1000 bushels lime, 18 rifle guns,
20 boxes shot, 18,350 pounds bacon, 9
barrels tar, 28;105 weight lead, 22 faggots
nail rods, 900 pounds gun powder, 153
hogheads tobacco, 8 kegs tobacco, 1 chest
carpenters tools, 3 boxes candles, 1 box
rals, 406 barrels salt, 4 waggons, 3 grind
stones, 3 mill stones, 11,586 pounds cot-
ton, 34 head black cattle, 7 head sheep,
20 horses, 7,600 dollars in dry goods, 75
women and children, (white and black),
401 white men, 75 black men.

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3d, 1800.

Information is received from all the towns
in Rhode Island but 6, from which it ap-
pears that the Federal ticket of Electors
has a majority of 312 votes

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE

SINKING FUND,

Respectfully report to Congress as follows.

That the measures which have been au-
thorized by the Board, subsequent to their
report of the 11th of December, 1799, so
far as the same have been completed, are