

That *Might overcomes Right*, or which is the same Thing, that *Might* preserves and defends Men from Punishment, is a Proverb established and confirmed by Time and Experience, the surest Discoverers of Truth and Certainty. It is this therefore which makes the Liberty of the Press in a limited Monarchy and in all its Colonies and Plantations proper, convenient, and necessary, or indeed it is rather incorporated and interwoven with our very Constitution; for if such an overgrown Criminal, or an impudent Monster in Iniquity, cannot immediately be come at by ordinary Justice, let him yet receive the Lash of Satire, let the glaring Truths of his ill Administration, if possible, awaken his Conscience, and if he has no conscience, rouse his Fear by showing him his Deserts, sting him with the dread of Punishment, cover him with Shame, and render his Actions odious to all honest Minds. These Methods may in Time, and by watching and exposing his Actions, make him at least more cautious, and perhaps at last bring down the great haughty and secure Criminal within the Reach and Grasp of ordinary Justice. This Advantage therefore of exposing the exorbitant Crimes of wicked Ministers under a limited Monarchy makes the Liberty of the Press not only consistent with, but a necessary part of, the Constitution itself.

It is indeed urged that the Liberty of the Press ought to be restrained because not only the Actions of evil Ministers may be exposed, but the Character of good ones traduced. Admit it in the strongest Light that Calumny and Lies would prevail and blast the Character of a great and good Minister; yet that is a less Evil than the Advantages we reap from the Liberty of the Press, as it is a Curb, a Bridle, a Terror, a Shame, and Restraint to evil Ministers; and it may be the only Punishment, especially for a Time. But when did Calumnies and Lies ever destroy the Character of one good Minister? Their benign Influences are known, tasted, and felt by Everybody: Or if their Characters have been clouded for a time, yet they have generally shined forth in greater Luster: Truth will always prevail over Falsehood.

The Facts exposed are not to be believed because said or published; but it draws People's attention, directs their view, and fixes the Eye in a proper Position that everyone may judge for himself whether those Facts are true or not. People will recollect, enquire and search, before they condemn; and therefore very few good Ministers can be hurt by Falsehood, but many wicked ones by seasonable Truth: But however the Mischief that a few may possibly, but improbably, suffer by the Freedom of the Press is not to be put in Competition with the Danger which the KING and the People may suffer by a shameful, cowardly Silence under the Tyranny of an insolent, rapacious, infamous Minister.

Inconveniences are rather to be endured than that we should suffer an entire and total Destruction. Who would not lose a Leg to save his Neck? And who would not endanger his Hand to guard his Heart? The loss of Liberty in general would soon follow the Suppression of the Liberty of the Press; for as it is an essential Branch of Liberty, so perhaps it is the best Preservation of the whole. Even a Restraint of the Press would have a fatal influence. No Nation ancient or modern ever lost the Liberty of freely Speaking, Writing, or Publishing their Sentiments but forthwith lost their Liberty in general and became Slaves. LIBERTY and SLAVERY! how amiable is one! how odious and abominable the other! Liberty is universal Redemption, Joy, and Happiness; but Servitude is absolute Reprobation and everlasting Perdition in Politics.

All the venal Supporters of wicked Ministers are aware of the great use of the Liberty of the Press in a limited free Monarchy: They know how vain it would be to attack it openly, and therefore endeavor to puzzle the case with words, inconsistencies, and nonsense; but if the Opinion of the most numerous, unprejudiced and impartial Part of Mankind is an argument of Truth, the Liberty of the Press has that as well as Reason on its Side. I believe every honest Briton of whatever Denomination, who loves his country, if left to his own free and un-

