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Newport Herald, 29 May 1788 (excerpts)

*Extract from Rules by which a GREAT REPUBLIC may be reduced to a SMALL ONE;—By the
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER.
RULE X.*

When you have succeeded in destroying every idea of the security of property, by establishing a discharge of all just debts, on payment of one sixth or one eighth part of the real value—it is possible, that the citizens who have suffered, finding that they have nothing which they can call their own, may yet comfort themselves by saying, “Though our property is stript from us by injustice, yet we have something left, viz. Constitutional Liberty both of person and conscience ; the inestimable privileges, Freedom of Speech, Liberty of the Press, the Right of Habeus Corpus and a trial by a Jury of our neighbours, are too sacred ever to be invaded:”—In order therefore to annihilate this remaining consolation, talk loudly of the “scurrility” of the press;—of the licentiousness of a “certain class of men ;”—attribute the decay of credit,—the loss of justice, and the embarrassments of government to these causes—then erect a new court of inquisition vested with all powers to apprehend, recognize, or imprison the subject;—ordain seizures of ships and other property, and execute judgment without trial by Jury or a due course of Law, under pretext of public good: let the first example be made of a stranger (as you can find enough of them that dare speak their sentiments) his business may prevent his submitting himself to be apprehended, if so the boasted liberty of the subject will be lost, in the establishment of this precedent;—or if he should be taken, his want of friends mark him out as a proper victim, to be found guilty and hanged in terrorem. At the same time declare “that you have, and of right ought to have, full power and authority, by your mere sovereign will and pleasure, to control the persons and consciences of your subjects, in all cases whatsoever;”—This will include temporal with spiritual, and taken together, must operate wonderfully in checking the freedom of speech, and the independency of the press, by convincing them, that they are under a power something like that spoken of in the scriptures, which cannot only kill their bodies, but damn their souls to all eternity, even by compelling them to bow down to devils.

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