

Second Report from  
Committee  
of Secrecy.

"on his Accession to the Throne of *Great Britain*;  
"to wit: The Archbishop or Bishop shall say—"Will  
"you solemnly promise and swear to govern the  
"People of this Kingdom of *England*, and the  
"Dominions thereto belonging, according to the  
"Statutes in Parliament agreed on, and the Laws  
"and Customs of the same."

"The King or Queen shall say, "I solemnly  
"promise so to do." Archbishop or Bishop—"Will  
"you to your Power cause Law and Justice in  
"Mercy to be executed in all your Judgments?"  
"ANS. "I will."

"After this, the King or Queen, laying his or  
"her Hand on the Holy Gospel, shall say—"The  
"Things which I have before promised, I will per-  
"form and keep; So help me God."—and then shall  
"kiss the Book.

"Resolved, That his present Majesty King  
"George the Third, on his Accession to the Throne  
"of these Realms, did solemnly take the said  
"Oath.

"Resolved, That the Constitutional Rights of  
"the People have been violated, and that it is the  
"Duty of the People, in the present alarming Crisis  
"to assemble and enquire into the Innovations or  
"Infringements which have been made upon the  
"Rights of the People, and how far the Declara-  
"tions of the Constitution, as they were settled at  
"the aforesaid Revolution, remain in Force, and  
"which of them have been violated, and by whom,  
"and also whether such Innovations, Infringements,  
"and Violations, have been committed from the  
"Negligence or Corruption of those who have  
"been intrusted with the Government of the  
"State.

"Resolved, That this Society do invite the People  
"to meet in their respective Neighbourhoods, to  
"elect One or more Person or Persons as Delegates  
"to meet in a Convention, to be held on the  
"Day of next, at such Place as shall be  
"appointed by the Secret Committee of this Society;  
"and that the Delegates so elected do forthwith  
"transmit to the Secretary of this Society, N<sup>o</sup> 9,  
"Piccadilly, London, the Vouchers of their several  
"Elections, in order that the Place of Meeting may  
"be duly notified to them.

"Resolved, That is the Right and the bounden  
"Duty of the People to punish all Traitors  
"against the Nation, and that the following Words  
"are now not a Part of the Oath of Allegiance; to  
"wit, "I declare that it is not lawful, upon any  
"Pretence whatever, to take Arms against the  
"King."

Before the Committee quit this Part of the Subject, they think it not immaterial to take some Notice of the different Means used to disseminate such Principles as have been stated through the lower Orders of Society, and to familiarize their Minds, by every possible Artifice, to such Ideas as might prepare them to be the Instruments of the most dangerous and desperate Designs. Some of these Means may at First Sight be considered as too trivial to be mentioned on an Occasion of this Importance; but they appear to your Committee in a very different Light, when they recollect that an essential Part of such a Plan as has been in Agitation was to seduce and corrupt the thoughtless and uninformed, and to make use of the Channels of Communication best adapted to this Purpose. The Appearance of Insignificance and Levity, which belongs at First Sight to this Part of the System, is, in Truth, only an additional Proof of the Art and Industry with which it has been pursued. The Measures employed for this Purpose appear to have been deliberately prepared, and every Contrivance used to mix them (in the Shape most likely to capti-

vate Attention) with the ordinary Occupations or Amusements of those on whom they were intended to operate. Accordingly Lectures have been delivered on Political Subjects, calculated from their very Extravagance to catch the Attention of the Audience, and in the Course of them every Topic has been employed that could inflame their Minds, alienate them from the Laws and Constitution of their Country, and habituate them to Principles of Sedition and Rebellion. The most violent Publications to the same Effect have been secretly, but generally, circulated in Hand Bills, both in the Metropolis and in the remote Parts of the Country. Every Point that could excite Discontent, according to the Pursuits, Interests, or Prejudices of different Classes, has been successively dwelt on, and always in such a Manner as to connect it with the leading Design. The Attempt to accomplish this End has appeared in the Shape even of Play Bills and Songs; Seditious Toasts; and a studied Selection of the Tunes which have been most in use in *France* since the Revolution, have been applied to the same Purpose, of endeavouring to render deliberate Incitements to every Species of Treason familiar to the Minds of the People.

HAVING thus stated the Points which the Committee have thought it material separately to lay before the House, they will now proceed to those Particulars which will give a full and distinct View of the Rise, Progress and Nature of the general Design with which the Facts already stated are essentially connected; for this Purpose your Committee will state in their Report the Points which appear most worthy of Attention, inserting in the Appendix a more particular Statement of the several Proceedings to which they refer. In doing this it will be necessary to advert to Transactions, some of which took place at an early Period, and have already attracted Observation; but which it is nevertheless material to insert in the Order in which they took place, because they are highly important in explaining more recent Proceedings, and giving a connected View of the whole System.

The Period from which it appears to your Committee material to trace in this View the Proceedings of the Society for Constitutional Information, is that of the Publication of the Pamphlet so well known under the Title of "Rights of Man, by Thomas Paine."

Your Committee have already referred, in their former Report, to the Approbation given by the Society to this Work; and this is One of the Points on which they should not think it necessary now to dwell, if they did not feel it essential to the Object before stated, of developing the Rise and Progress of the System which they are tracing, to call the Attention of the House to the leading Features of a Work thus approved and recommended, in order to compare it with subsequent Transactions of which it may be considered as the Foundation.

In this Pamphlet, published in the Year 1791, the National Assembly of *France* was represented as occupied in establishing a Constitution founded on the Rights of Man, and the Authority of the People, the only Authority on which [it was stated] Government had a Right to exist in any Country; Monarchy and Hereditary Succession were treated as Absurdities; the Revolution of 1688, and the Succession of the House of Hanover, were also made the Subject of Ridicule; and a Distinction was drawn between Two Modes of Government, which were stated to prevail in the World: First, Government by Election and Representation; and, Secondly, Government by Hereditary Succession. The former generally known by the Name of Republic, the latter by that of Monarchy and Aristocracy. On the 23d March 1791, the Society resolved, "That