

LAW REPORT.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, WESTMINSTER, JUNE 24. SITTINGS BEFORE LORD KEYTON AND A SPECIAL JURY. THE KING v. WILLIAMS FOR PUBLISHING PAINE'S AGE OF REASON.

Mr. ERSKINE'S speech on the part of the Prosecution.

Gentlemen of the Jury,

The charge of blasphemy, which is put upon the record against the Printer of this publication is not an accusation of the servants of the Crown, but comes before you sanctioned by the Oaths of a Grand Jury of the Country. It stood for trial upon a former day; but it happening, as it frequently does, without any imputation upon the Gentlemen named in the panel, that a sufficient number did not appear to constitute a full Special Jury, I thought it my duty to withdraw the cause from trial, till I could have the opportunity which is now open to me of addressing myself to you, who were originally appointed to try it. I pursued this course, however, from no jealousy of the Common Juries appointed by the laws for the ordinary service of the Court, since my whole life has been one continued experience of their virtues; but because I thought it of great importance, that those who were to decide upon a cause so very momentous to the Public, should have the highest possible qualifications for the decision. That they should not only be men capable from their educations of forming an enlightened judgment, but that their situations should be such as to bring them within the full view of their enlightened Country, to which in character and estimation, they were in their own turns to be responsible.

Not having the honour, Gentlemen, to be sworn for the King as one of his Counsel, it has fallen much oftener to my lot to defend indictments for libels, than to assist in the prosecution of them. But I feel no embarrassment from that recollection; since I shall not be found to day to express a sentiment, or to utter an expression inconsistent with those invaluable principles for which I have uniformly contended in the defence of others. Nothing that I have ever said, either professionally or personally for the Liberty of the Press, do I mean to day, to contradict or counteract. On the contrary, I desire to preface the very short discourse I have to make to you with reminding you, that it is your most solemn duty to take care that it suffers no injury in your hands. A free and unlicensed press (in the just and legal sense of the expression) has led to all the blessings both of Religion and Government, which Great Britain or any part of the world at this moment enjoys, and is calculated still farther to advance mankind to higher degrees of civilization and happiness. But this freedom, like every other, must be limited to be enjoyed, and like every human advantage, may be defeated by its abuse.

Gentlemen! the Defendant stands indicted for having published this book, which I have only read from the obligations of professional duty, and which I rose from the reading of with astonishment and disgust. Standing here with all the privileges belonging to the highest Counsel for the Crown, I shall be entitled to reply to any defence that shall be made for the publication. I shall wait with patience till I hear it. Indeed, if I were to anticipate the defence which I hear and read of, it would be defaming by anticipation the learned Counsel who is to make it. For if I am to collect it, even from a formal notice given to the prosecutors in the course of the proceedings, I have to expect, that instead of a defence conducted according to the rules and principles of English law and justice, the foundation of all our laws, and the sanctions of all our justice, are to be struck at and insulted. What is the force of that jurisdiction which enables the Court to sit in judgment? What but the Oath which his Lordship, as well as yourselves, have sworn upon the Gospel to fulfil. Yet in the King's Court, where his Majesty is himself also sworn to administer the justice of England—in the King's Court—who receives his high authority under a solemn Oath to maintain the Christian Religion, as it is promulgated by God in the Holy Scriptures, I am nevertheless called upon as Counsel for the prosecution to produce a certain book described in the indictment to be the Holy Bible. No man deserves to be upon the Rolls of the Court, who dares, as an Attorney, to put his name to such a notice. It is an insult to the authority and dignity of the Court of which he is an officer; since it seems to call in question the very foundations of its jurisdiction. If this is to be the spirit and temper of the defence; if, as I collect from that array of books which are spread upon the benches behind me, this publication is to be vindicated by an attack of all the truths which the Christian Religion promulgates to mankind, let it be remembered that such an argument was neither suggested nor justified by any thing said by me on the part of the prosecution. In this stage of the proceedings, I shall call for reverence to the sacred Scriptures, not from their merits, unbounded as they are, but from their authority in a Christian Country—not from the obligations of conscience, but from the rules of law. For my own part, Gentlemen, I have been ever deeply devoted to the truths of Christianity, and my firm belief in the Holy Gospel is by no means owing to the prejudices of education, (though I was religiously educated by the best of parents) but arises from the fullest and most continued reflections of my riper years and understanding. It forms at this moment the great consolation of a life, which, as a shadow, must pass away; and without it, indeed, I should consider my long course of health and prosperity (perhaps long and too uninterrupted to be good for any man) only as the dust which the wind scatters, and rather as a snare than as a blessing. Much, however, as I wish to support the authority of Scripture from a rational consideration of it, I shall repress that subject for the present. But if the defence shall be as I have suspected, to bring them at all into argument or question, I shall then fulfil a duty which I owe not only to the Court, as Counsel for the Prosecution, but to the Public, to state what I feel and know concerning the evidences of that Religion which is reviled without being examined, and denied without being understood.

I am well aware that by the communications of a free press, all the errors of mankind, from age to age have been dissipated and dispelled, and

I recollect that the world, under the banners of reformed Christianity, has struggled through persecution to the noble eminence on which it stands at this moment, shedding the blessings of humanity and science upon the nations of the earth. It may be asked, by what means the Reformation would have been effected, if the books of the Reformers had been suppressed, and the errors of condemned and exploded superstitions had been supported as unquestionable by the State, founded upon those very superstitions formerly, as it is at present upon the doctrines of the Established Church? Or how, upon such principles, any reformation, civil or religious, can in future be effected. The solution is easy:—Let us examine what are the genuine principles of the liberty of the press, as they regard writings upon general subjects, unconnected with the personal reputations of private men, which are wholly foreign to the present inquiry? They are full of simplicity, and are brought as near perfection, by the Law of England, as perhaps, is consistent with any of the frail institutions of mankind.

Although every community must establish supreme authorities, founded upon fixed principles, and must give high powers to Magistrates to administer laws for the preservation of the Government itself, and for the security of those who are to be protected by it; yet, as infallibility and perfection belong neither to human establishments nor to human individuals, it ought to be the policy of all free establishments, as it is most peculiarly the principle of our own Constitution, to permit the most unbounded freedom of discussion, even by detecting errors in the Constitution or Administration of the very Government itself, so as that decorum is observed, which every state must exact from its subjects, and which imposes no restraint upon any intellectual composition, fairly, honestly, and decently addressed to the consciences and understandings of men. Upon this principle, I have an unquestionable right, (a right which the best subjects have exercised) to examine the principles and structure of the Constitution, and by fair, manly reasoning, to question the practice of its administrators. I have a right to consider and to point out errors in the one or in the other; and not merely to reason upon their existence, but to consider the means of their reformation. By such free, well-intentioned, modest, and dignified communication of sentiments and opinions, all nations have been gradually improved, and milder laws and purer religions have been established. The same principles, which vindicate civil contentions honestly directed, extend their protection to the sharpest controversies on religious faiths. This rational and legal course of improvement, was recognized and ratified by Lord Keiyou, as the Law of England, in a late trial at Guildhall, when he looked back with gratitude to the labours of the Reformers, as the fountains of our religious emancipation, and of the civil blessings that followed in their train. The English Constitution, indeed, does not stop short in the toleration of religious opinions, but liberally extends it to practice. It permits every man, even publicly, to worship God according to his own conscience, though in marked dissent from the national establishment, so as he professes the general faith, which is the sanction of all our moral duties, and the only pledge of our submission to the system which constitutes a State. Is not this system of freedom of controversy, and freedom of worship, sufficient for all the purposes of human happiness and improvement? And can it be necessary for either, that the Law should hold out indemnity to those who wholly abjure and revile the Government of their Country, or the Religion on which it rests for its foundation? I expect to hear, in answer to what I am now saying, much that will offend me. My learned Friend, from the difficulties of his situation, which I know, from experience, how to feel for very sincerely, may be driven to advance propositions which it may be my duty, with much freedom, to reply to; and the Law will sanction that freedom. But will not the ends of justice be completely answered by that right, to point out the errors of his discourse in terms that are decent; and calculated to expose its defects; or will any argument suffer, or will public justice be impeded, because neither private honour and justice, nor public decorum, would endure my telling my very learned Friend, that he was a fool, a liar, and scoundrel, in the face of the Court, because I differed from him in argument or opinion? This is just the distinction between a book of free legal controversy and the book which I am arraigning before you. Every man has a legal right to investigate, with modesty and decency, controversial points of the Christian religion; but no man, consistently with a law, which only exists under its sanctions, has a right not only broadly to deny its very existence, but to pour forth a shocking and insulting invective, which the lowest establishments, in the gradations of civil authority, ought not to be permitted to suffer, and which soon would be borne down by insolence and disobedience, if they did.

The same principle pervades the whole system of the law, not merely in its abstract theory, but in its daily and most applauded practice.—The intercourse between the sexes, and which, properly regulated, not only continues, but humanizes and adorns our natures, is the foundation of all the thousand romances, plays, and novels, which are in the hands of every body. Some of them lead to the confirmation of every virtuous principle; others, though with the same profession, address the imagination in a manner to lead the passions into dangerous excesses. But though the Law does not nicely discriminate the various shades which distinguish these works from one another, so as that it suffers many to pass, through its liberal spirit, that upon principle might be suppressed, would it or does it tolerate, or does any decent man contend that it ought to pass by unpunished, libels of the most shameful obscenity, manifestly pointed to debauch innocence, and to blast and poison the morals of the rising generation? This is only another illustration to demonstrate the obvious distinction between the work of an author, who fairly exercises the powers of his mind, in investigating doctrinal points in the religion of any country, and him who attacks the rational existence of every religion, and brands with absurdity and folly the state which sanctions, and the obedient tools who cherish the delusion. But this publication appears to me to be as mischievous and cruel in its probable effects, as it is manifestly illegal in its principles; because it strikes at the best, some-

times, alas! the only refuge and consolation amidst the distresses and afflictions of the world. The poor and humble, whom it affects to pity, may be stabbed to the heart by it. They have more occasion for firm hopes beyond the grave, than those who have greater comforts to render life delightful. I can conceive a distressed but virtuous man, surrounded by children, looking up to him for bread when he has none to give them, sinking under the last day's labour, and unequal to the next, yet still looking up with confidence to the hour when all tears shall be wiped from the eyes of affliction, bearing the burden laid upon him by a mysterious Providence which he adores, and looking forward with exaltation to the revealed promises of his Creator, when he shall be greater than the greatest, and happier than the happiest of mankind. What a change in such a mind might not be wrought by such a merciful publication? Gentlemen! whether these remarks are the overcharged declamations of an accusing Counsel, or the just reflections of a man anxious for the public freedom, which is best secured by the morals of a nation, will be best settled by an appeal to the passages in the work, that are selected by the indictment for your consideration and judgment. You are at liberty to connect them with every context and sequel, and to bestow upon them the mildest interpretation. [Here Mr. Erskine read and commented upon several of the selected passages, and then proceeded as follows:—] Gentlemen, it would be useless and disgusting to enumerate the other passages within the scope of the indictment. How any man can rationally vindicate the publication of such a book, in a country where the Christian Religion is the very foundation of the law of the land, I am totally at a loss to conceive, and have no ideas for the discussion of? How is a tribunal, whose whole jurisdiction is founded upon the solemn belief and practice of what is denied as falsehood, and reprobated as impiety to deal with such an anomalous defence? Upon what principle is it even offered to the Court, whose authority is contemned and mocked at? If the religion proposed to be called in question, is not previously adopted in belief and solemnly acted upon, what authority has the Court to pass any judgment at all of acquittal or condemnation? Why am I now, or upon any other occasion, to submit to your Lordship's authority? Why am I now, or at any time to address twelve of my equals, as I am now addressing you, with reverence and submission? Under what sanction are the witnesses to give their evidence, without which there can be no trial? Under what obligations can I call upon you, the Jury representing your Country, to administer justice? Surely upon no other than that you are sworn to administer it under the oaths you have taken. The whole judicial fabric, from the King's sovereign authority to the lowest office of magistracy, has no other foundation. The whole is built, both in form and substance, upon the same oath of every one of its ministers to do justice as GOD SHALL HELP THEM HEREAFTER. What God? And what hereafter? That God, undoubtedly, who has commanded Kings to rule, and Judges to decree with justice; who has said to witnesses, not by the voice of nature, but in revealed commandments—THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE TESTIMONY AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR; and who has enforced obedience to them by the revelation of the unutterable blessings which shall attend their observances, and the awful punishments which shall await upon their transgressions. But it seems, this is an age of reason, and the time and the person are at last arrived, that are to dissipate the errors which have overpread the past generations of ignorance. The believers in Christianity are many, but it belongs to the few that are wise to correct their credulity. Belief is an act of reason, and superior reason may, therefore, dictate to the weak. In running the mind along the long list of sincere and devout Christians, I cannot help lamenting, that Newton had not lived to this day, to have had his shallowness filled up with this new flood of light.—But the subject is too awful for irony. I will speak plainly and directly. Newton was a Christian! Newton, whose mind burst forth from the fetters cast by nature upon our finite conceptions—Newton, whose science was truth, and the foundation of whose knowledge of it was philosophy. Not those visionary and arrogant presumptions, which too often usurp its name, but philosophy resting upon the basis of mathematics, which, like figures, cannot lie. Newton, who carried the line and rule to the uttermost barriers of creation, and explored the principles by which, no doubt, all created matter is held together and exists. But this extraordinary man, in the mighty reach of his mind, overlooked, perhaps, the errors, which a minute investigation of the created things on this earth might have taught him, of the essence of his Creator. What shall then be said of the great Mr. Boyle, who looked into the Organic Structure of all Matter, even to the brute inanimate substances, which the foot treads on. Such a man may be supposed to have been equally qualified with Mr. Paine to look up through Nature to Nature's God. Yet the result of all his contemplation was the most confirmed and devout belief in all which the other holds in contempt, as despicable and drivelling superstition.—But this error might, perhaps, arise from a want of due attention to the foundations of human judgment, and the structure of that understanding which God has given us for the investigation of truth.—Let that question be answered by Mr. Locke, who was, to the highest pitch of devotion and adoration, a Christian. Mr. Locke, whose office was to detect the errors of thinking, by going up to the fountains of thought, and to direct into the proper track of reasoning, the devious mind of man, by shewing him its whole process, from the first perceptions of sense to the last conclusions of ratiocination, putting a rein besides upon false opinion, by practical rules for the conduct of human judgment. But these men were only deep thinkers, and lived in their closets, unaccustomed to the traffic of the world, and to the laws which practically regulate mankind.

Gentlemen! in the place where we now sit to administer the justice of this great country, above a century ago, the never to be forgotten Sir Matthew Hale presided; whose faith in Christianity is an exalted commentary upon its truth and reason, and whose life was a glorious example of its fruits in man, administering human justice with a wisdom and purity drawn from the pure fountain of the Christian dispensation, which has been, and will be, in all ages, a subject of the highest reverence and ad-

miration. But it is said by the Author, that the Christian Fable is but the tale of the more ancient superstitions of the world, and may be easily detected by a proper understanding of the Mythologies of the Heathens. Did Milton understand those mythologies? Was he less versed than Mr. Paine in the superstitions of the world? If so, they were the subject of his immortal song; and though shut out from all recurrence to them, he poured them forth from the stores of a memory rich with all that man ever knew, and laid them in their order as the illustration of that real and exalted faith, the unquestionable source of that fervid genius, which cast a fort of shade upon all the other works of man.—

He passed the bounds of flaming space,
Where Angels tremble while they gaze;
He saw, till blasted with excess of light,
He closed his eyes in endless night.

But it was the light of the book only that was extinguished; "The celestial light shone inwardly, and enabled him to justify the ways of God to man." The result of his thinking was nevertheless not the same as the Author's. The mysterious incarnation of our Blessed Saviour (which this work blasphemes in words to which I will not give them utterance), Milton made the grand conclusion of the Paradise Lost, the rest from his finished labours and the ultimate hope, expectation, and glory of the world.

A Vir, it is his Mother, but his Sire,
The power of the Most High; he shall ascend
The Throne hereditary, and bound his reign
With Earth's wide bounds, his glory with the Heavens.

The immortal Poet having thus put into the mouth of the Angel, the prophecy of man's redemption, follows it with that glorious and beautiful admonition, addressed in the Poem to our great First Parent, but intended as an address to his posterity through all generations.

This having learn'd, thou hast attain'd the sum
Of wisdom, hope no higher, tho' all the stars
Thou knew'st by name, and all th' ethereal powers,
All secrets of the deep; all Nature's works,
Or works of God in Heav'n, air, earth, or sea,
And all the riches of this world enjoy'st,
And all the rule, one empire, only add
Deeds to thy knowledge answer'd, add faith,
Add virtue, patience, temperance, add love,
By name to come call'd Charity; the Soul
Of all the rest: then wilt thou not be loath
To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess
A Paradise within thee, happier far.

Thus you find all that is great, or wise, or splendid, or illustrious, amongst created beings; all the minds gifted beyond ordinary nature, if not inspired by its universal author, for the advancement and dignity of the world, though divided by distant ages, and by the clashing opinions, distracting them from one another, yet joining as it were in one sublime chorus, to celebrate the truths of Christianity, and laying upon its holy altars the never-fading offerings of their immortal wisdom.

Against all this concurring testimony, we find suddenly, from the author of this book, that the Bible teaches nothing but "lies, obscenity, cruelty, and injustice." Had he ever read our Saviour's Sermon on the Mount?—Against all this concurring testimony, we find suddenly, from this publication, that the Bible teaches nothing but "lies, obscenity, cruelty, and injustice." Had the author or publisher ever read the Sermon of Christ upon the Mount, in which the great principles of our faith and duty are summed up?—Let us all but read and practise it, and lies, obscenity, cruelty, and injustice, and all human wickedness would be banished from the world!

Gentlemen, there is but one consideration more, which I cannot possibly omit, because I confess it affects me very deeply. The author of this book has written largely on public liberty and government; and this last performance has, on that account, been more widely circulated, and principally among those who attached themselves from principle to his former works. This circumstance renders a public attack upon all revealed religion from such a writer infinitely more dangerous. The religious and moral sense of the people of Great Britain, is the great anchor which alone can hold the vessel of the state amidst the storms which agitate the world, and if I could believe for a moment, that the mass of the people were to be debauched from the principles of religion, which forms the true basis of that humanity, charity, and benevolence, that has been so long the national characteristic, instead of mixing myself, as I sometimes have done, in political reformations, I would rather retire to the uttermost corners of the earth to avoid their agitation; and would bear, not only the imperfections and abuses complained of in our own wife establishment, but even the worst Government that ever existed in the world, rather than go to the work of reformation with a multitude set free from all the charities of Christianity, who had no sense of God's existence, but from Mr. Paine's Observation of Nature, which the mass of mankind have no leisure to contemplate; nor any belief of future rewards and punishments, to animate the good in the glorious pursuit of human happiness, nor to deter the wicked from destroying it even in its birth. But I know the people of England better. They are a religious people, and with the blessing of God, as far as it is in my power, I will lend my aid to keep them so. I have no objections to the free and most extended discussions upon doctrinal points of the Christian Religion, and though the Law of England does not permit it, I do not dread the reasoned arguments of Deists against the existence of Christianity itself, because, as was said by its Divine Author, if it is of God, it will stand. An intellectual book, however erroneous, addressed to the intellectual world upon so profound and complicated a subject, can never work the mischief which this indictment is calculated to repress. Such works will only employ the minds of men enlightened by study, to a deeper investigation of a subject well worthy of their deepest and continued contemplation. The powers of the mind are given for human improvement in the progress of human existence. The changes produced by such reciprocations of lights and intelligences are certain in their progress, and make their way imperceptibly, and conviction comes upon the world, by the final and

irrefragable power of truth. If Christianity be founded on falsehood, let us become Deists in this manner, and I am contented. But this book has no such object, and no such capacity: it presents no arguments to the wife and enlightened. On the contrary, it treats the faith and opinions of the world with the most shocking contempt, and stirs up men without the advantages of learning, or sober thinking, to a total disbelief of every thing hitherto held sacred; and consequently to a rejection of all the laws and ordinances of the state, which stand only upon the assumption of their truth. Gentlemen! I cannot conclude without expressing the deepest regret at all attacks upon the Christian Religion by authors who profess to promote the civil liberties of the world. For under what other auspices than Christianity have the lost and subverted liberties of mankind in former ages been re-asserted? By what zeal, but the warm zeal of devout Christians have English liberties been redeemed and consecrated? Under what other sanctions, even in our own days, have liberty and happiness been extending and spreading to the uttermost corners of the earth? What work of civilization, what common-wealth of greatness has this bold religion of nature ever established? We see, on the contrary, the nations that have no other light than that of Nature to direct them, sunk in barbarism, or slaves to arbitrary Governments; whilst, since the Christian era, the great career of the world has been slowly, but clearly advancing, lighter at every step, from the awful prophecies of the Gospel, and leading, I trust, in the end to universal and eternal happiness. Each generation of mankind can see but a few revolving links of this mighty and mysterious chain, but by doing out several duties in our allotted stations, we are sure, that we are fulfilling the purposes of our existence. You, I trust, will fulfil yours this day."

A Mr. Fleming, one of the Clerks of the Bank, was the only witness called on the part of the prosecution. He said, he purchased the book in question, of the Defendant, at his shop, on the 7th of February last.

The Notice which Mr. Erskine mentioned in his speech was here read, and Mr. John Martin, the Attorney for the Defendant, readily admitted that he had sent it to those who were concerned for the prosecution.

Mr. KYD made a very learned and ingenious speech for the defendant. He said, he would endeavour to discharge the important duty which he owed to his client, in a manner that was consistent with the dignity of that Court, and with that decency and solemnity which, he felt, belonged to the subject. The question was, whether the author, when he wrote this book, felt as he wrote, and expressed himself as he felt. He humbly submitted, that the inferences which Mr. Paine had drawn from the premises, were such as he might have drawn with a fair and honest intention. Whether those inferences were just or not, was totally a different question. But, if his Lordship and the Gentlemen of the Jury could discover no wicked or malicious intent, they would not punish a man for a mere error in judgment. If the Jury could collect no wicked intention in the author from reading the whole of this performance, he contended he was completely protected under the right which he and every other man had to exercise the powers of religion. Supposing then the book had been written innocently, he might infer, as a general proposition, that it was also published with an innocent intention. At the same time he admitted, that what was so written, might be published from a malicious motive, for which the publisher would be amenable to the laws of his country. The Learned Counsel next selected several passages from this performance, to show, that the author felt the most profound reverence and veneration for the Supreme Being, and denied the truth of Revelation only because he could not reconcile it to the character and attributes of the Deity. It was stated in that Publication, that the Law of Nature was engraven on every man's heart, and that he might clearly collect the knowledge of that duty which he owed to his creator from a contemplation of his works. Mr. Kyd next endeavoured to justify the charges made upon the Bible by the author, by a variety of passages which he selected, but which, at the desire of his Lordship and the Jury, he did not read, but only referred to them, and contended, that if those passages were found in any other book, they would be considered as indecent and immoral. He appealed to the writings of Dr. Lardner, Dr. Bentley, and other eminent Divines in support of the right of free discussion, upon all subjects of a controversial nature. He then spoke in severe terms of this prosecution, which, he said, would never have been instituted, had it not been for Bishop Watson's Apology, which had been very widely circulated, and had excited a curiosity to read the Book, to which it was an answer; and to gratify that public curiosity, it was, that this book, which, he believed, had been first published at Paris, was afterwards published in this country. Mr. Kyd insisted, at great length, upon the freedom of enquiry, and a free press, and gave the Reformation and Revolution as two instances of the ineffable blessings which had resulted from them to this country.

Mr. ERSKINE made a most eloquent reply. He said, he was bound, in respect to his Learned Friend, as a Member of a most honourable profession, to suppose, that he was placed in a very irksome situation, to be called on for a defence so exceedingly difficult to make and so extremely delicate to manage, without violating that common decency that was due to a Court of Justice. He could not therefore help considering him as entitled to a considerable degree of indulgence. Mr. Erskine here adverted to several of the passages selected from the Old Testament by Mr. Kyd, and explained the reason of their introduction into the sacred writings. The history of man, he said, was the history of man's vices and passions, which could not be censured without adverting to their existence; and many of the instances that had been referred to, were recorded as memorable warnings and examples for the instruction of mankind. Mr. Erskine next entered most forcibly and deeply into the evidences of Christianity, particularly those that were founded on that stupendous scheme of prophecy, which formed one of the most unanswerable arguments for the truth of the Christian Religion. "It was not," he said, "the purpose of God to destroy free

agency by overpowering the human mind with the irrefragable light, and conviction of revelation, but to leave men to collect its truths, as they were gradually illustrated in the accomplishment of the Divine promises of the Gospel. Bred as he was to the consideration of evidence, he declared he considered the prophecy concerning the destruction of the Jewish nation, if there was nothing else to support Christianity, absolutely irrefragable. The division of the Jews into tribes, to preserve the genealogy of Christ, the distinction of the Tribe of Judah, from which he was to come; the loss of that distinction when that end was accomplished; the predicted departure of the sceptre from Israel; the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, which imperial munificence in vain attempted to rebuild to disgrace the prophecy; the dispersion of this nation over the face of the whole earth, the spreading of the Gospel throughout the world; the persecutions of its true Ministers, and the foretold superstitions which for ages had defiled its worship—these were topics upon which Mr. Erskine expatiated with great eloquence, and produced a most powerful effect on every part of the audience. He concluded with a vindication of the authors of this prosecution. He said, they were men of the highest character and greatest consideration in the country. Many of them were charged with the offices of religion; others of them were clothed with the robes of magistracy; most of them were men of deep learning and thinking; and all of them justly entitled to the thanks of the Public for their noble exertions in the cause of religion and virtue.

LORD KENYON'S CHARGE.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY,
"Being now in possession of all the facts of this case, and convinced, in my own mind, what conclusion ought to be drawn from them, I am not sure, that it is necessary to say any thing at all to you upon the subject. Gentlemen, before you proceed to decide on the merits of this or any other cause, it is proper to see whether the parties litigating stand in a fair light before you. I was extremely hurt when the learned Counsel for the Defendant thought fit to state to you, with very considerable emphasis, and a very determined tone of voice, that this was a scandalous prosecution. I cannot help wishing that sentence had not been uttered. Who commenced this prosecution, I certainly know not. But from what fell from the very learned Counsel who has just sat down, I am inclined to suppose it proceeded from a society of Gentlemen instituted for the most important of all purposes, for preserving the morals of the people; a society composed of Clergymen, and Laymen of the most respectable character in the kingdom, who, feeling how the country is overrun with profligacy and wickedness, which boldly raise their heads in defiance of the law of the land, were determined to see whether, in the first place, by admonition and advice, they could not stop the torrent of vice and immorality; and secondly, if that should fail, to try what could be done by punishment. If people with the very best intentions carry on prosecutions that are oppressive, the end may not always perhaps justify the means. But the manner in which this prosecution has been conducted, is certainly not oppressive; for instead of proceeding in the more expensive mode, the Prosecutors went before a Grand Jury of the Country; and it was necessary to obtain the opinion of that Grand Jury before the party could be put in process. Gentlemen, we sit here in a Christian Assembly to administer the laws of the land, and I am to take my knowledge of what the law is from that which has been sanctioned by a great variety of legal decisions. I am bound to state to you what my predecessors in Mr. Woolston's case (2 Strange, 834) stated half a century ago in this Court of which I am an humble Member, namely, that the Christian Religion is part of the law of the land; Christianity from its earliest institution met with its opposers. Its professors were very soon called upon to publish their apologies for the doctrines they had embraced. In what manner they did that, and whether they had the advantage of their adversaries, or sunk under the superiority of their arguments, mankind for near two thousand years have had an opportunity of judging. They have seen what Julian, Justin Martyr, and other Apologists have written, and have been of opinion the argument was in favour of those very publications. The world has been lately favoured with another apology from a most learned and respectable Prelate, who calls his work *An Apology for the Christian Religion*. I shall not decide between the merits of the one and the other. The publications themselves are in the hands of the world; and I sincerely wish in the concluding language of the work to which I have just referred (I do not affect to use the very words) I sincerely wish that the author of the work in question may become a partaker of that faith in revealed religion, which he has so grossly defamed, and may be enabled to make his peace with God for that disorder which he has endeavoured to the utmost of his power to introduce into society. We have heard to-day, that the light of Nature, and the contemplation of the works of creation are sufficient, without any other revelation of the divine will. Socrates, Plato, Xenophon, Tully—each of them in their turns professed they wanted other lights; and knowing and confessing that God was good, they took it for granted the time would come when he would impart a farther revelation of his will to mankind. Though they walked as it were through a cloud, darkly, they hoped their posterity would almost see God face to face. This condition of mankind has met with reprehension to day. But I shall not pursue this argument. Fully impressed with the great truths of religion, which, thank God, I was taught in my early years to believe, and of which the hour of reflection and inquiry, instead of producing any doubts, has fully confirmed me in. I expected the learned Counsel for the Defendant would have differed the case of the Publisher from that of the Author of this work; that he would have endeavoured to convince you that whatever guilt might belong to the Author, nothing was imputable to the Publisher. He has, however, to my utter surprise, exactly reversed the case. He tells you it was originally published at Paris in 1794; that the feelings of the Author's friends were wounded by this work, which I call a nefarious publication, and that it was in a great measure forgotten; and you are now called upon to judge of the merits or de-

merits of the Publisher, who has brought forth a still-born work, forgotten by every body, till he ventured in defiance of the verdicts of mankind on the Author's political works, to send it forth among the inhabitants of this country. Unless it was for the most malignant purposes, I cannot conceive how it was published. It is however for you to judge of it; and to do justice between the Public and the Defendant."

The Jury instantly found the Defendant—Guilty.

The late sitting of Parliament, the payment of the Dividends the very week before the drawing, and various other circumstances, have materially served the speculation in Irish Tickets. Some imagined that the unusual time of the year, and the scarcity of money, would prevent any considerable sale; but the contrary has proved to be the fact; and all this week the tickets have steadily remained at 7l. and upwards; and there is no prospect of their being cheaper before the arrival of the first express on Wednesday next.

Yesterday the drawing of the IRISH STATE LOTTERY commenced in Dublin, but as the first express cannot arrive until to-morrow, Tickets and Shares may be purchased during the whole of this day with the same security as if bought till week. After the Express is received, they will continue on sale, warranted undrawn, by the latest accounts, at the Offices of RICHARDSON, GOODLUCK and Co. Cornhill and Chancery-Cross.

The FIRST EXPRESS from Dublin, with an account of the drawing of the present IRISH LOTTERY, is expected to arrive to-morrow morning, until which time Tickets and Shares may be purchased as usual; and after that day, such as are sold will be warranted undrawn by the latest accounts received at the Office of SWIFT and Co. (late Wenham's) No. 11, Poultry, by whom were shared and sold in the last Lottery one Prize of 10,000l. and two of 5,000l. each.

SADLER'S WELLS has drawn forth another good thing from its magic stores. The MAGICIAN, or, THE INVINCIBLE LOVER, is a Musical Bagatelle, full of whim and comic situation, and gives DIGNON a new opportunity of showing how irresistibly humorous he can make himself on the theatrical boards. His "Chapter of Fashions," and his Musical Medley, promise to become in his hands as firm attractions as any thing we have yet witnessed at the Wells.

The Inhabitants of the Borough, and neighbouring Villages of Surry and Kent, who may have occasion to apply for those celebrated ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS, now so universally resorted to, in complaints of the Scurvy, Gout, Rheumatism, Ulcers, and other disorders arising from impurities of the Blood, Indigestion, &c. viz. Mrs. SPILSBURY'S, of Soho-square, may depend on having them genuine at William Clark's Medicinal Shop, No. 206, Borough, Agent for Mrs. Spilbury, where Ladies and Gentlemen may have their Orders completed, in dozens or half dozens, to a single ss. bottle.

Extract of a Letter sent to Mr. APPELEY respecting his VEGETABLE TEA.
Sir, My life that was some time ago almost a burthen to me, is now by Divine blessing, and taking your wholesome Vegetable Breakfast, restored. Nervous people, affected as I was with the certain consequences of this cruel disorder, will know where to find that happy change, as I have done, by drinking your truly valuable Tea. Horrors, frighs, shocks, restless nights, loss of appetite, extreme weakness, and a long train of nervous disorders, were my companions; these your Tea has conquered; after a trial of various other things to no purpose. That others may find as much benefit as I have done, is the sincere prayer of her who is,
Sir, your grateful humble Servant,
No. 10, Exeter-street, SUSANNAH CANTRELL, Knightbridge, April 3, 1797.

Sold by the Proprietor, Mr. Appleby, in Parcels, at 5s. 10s. and 20s. each. Stamp included, (removed to No. 28, Cannon-street, London), sent to Order in London, free of Expence. A Parcel at 5s. is enough for 30 Breakfasts. Letters (post-paid), will be duly attended to.

CORN EXCHANGE, Monday, July 24.
We have had but a scanty supply of Wheat this morning, in consequence of which, and having several buyers, fine samples sold freely at full 1s. per quarter advance. Fine Barley and very fine Malt were scarce and sold readily, and the latter about 6d. per quarter dearer. Fine Pease and Hard Ticks ready sale, but Small Beans were plentiful, and 6d. per quarter lower. We had a tolerable supply of Oats, which maintained last Monday's prices.

CURRENT PRICE OF GRAIN AND WARES.

Wheat 44s. to 48s.	Hog Peas 29s. to 25s.
Fine 50s. to 54s. to 55s. 6d.	Fine Barley 25s. to 26s.
Rye 18s. to 21s.	Small Beans 27s. to 29s. 6d.
Barley 17s. to 20s.	Ticks 19s. to 21s.
Fine 21s. to 23s.	Syffolks 21s. 6d.
Malt 30s. to 33s.	Oats 17s. to 18s. 6d. Fine to 27s.
Fine to 35s.	Polders 15s. to 17s. 6d.
Total Quantity of Wheat sold 4644 Quarters. Average 49s. 11d. 3d. lower than last week.	

PRICE OF STOCKS.

3 per Cent. Red. 53 1/2	Short Ann. 6 1/2-16ths 7/8
3 per Cent. Cons. 52 1/2	Ann. 12 1/2 prem.
4 per Cent. Ann. 70 1/2	Imp. 3 per Cent. Ann. 30 1/2
5 per Cent. Ann. 77 1/2	India Stock 16 1/2
Loyalty 10 to 11 1/2	Consols for Aug. 53 3/8
Bank Long Ann. 15 1/2	

HIGH WATER THIS DAY AT LONDON BRIDGE.
Morning, 18 min. after 3 1/2 Afternoon, 37 min. after 3

SALES BY AUCTION.

LEASEHOLD ESTATE, PECKHAM, SURRY.
By Messrs. GRIFFITH and Co.
On the Premises, at Peckham, in the County of Surry, THIS DAY, at 12 o'clock, by Direction of the Trustees of Mr. JOHN BELL, Gardener.
THE Valuable LEASE of the DWELLING HOUSE, and necessary Out-buildings, with about seven Acres of Garden Ground, in a high State of Culture, also 22 Dwelling-Houses and Tenements contiguous; the whole of the annual value of 2300l.; is held for a Term of 20 Years from Michaelmas next, at a Ground-rent of 200l. per Ann. May be viewed, and Particulars had on the Premises; at the Golden Lion, Camberwell; the Marquis of Granby, New Cross; at Garraway's, and of Messrs. Griffith and Co. Blackman-street.

Excellent HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, WINE, LEASE & EFFECTS, LOMBARD-STREET.—By Mr. WINSTANLEY, At No. 8, Lombard-Street, near the Post-Office, on Wednesday the 26th inst. at 11 o'clock.
THE neat and excellent HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, new within 10 months, fine bed and table linen, china, a capital 8-day clock, by Webster, a piano-forte, a fine toned hand organ, a very large wrought iron chest, paintings and prints, 24 doz. exceeding good Port Wine, and 26 dozen Sherry, and numerous other effects, of a GENTLEMAN, removed from his House in the Adelphi. Amongst which are elegant drawing-room suits of beautiful chintz cotton, noble pier-glasses, one of which is 63 by 39, japanned and mahogany chairs and sofas, large carpets, handsome chintz cotton and other bed-hangings, and window curtains, prime seasoned goose-feather beds, mattresses, blankets and counterpanes, excellent mahogany commode fronted drawers, set of dining tables, card and Pembroke ditto, secretary and book-case, dressing tables, and various other articles, of superior workmanship and in perfect condition, the principal part having been new within a few months. To be viewed two days preceding the Sale, when Catalogues may be had on the Premises, and of Mr. Winstanley, Paternoster-row.—The Lease of the House, which is roomy, convenient, and in complete repair, is to be sold by Private Contract.

Elegant FURNITURE, FRENCH PIER GLASSES, MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS, modern COACH built by Leader, PRATON, and other EFFECTS, PORTLAND-PLACES, By Mr. WINSTANLEY.
On the Premises, the West Side of Portland-place, on Thursday the 27th inst. and following day, at 11 o'clock, by order of the Administrators.

THE genteel HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, useful and ornamental China, French pier glasses of distinguished magnitude, one of which is 24 inches by 52, eight-day and spring clocks; mathematical instruments, an electric machine by Adams, with glass infusors, capital paintings by Peters, &c. rich drawing-room suits, very large Turkey and Moors' carpets, library book-case, a modern coach built but 2 years, by Leader; a piano-forte, and sundry harness, a large dressing cabinet, and numerous other articles.—To be viewed two days preceding the Sale, when Catalogues may be had on the Premises; and of Mr. Winstanley, Paternoster-row.

SALES BY AUCTION.

FLEET-STREET.—By Mr. SMITH, At Garraway's, THIS DAY, the 25th instant, at 12 o'clock, THE valuable LEASES of the following HOUSES, eligibly situated, opposite St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street, viz. a convenient Dwelling-House and per annum. A spacious Dwelling-House and Front Shop, No. 24, in the occupation of Mr. Benner, of the annual value of 200l. And a convenient Dwelling-House adjoining, one in the occupation of Mr. Law, Silverstreet, and the other let to Mr. William Wilson, Taylor, at rents amounting to 660l. per annum. May be viewed 3 days previous to the Sale, by leave of the Tenants. Particulars had at Garraway's, and of Mr. Smith, No. 62, Broad-street, near the Royal Exchange.

HACKNEY.—By Mr. SMITH, At Garraway's, THIS DAY, the 25th instant, at 12 o'clock, Lot 1. A Desirable LEASEHOLD ESTATE, comprising Jackson's Buildings, eighty five in Mourning-lane, Hackney; consisting of a neat Brick Dwelling-Houses, with gardens to each, and 2 small Dwelling-houses contiguous, with a front garden, yard, and pump of good water, let at rents amounting to 650l. per annum; held for a term of 53 years, at a ground-rent of 100l. 10s. per annum.
Lot 2. A compact LEASEHOLD ESTATE, consisting of 7 Brick Dwelling-Houses, with yards, &c. situate on the North-side of Mourning-lane, Hackney, let to Messrs. Clarkford, Clarkson, Burr, Kirk, Johnson, Thomas, and Wallis, at rents amounting to 580l. 10s. per annum; held for a term of 18 years unexpired, at a ground-rent of 60l. per annum. May be viewed with leave of the Tenants. Particulars had at the Messrs. and Cook, Hackney; by Mr. Bevan, Solicitor, Basinghall-street, and of Mr. Smith, No. 62, Broad-street, Royal Exchange.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.—By Mr. SMITH, At the Mackworth Arms, Swansea, on Tuesday, August 12, at 2, if not previously disposed of by Private Contract, A Valuable FREEHOLD ESTATE, comprising A YNSTAWLOG FARM and TYPYR INN, situated in the Parish of Langevach, bounded by the River Loughor, near Swansea, in the County of Glamorgan, consisting of 310 Acres, 2 Roods, and 11 Perches of rich Arable, Meadow, and Wood Land, in the occupation of Mr. Jones, with a farm-house, barn, stabling, and out-buildings, &c. The Estate abounds with Coal and Iron, is capable of considerable improvement, and contains a large quantity of fine thriving timber and underwood. May be viewed, and Particulars had to days preceding the Sale, of Mr. Griffith Jenkins, Swansea; at the Ivy Bush, Carmarthen; the Inns at Cardiff, Brecknock, Monmouth, Pile, Neath; the Place of Sale, of Messrs. Crocker and Lawie, Frederick's-Place, Old-Jewry; and of Mr. Smith, No. 62, Broad-street.

GIFFORD LODGE, TWICKENHAM, MIDDLESEX.

By Mr. CHIVERS, At Garraway's, on Tuesday, August 11, at one o'clock, unless previously disposed of by Private Contract,

A Valuable and truly desirable COPYHOLD ESTATE, equal to Freehold; comprising a roomy Mansion, called GIFFORD LODGE, late the Family Residence of the MARQUIS OF TWEDDALE, delightfully situated on that much admired spot the verge of Twickenham Common; a situation distinguished for its salubrious air and pleasant rides, with double coach-houses, 9 fall stabling and out-offices, a large swept fore-court, enclosed with iron gates and pallisades, a beautiful lawn and pleasure-ground, disposed with taste, and a plantation of full-grown timber; capital gardens, cropped and planted, walled and clothed with a selection of the choicest fruit-trees, in full bearing; a large green-house, summer-house, &c. a paddock and meadow in the highest state of cultivation, with an unlimited right of common. The Mansion comprises numerous bed-chambers, double hair case, a capital lofty drawing-room, 27 by 27 feet, dining-room, parlours, hall, hall-entrances, room, large kitchen, servants' hall, brew-house and bakehouse fitted up, laundry and drying ground, a dairy, scullery, &c. well supplied with water, forming a desirable residence for a Nobleman or Gentleman's Family. To be viewed ten days prior to the sale, which tickets, which, with descriptive particulars, may be had of Messrs. Macdougall and Hunter, Staples Inn; and of Mr. Chivers, Salisbury-square, Fleet-street. Particulars at the Star and Garter, Richmond; Caffie, Hammer-smith; King's Head, Twickenham.

VALUABLE LEASE, SILVERSMITH AND JEWELLERS STOCK, NORTH SIDE OF ST. PAUL'S.—By Mr. EDWARDS, On the Premises, THIS, and following day, at 12 o'clock, THE very valuable and desirable LEASE of the PREMISES, most advantageously situated in the best part of the North Side of St. Paul's, at present in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Liddard, Silvermith and Jeweller, retiring from Trade. St. Paul's Church-yard is acknowledged to be the best situation for trade in the metropolis, and the Lease will be absolutely submitted to the Public without reserve. At the same time will be sold in Lots, the genuine Stock in Trade, a few Articles of Furniture, and other Effects. The Stock comprises silver candlesticks, waiters, tea-pots, elegant brass frames and spoons, variety of best plated goods, brilliant topaz, and antiethy ring, jewellery of every description, watches, gold rings, necklaces, ear-rings, and numerous articles of the best and most fashionable manufacture. The Premises may be viewed all the Sale, and the Stock and Effects on one day preceding.

ELEGANT and MODERN HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

By Mr. COLLIER, On the Premises, No. 214, Piccadilly, THIS, and following Days, precisely at Twelve o'clock, ALL the Superb and Modern HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other Effects of JEAN BOURGEOIS DOLLE. The Furniture consists of elegant 4-post bedsteads, with beautiful chintz and cotton furniture, and window curtains to match, and excellent bedding; pier glasses, in rich burnished gold frames, of large dimensions; 65 Wilton, Brussels and Turkey pattern carpets, of various sizes; a large quantity of fair carpets, a drawing room suit, excellent mahogany secretaries and book-cases, 3 ditto wardrobes, 3 sets of mahogany dining tables to join, with circular ends, double and single chests of drawers, dining, card and Pembroke tables, a set of excellent carved back mahogany chairs, covered with red and green leather, and a rows of Prince's metal nails; some beautiful Cabinet Work, in ladies and gentlemen's dressing tables, &c. a wardrobe of table and bed linen, some excellent prints in rich burnished gold frames, 2 table services, containing each 150 pieces, some tea and coffee equipages, and sundry other articles. May be viewed and Catalogues had.

By Mr. CHRISTIE, At the Great Rooms, Dean-street, Soho, THIS, and the FIVE FOLLOWING DAYS, Precisely at 12 o'clock,

ALL the Elegant HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Linen, china, prints, &c. the effects of CHARLES ALLEN TOMKINS, Esq. deceased; comprising large and beautiful fatinwood and mahogany four-post bedsteads, rich gilt cornices, elegant chintz furniture, and window curtains to match; excellent goose and down feather-beds, field bedsteads, and furniture, a beautiful drawing room suite, excellent mahogany chairs in red and green leather, and fatin horse hair seats; elegant mahogany secretary and bookcases, and ditto wardrobes, sideboards with celerests, double and single cornices; excellent dining, card, and Pembroke tables; some beautiful Turkey, Persia, and Wilton carpets, an elegant collection of china in tea and coffee equipages, and table services; about forty pair of excellent prints of the first impressions, highly framed and enamelled glass. The whole of the furniture is in excellent preservation. May be viewed and Catalogues had.
N. B. The gentleman's Country House, situated on the Bank of the River Thames, will be sold at a future sale, of which timely notice will be given in the papers.

FREEHOLDS IN BEDFORDSHIRE.

At the Sun Inn, in Hitchin, Heris, on Tuesday, August 22, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, in Lots, &c. A CAPITAL MANSION HOUSE, with 43 A. 2 R. of land, in hand, stables for 12 horses, coach-house for two carriages, and other convenient offices, and gardens laid out in a modern taste, the whole well calculated for a private family or a sportsman, being situated on the edge of a fine Champaign country, and within a moderate distance of three packs of hounds. Immediate possession can be given of the mansion-house and lands in hand. Also two tenants at will: The whole situate in the Parish of Barton and Higham Gobion, distant from Bedford 12 miles, from Hitchin 8 miles, and from Luton and Ampthill 6 miles. The turnpike-road leading from Bedford to London, is within a quarter of a mile of the Mansion House, the post daily, and a coach thrice a week from London. Also a Farm and reputed Manor, situated at Thirling and Bolnhurst, in the occupation of W. Dutt, tenant at Will, distant from Bedford and St. Neots, about 7 miles. Printed Particulars may be had of Messrs. T. and W. Dutt, Lincoln's Inn, Messrs. W. and J. Black, Middle Temple, London; and at the Place of sale, Henry Hilliard, at Barton, with shew the Estates there; and W. Dutt, will shew the Farm in his occupation.