

months at Rio Janeiro to repair.—The *Fame* was fitted out of London about five years ago, and has since been round the world.

A letter from Elineur, dated July 8, says, "On the 6th inst the *Clyde* frigate, and *Hound* brig, arrived, with 11 merchantmen from London, and, with other ships of war, will sail with the homeward trade, consisting of about 100 sail. The *Nautilus*, *Seagull*, and two cutters, came into Gothenbourg the 5th, and were going immediately to cruize upon the coast of Norway.

Extrait of a Letter from Portsmouth, July 25.

"The outward-bound fleets remain at St. Helen's in consequence of contrary winds.

"The *Diana* is appointed convoy to Newfoundland.

"Last night arrived his Majesty's cutter *Telemachus*, commanded by Lieut. Newton, with a French lugger privateer of 4 guns and 29 men, and 2 collier brigs, which had been captured, and were retaken by the *Telemachus*, near Cape La Hogue. The *Telemachus* made chase for another brig privateer, of 16 guns, but could not come up with her. The *Telemachus* has only 12 guns.

James Montgomery, Esq. is appointed Presenter of the Signatures, in the Court of Exchequer, in Scotland, in the room of Robert Belfches, Esq; and John Buchan, Esq; Writer to the Signet, is appointed Solicitor of the Exchequer, in the room of James Montgomery, Esq.

A very singular cause is to come on for trial on the Norfolk Circuit, in circumstance nearly resembling the famous Douglas cause. It is an ejectment for a considerable estate in Huntingdonshire; the present possessor has just attained the age of twenty-one, and holds the premises as the only son and heir of the late proprietor; the claimant is the grand nephew of the late proprietor, and asserts that the wife of his great uncle, being then on a visit in a distant county, bought the child of a labouring woman, and imposed it on her husband as his own. Mr. Erskine goes down on behalf of the Claimant, and the Defendant has the assistance of Mr. Garrow.

At Yatley, in the County of Hants, the old Poor-house was struck by the lightning on Monday se'nnight, in a tremendous manner; the roof was entirely torn off and demolished, the window-frames drove in and shivered to pieces, two doors knocked down and rent to splinters, and part of the brick-work on one side of the house forcibly burst into the yard. Four women sitting round a table, one of them having a child in her arms, were struck down, and remained insensible for near an hour; and a young woman, standing in the same room, at a small distance, had her cap forced off, and her hair much singed; but happily neither of them received any material injury. The bed of a poor man, inhabitant of the same premises, who that evening was fortunately detained by the tempest at Blackwater, was forcibly thrown through the chasm in the wall into the yard, and the bedstead broke to atoms.

Hertford assizes ended on Tuesday, when — Baker for a robbery in the dwelling-house of — Sullivan, Esq, his master, of a large quantity of wearing apparel, table-linen, and other valuable articles, after a long trial, received judgment of death. The woman indicted with him was acquitted.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, WESTMINSTER,

JUNE 24.

Sittings before Lord Kenyon and a Special Jury.

THE KING v. WILLIAMS, FOR PUBLISHING PAINE'S AGE OF REASON.

[At the time when this interesting Trial took place, the press of temporary intelligence prevented our doing any thing farther than to notice the proceedings concisely. The subject, however, in its nature, as well as from the able manner in which it has been treated, induces us, even at this distance of time, to lay the arguments before our Readers at length.]

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 education, 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 in 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 advantages both of Religion and Government, 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 lose 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 it is 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 sanction 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 yourself, 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 au-

thority and dignity of the Court of which he is an Officer; since it seems to call in question the very foundations of 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 justest and most continued reflexions 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 too 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 reasoned 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 disseminated 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 book 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 doctrine 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 persons and 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 individual, 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 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 recognised and ratified by Lord Kenyon, 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 foundations 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 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 friends, 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 error 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 a scoundrel, in the face of the Court, because I differed from him in argument or opinion? This is the just 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, consistent 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 humanises 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 concern that it ought to pass by unpunished, libels of the most shameful obscenity, manifestly pointed to debauch innocence, and to blight 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 a 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, sometimes, 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 exultation 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 merciless 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. [Lore 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 condemned 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 more 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 overspread 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 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 conception.—Newton, whose science was truth, and the foundation of whose knowledge of it was philosophy; not this visionary and arrogant presumption, which too often usurps 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 minuter 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 crude 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 in the proper track of reasoning, the devious mind of man, by showing him its whole progress, 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 Mathew 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 admiration. 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 verted than Mr. Paine in the superstitions of the world? No, they were the subject of his immortal song; and though shut out from an recurrence to them, he paired 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 servile genius, which cast a sort 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 blinded with excess of light,
He closed his eyes in endless night.

But it was the light of the body only that was extinguished; "The celestial light shone inward, 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 so wholly unfit for the mouth of a Christian, or for the ear of a Court of Justice; that I dare not, and 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 Virgin 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 solemn 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 answerable, 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 loth
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, distinguished 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 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 advanced 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 hear, not only the imperfections and abuses complained of in our own vile establishment, but even the worst Government that ever existed in the world, rather than go to the work of reformation with a man, whose set free from all the charities of Christianity, who had no sense of God's existence, out 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, so, amidst the good in the glorious pursuit of human happiness, nor to deter the wicked from destroying it even in its birth. But I knew the people of England better. They are a religious people; and, with the blessing of God, as far as in my

power, I will lend my aid to keep them so. I have no objections to the freest 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 progressions, and make their way imperceptibly, as conviction comes upon the world, by the final and irresistible power of truth. If Christianity be founded in 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 wise and enlightened. On the contrary, it treats the faith and opinions of the wise 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 civilisation, what commonwealth of greatness, has this bald 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 our 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. Kydd 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 intent on 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 his mind in discussing any controversial points 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. Kydd next endeavoured to justify the charge 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. Lairdner, 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. Kydd insisted, at great length, upon the freedom of inquiry, and a free press, and gave the Reformation and Revolution as two instances of the inestimable 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 honorable 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. Kydd, 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 adventing 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. E. 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 irresistible 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 considered the prophecy concerning the destruction of the Jewish nation, if there was nothing else to support Christianity, absolutely irresistible. 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 determined tone of voice, that this was a scandalous Prosecution. I cannot help wishing that sentence had not been uttered. When I 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 laws of the land, were determined to see whether, in the first place, by admonition and ad-

vice, 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 sanctify the means. But the manner in which this Prosecution has been conducted, is certainly not oppressive; for instead of proceeding in the more extensive mode, the Prosecutors went before a Grand Jury of the Country; and it was necessary to observe 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 very 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 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 a reprehension to-day. But I shall not pursue this argument; fully impressed with the great truths of religion, which, I thank God, I was taught in my early years to believe, and of which the hour of reflexion and inquiry, instead of producing any doubt, has fully confirmed me in. I expected that 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, and 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 the merits or demerits 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.

To Mrs. SPILSBURY, Scho-square, London.
MADAM, Nov. 17, 1796.

ANIMATED by the most lively sensations of gratitude, and anxious for the welfare of my fellow-sufferers labouring under similar complaints, I consider it an act of duty and of justice, to make my Case known to the Public. I was most severely afflicted, near 20 years with a violent scorbutic complaint, accompanied with a fever on my nerves, a visionary and relaxed state, and the usually debility that always crows from this malignant disease. After trying, for a long time, the various skill of many of the most eminent physicians in town and country (some of whom pronounced me incur-

nable), I was rendered wholly incapable of business, and reduced to a most deplorable and hopeless condition; both my legs, particularly the right one, as well as my thighs, were greatly swelled and inflamed, attended with alarming ulcers, that discharged a corrosive and exceedingly offensive matter, which destroyed, in its progress, the sound part of the skin; the paroxysms of pain were so frequent and excruciating, that I could obtain no rest either day or night, and I became a miserable object of compassion to all around me. Afflicted in this most dreadful manner, as my last and only hope, I had recourse to your EXCELLENT ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS; by taking them according to the printed directions, and persevering in the use of them for three years, I have, thank the Divine Providence, received a complete Cure, and am now in perfect health.—I am, Madam,

Your ever-obliged and humble servant,
Winflow, Bucks. WILLIAM TURNER.

Attested by Js. Bannister, Curate of Winflow.

Rev. E. Ashe,
Joseph Dudley, } Church-Wardens.
Thomas Wilson,

N. B. As all the symptoms attending the above Case are too numerous and too dreadful to relate in an advertisement, every person desirous of further information, are requested to apply to the above Mr. Turner, who will most willingly relate the whole account of his disease and cure.

The Drops are sold at the Dispensary in Soho-square, and by all the general Venders of Patent Medicines in town and country.

This Day was published,

Price in Boards, 1s. 7s. 6d.—The Fourth Edition of **DRINKWATER'S** History of the SIEGE of GIBRALTAR, illustrated with Plates.

Sold by Johnson, No. 72, St. Paul's Church-Yard; and J. Egerton, Charing-Cross.

Where may be had, lately published, price 5s. 6d. A NARRATIVE of the PROCEEDINGS of ADMIRAL SIR JOHN JERVIS'S FLEET, in the late glorious Action of the 14th of February, 1797, by AN OFFICER of HIS MAJESTY'S LAND-FORCES.

Cargo of the Ship MARIEN BOSCHE.

FOR PUBLIC SALE,

At GARRAWAY'S COFFEE-HOUSE, Cornhill, London, On THURSDAY, the 10th of AUGUST next.

THE FOLLOWING GOODS,

- viz.
- About 700 Casks Coffee
- 2700 Bags ditto
- 100 Bags Cocoa
- 50 Bales Cotton
- 90 Elephant Teeth.

Being the Cargo of the Ship CHRISTIAN DEN SIEBE, alias MARIEN BOSCHE, J. KROONER Commander, bound from Surinam to Holland;—a Prize to his Majesty's Ship Unicorn, Sir Thomas Williams, Knt. Commander.

Catalogues of which will be timely delivered by Hamilton and Touray, Brokers.

DOCTOR LOCKYER'S PILLS,

SO well known for their great Efficacy in all CHRONICAL DISORDERS, for more than sixty Years, both at Home and Abroad, that it needs little Comment to recommend them: These Pills have been found very beneficial in all Obstructions of the Spleen and Liver, which unremoved, corrupts the Blood, from whence flows numberless complaints: as Pain in the Head, Trembling, Palpitation of the Heart, Fever, Gout, Dropsy, &c. &c. which are expressed in the Bill of Direction, as given with each Box.

These Pills are now, by appointment of the Proprietor, Mrs. MARGARET WATSON, and only Proprietor of the Genuine Sort, sold wholesale and retail, by Messrs. DICEY, BEYNON, and C. No. 10, Bow Church-yard, London;—where Captains of Ships and Shopkeepers, have good allowance to sell again.

N. B. These Pills are recommended to Seafaring Gentlemen, being a most excellent Medicine for Foreign Climates.—As there are Counterfeits of the above Pills, each Box is signed by Mr. M. Watson.

SALES BY AUCTION.

BUCKS, NEAR STOW.

By Mr. YOUNG,

At GARRAWAY'S COFFEE-HOUSE, Change-Alley, Cornhill, London, on WEDNESDAY, the 2d of AUGUST, 1797, at Twelve o'Clock,

IN ONE LOT,

A VALUABLE FREEHOLD ESTATE,

situate at MILLINGSTONE DAYRELL, near STOW, three Miles from Buckingham, Eight from Brackley, and Seven from Towcester; consisting of a Farm-house, and 124 Acres, 3 Roods, and 25 Perches of Land, let to Mr. Joseph Key, at Will, at Ninety Pounds; and of 92 Acres of Woodland in hand, producing annually, with Timber and Bark usually sold, about One Hundred and Forty Pounds.

The Tenant will show the Estate; and Printed Particulars may be had at the Cobham Arms; or of Mr. Thomas Hearne, Attorney at Law, Buckingham; Crown, Brackley; New White Horse, Towcester; Cock, Stoney Stratford; at Garraway's; and of Mr. Young, No. 58, Chancery-lane, London; where a Plan may be seen.

FRAMFIELD, SUSSEX.

By Mr. YOUNG,

At GARRAWAY'S COFFEE-HOUSE, Change-Alley, Cornhill, on WEDNESDAY, the 2d of AUGUST, 1797, at Twelve o'Clock,

IN TWO LOTS.

A VALUABLE COPYHOLD ESTATE,

(Fine certain, and equal to Freehold) situate at Framfield, two Miles from Uckfield, and forty-five from London.

Lot 1. A HANDSOME HOUSE, called WHARTON'S, with Offices, Coach-house, Stables, Gardens, Paddock, Fish-ponds, and Woodland; in the whole about Sixteen Acres in hand.—An adjoining FARM, containing Seventy-seven Acres, let to John Steer, at Will, at Forty-six Pounds; and a Double Cottage, recd at Four Pounds.

Lot 2. The HUNDRED-HOUSE FARM, about a Mile from Lot One, containing forty-nine Acres, let to Andrew Haxfield, at Will, at Eighteen Pounds.

John Gibbon, at Wharton's, will show the Estate, and printed Particulars may be had of him; at the New Inn, Eastbourne; Rose and Crown, Tunbridge; Maidenhead, Uckfield; Star, Lewes; Checquers, Maresfield; Crown, East Grinstead; at Garraway's; and of Mr. Young, No. 58, Chancery-lane.

GIDEA-HALL, ESSEX.

By Mr. YOUNG,

At GARRAWAY'S COFFEE-HOUSE, Change-alley, Cornhill, on WEDNESDAY, the 2d of AUGUST, at Twelve o'Clock,

A VALUABLE and most DESIRABLE

FREEHOLD ESTATE, situate near RUMFORD; consisting of the MANOR of GIDEA-HALL; a very Elegant and Capital MANSION, called GIDEA-HALL; with all convenient Offices, beautiful Lawns, Plantations, Pleasure-Grounds, Gardens, Fish-ponds, and several surrounding rich Meadows; containing in the whole ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY NINE ACRES of Rich Land, in a Ring Fence.

The House is elegantly fitted up, and the whole in the most complete repair, and fit for the immediate reception of a large Family.

Part of the Furniture, and the Hay and Farming Stock, may be had at a fair Valuation; and Ninety-seven Acres more of Land may be had, if required.

To be viewed with Tickets from Mr. Young, No. 58, Chancery-lane; of whom printed Particulars may be had, and where a Plan may be seen. Also at Mr. Loxley's, Unicorn, Horse-street; Cock, Rumford; Crown, Brentwood; Black Boy, Chelmsford; and at Garraway's Coffee-House.

GODFREY'S ROSE LOZENGES, FOR COUGHS.

THESE Lozenges are the pleasantest and most effectual Remedy for Coughs and Hoarsenesses, and are so agreeably acidulated as to allay Thirst, and give Relief in Sore Throats, and all Feverish Complaints:—they are particularly refreshing to Persons frequenting large Assemblies and Hot Rooms, are perfectly innocent, and may supersede the use of Lemonade, &c.

Sold in London, only at Messrs. GODFREY'S and COOKE'S, Chemists, Southampton-street, Covent-garden; Mr. NEWBERY'S, No. 45, St. Paul's Church-yard; and Messrs. SMYTH and NEPHEWS, in New Bond street; price 2s. 6d. a Box, including the Duty: But, in order to prevent Counterfeits, each Box is sealed with the impression of GODFREY and COOKE, Chemists; and the Words "F. Newbery, No. 45, St. Paul's" are engraved in the stamp.

SADLER'S WELLS.

THIS and the following EVENINGS will be performed a favourite Musical Entertainment and Spectacle, called

THE PRIZE OF INDUSTRY; Or, THE VILLAGE FESTIVAL.

To finish with an entirely new rural Divertissement, including various allegorical Dances and Evolutions, accompanied by suitable Motets in moving Garland-Work, and a grand illuminated whole-length Portrait of His Serene Highness the PRINCE OF WILTEMBERG.

New and wonderful Performances of

VENTRILOQUISM,

By Mr. ASKINS, from Staffordshire; with curious Dialogues between himself and his invisible Familiar, LITTLE TOMMY, giving the whimsical effect of two Voices, though actually produced from one Person;

A favourite National Sketch, called,

BRITAIN'S DEFENDERS; Or, A FIG FOR INVASION.

The Piece to conclude with a grand Representation of BRITANNIA, attended by the tutelary Saints of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, who receive her Sons in a decorated Saloon of Coral Rock, and presents to their view AN ILLUMINATED GALLERY OF PORTRAITS, composed of those BRAVE BRITISH ADMIRALS whose success at Sea have so justly supported the hopes of their Country.

The admired and elegant Exercises of

TIGHT-ROPE DANCING, by Mr. RICHARDS

The Performances to finish with a grand Serio-Comic Pantomime, called

SADAK AND KALASRADE; Or, THE WATERS OF OBLIVION:

The first Scene of which will exhibit a Representation of A PALACE ON FIRE; and the concluding Scene a brilliant Display of an EASTERN HARAM.

Boxes, 4s.—Pit, 2s.—GALLERY, 1s.

No Money to be returned.

The Doors to be opened at Half past Five o'Clock;—The Entertainments to begin at Half past Six.

FRIDAY, July 28.

LONDON.

YESTERDAY morning the King took an airing on horseback round Kew and Richmond. The Queen and Princesses rode round the Pleasure-grounds at Kew in their Garden-chaise. At one o'clock the Royal Family came from Kew to St. James's Palace.

The Queen held a Chamber of Audience in her own apartments.

His Excellency Mahomed Adijah Effendi had an audience of leave on his return home.

Ismael Ruffauh Effendi, accompanied by his Secretary and the rest of his suite, had an audience to deliver his credentials.

Baron de Rieger, Envoy Extraordinary from the Duke of Wirtemberg, had an audience of leave on his return to Stutgard.

At half past two the Royal Family entered the Great Council-Chamber, and the ceremonies of the Drawing-Room commenced, which closed at half past four o'clock.

At five o'clock the Royal Family went to Kew, where there was a select party to dinner, &c.

The Queen and Princesses set off for Windsor this morning. The King also goes to Windsor to dinner from Buckingham-House.

The Princess of Wales came to town yesterday to take leave of their Majesties and the Princesses, previous to their going to Weymouth, but was not at the Drawing-Room.

The East-India Volunteers were yesterday reviewed at Lord's Cricket Ground. They went through their evolutions with an exactness and promptitude that reflects great honour on the corps. Lady Jane Dundas, after a very apposite speech, presented them with their colours. The patriotic sentiments were highly applauded.