

thing like reasons in my apprehension. Such principles must make every body love the heart that produces them ; but I am afraid, that too great indulgence in these cases is apt to breed many irregularities. It is a fact, I know, that no odious Crown-prosecutions were carried on, during Mr. Pitt's administration, by his friend the Attorney General ; but that is not enough ; no illegal arrests should have been made by that Minister, nor General Warrants issued in any case whatsoever for the seizing of persons and papers without naming any body, nor even for the seizing of papers (altho' the person were named) in the case of a libel. Otherwise, the usage of a secret Office may hereafter come to be alleged, by one set of people, for the law of the land, and be candidly admitted by others (who affect moderation, and never directly oppose or condemn any thing from a throne) to be a justification. Whereas all lawyers know full well, that nothing purely illegal can, in law, be justified ; nay, the law-maxim goes so far as to say, *Ignorantia legis non excusat*, as every man is expected to know the laws of his country : and yet circumstances of ignorance, haste, inattention, and custom, will make any Gentleman, or Court, after conviction and condemnation, readily consent to pass a slight censure, and set a small fine upon a penitent culprit ; that is, in reality, to indemnify, by excusing from punishment ; in short, to pardon, as far as may be, provided the person, upon whom this breach of the law was committed, be no great sufferer thereby. A Jury *ex debito justitiæ*, must find a man guilty, if the criminal charge against him be completely pro-

(1) such as Mr. Yorke, <sup>2</sup> who did admit this