

punishable, in every case except in cases of high treason. However, maugre all law and common sense, he did do so, and it served the purpose. Armed with this illegal authority they produced it to Louisa. This paper, of which from her surprise and confusion she did not know the purport till afterwards, was, as has been said, a warrant to search for and seize *certain specified papers*; and here began the functions of the gentlemen employed in this affair; functions which, however much they might become the understrappers of the police, certainly disgraced the very honourable members of the honourable East India Company's Council. A detachment of bailiffs was stationed in the hall; a detachment of bailiffs was stationed in the court-yard and viranda; a detachment of bailiffs was stationed in the kitchen to which the servants were confined; no admittance or intercourse was allowed, although some friends of S—— called at the house while the transaction was going on: the lady was not suffered to stir out of the presence of these inquisitors, and even when she had occasion to go into her bedroom, she was followed and accompanied by one of the myrmidons. In short, no severity of precaution was omitted that might be considered necessary in the most atrocious case of high treason, and under the apprehension of rescue and rebellion. Unversed in the forms of law, ignorant of the extent either of the rights of an individual, or of the authority of magistrates and their satellites, without a friend to consult, or an arm to protect, Louisa could not but remain passive. She might otherwise have dared them to have entered her apartments, which were distinct from those occupied by S—— and his family, and were separately leased to her; she might have dared them to have searched her trunks, boxes,