

that night, and that the bed was very much *tumbled*. The Gentleman and Lady went out in the morning, and he bought for her different things, shoes, stockings, &c. The next night they went to bed very early, and left the town in the course of the ensuing morning. The Lady left behind her a pair of stockings, which were marked with the word *Lingham* at full length.

Elizabeth Sperrel, Laundress to Mr. and Mrs. Lingham, proved, that that was the mark of Mrs. Lingham's stockings.

A Mrs *Davis*, who keeps a lodging-house at Eltham, proved that Mrs. Lingham lodged with her for about three months, and that Mr. Hunt used generally to go there on a Saturday, and stay till Monday.

This was the principal evidence on the part of the Plaintiff.

Mr. *ERSKINE* said, no man was less qualified than himself, either from inclination or habits, to defend the cause of a man who had confessed himself an *adulterer*. He had been accustomed to think highly of the *sanctity* of the marriage tie; he considered the married state as the source of every genuine happiness in this world, and that nothing could be more criminal than to disturb its purity. He therefore discharged his duty with some reluctance in a case where his Client had, by his letter, confessed himself guilty; but still it was the province of the Jury to class the guilty according to their different degrees of guilt. He did not mean to impute to the Plaintiff any wilful connivance at his wife's dishonour, or any ill treatment of his wife; but he could not avoid imputing to him a criminal inattention and carelessness; a dereliction of that duty which is incumbent on a hus-

band, to keep his wife from great temptations; and to be the guardian of her honour. On this subject he could not avoid thinking of a passage in the celebrated Poem of Milton, who was the first of men, as well as of poets. In that passage of *Paradise Lost*, where after mutual upbraidings between our first parents, after Eve has imputed to him the crime of leaving her unprotected from the wiles of the seducer, Adam replies as follows—

— And, perhaps,
I also erred in overmuch admiring
What seemed in thee so perfect, that I thought
No evil durst attempt thee; but I see
That arrow now, which is become my crime,
And thou th' accuser.

Such was the state of the most amiable husband, should he desert the guardianship of his wife's purity and honour, which is the true source of happiness and comfort for himself. Mr. *ERSKINE* then considered the careless manner of receiving the news, that his wife had supped at a tavern with the Defendant, as a very culpable inattention to his own honour; he also said, he was instructed to state that it would be proved that he had frequently permitted his wife to stay out whole days with the Defendant, on the pretence of taking the air together; and though, perhaps, nothing criminal had past till the 8th of July yet every temptation and opportunity for the commission of the crime had been allowed. The wife of the Plaintiff was a most beautiful woman, and such are the infirmities and weaknesses of man, that it is certainly extremely improper to afford so strong a temptation to any man. Mr. *ERSKINE* also conceived the letter to shew some marks of contrition, which placed this Defendant in a point of view somewhat more favourable than many others, who are brought before this Tribunal for similar crimes.