

person of the name of John Vint, being tried in this Court, and found guilty for a libel he published on the late Emperor of Russia, with whom we were then at amity. I shall state the libel on which John Vint was convicted, in order that the Jury may see how libels of this nature have been considered by former Judges and by former Juries. The libel was simply this: "The Emperor of Russia is rendering himself obnoxious to his own subjects by his capricious and tyrannical decrees, while at the same time he renders himself ridiculous to all Europe by his inconsistency." This libel was charged with having a tendency to interrupt and destroy the amity and harmony which then subsisted between Russia and this country. The Jury before whom the question was tried were of opinion that it had that tendency, and found the Defendant guilty. With these precedents, Gentlemen, and with these authorities, but with a much stronger case, I appear this day on the part of the Crown, to prosecute a libel much more flagitious, much more wicked than was submitted to the consideration of either of those Juries who found the publications alluded to to be libels. After these general observations on the subject of the present prosecution, I shall examine the particular libels which have been stated to you by my Learned Friend, and which will be again read to you in evidence. I shall first point out to your observation the paper in which those libels are published, and its title, which cannot fail of convincing you what was the real object or motive of that publication which I now prosecute. The title of this paper is, *L'Amigu; ou Variétés Atroces et Amusantes*—Miscellanies, Atrocious and Amusing. The Jury would be at little difficulty in determining to which class of *miscellanies* the Libels

they should hear read would belong; it is also to be observed, that the Frontispiece of this work is ornamented with a figure of a *sphinx*, having the head of Bonaparte. Gentlemen, I have never seen the First Consul, and therefore cannot say from my own knowledge that this head bears his resemblance; but we must all see that it resembles all those prints which are circulated in this country as the likeness of Bonaparte. The *Prospectus* of the work, which is published in the first Number, pretty plainly unfolds the designs of the Author. "We have been accused (says the Author *ironically*) of too much virulence against the Government of France, its First Consul, and two Proconsuls; but for the future we shall have nothing to do but to praise;" and it concludes with these remarkable words—"In the edifice I am now raising to the *Glory of Bonaparte*, I shall take care to manage so well the materials, that the workmanship shall be worthy of the Temple." So that it appears, by the Author's declaration in his *Prospectus*, that his object was to raise what he called an edifice *to the Glory of Bonaparte*: how he fulfils his promise may be well collected from the *atrocious* miscellanies, or libels, with which his paper is replete. Of these libels, I shall begin with that which purports to be an harangue from *Lepidus* to the Roman people, on the dictatorship of Sylla, but now addressed to the French nation, and to the present times. It begins as follows:—"I fear much that the mildness of your character will prevent you from committing the atrocities which are committed under the present Dictatorship. Who would suppose that the illustrious and august families of the Montmorencies, the Liancourts, the *Rocheboucaults*, those who boast the noblest blood in France, would sacrifice their own liberties, and those of