

—who hold the keys of the exchequer, and rob its vaults. I contend for a press free to expose all inroads upon public morals, by daring and ostentatious innovators—insults to common taste and good sense by bad authors—shameless quacks, and ignorant pretenders. These are crimes against the public, which no judicial tribunal can reach or punish. These are offences committed where civil authority has no jurisdiction. There is no domestic retreat so secure, there is no public sanctuary so holy, that it can not be invaded by the unhallowed or lawless foot, or poisoned by the pestiferous breath, of the hypocrite. Even the church,

God's lovely temple, sees the villain there,  
With eye upturn'd, and aspect false as fair—  
E'en at the altar's very horns he stands,  
And breaks and blesses with polluted hands.

You will perhaps be told that the liberty for which I contend is the licentiousness of the press. It is fashionable to declaim about this licentiousness, and to whine and whimper, to storm and to threaten, about the mischiefs which flow from an unshackled freedom of discussion; but this is mere declamation. The licentiousness of the press is a bugbear which has no existence but in the imagination of those who are conscious of their own wickedness, and dread nothing but exposure—whose anxiety is, not to leave a crime undone, but to keep its commission unknown; who fear not the wrath of heaven or the justice of the almighty avenger, but tremble at the reproach of a satirist, and dare as soon beard the eternal devil on his throne, as encounter a newspaper paragraph. It is said to be difficult to draw the line between the liberty and the licentiousness of the press. This, too, is false. Public opinion has already drawn the line. It has placed metes and bounds, and said, thus far shalt thou go, and no farther. It has thrown a spell around the upright, the virtuous, and the holy, which no licentious printer can invade, nor the shafts of his malice transpierce—and when such a one attempts to drag the pure and the honest from their sanctuary, he is instantly pursued, overtaken and punished by public indignation. What has virtue to fear from the licentiousness of the press? Whoever heard,—is there an instance on record—is there one in the memory of man—of a virtuous and upright person, who suffered the loss of property or reputation by this imaginary licentiousness of the press? No, gentlemen,

\*This was very well as a declamation in defence, addressed both to the passions and the reason of the jurymen; but it will not stand the test of sound reflection. It is none but a "faultless monster," whom all the world concur in believing and knowing to be immaculately virtuous in all points, that can be wholly invulnerable by a false and malicious libel; not the mixed characters of which the bulk of mankind is composed. In many