

them! I do confess, when I paused here in the perusal of these instructions, the very life-blood froze within my veins! What! said I, must I not only reveal this guilt; must I not only expose his perfidy; must I not only brand the infidelity of a wife and a mother? Thank God, gentlemen, I may not be obliged to torture you, him and myself, by such instrumentality. I think the proof is full without it, though it must add another pang to the soul of the poor plaintiff, because it must render it almost impossible that his little infants are not the brood of his adulterous depravity.

Here the learned counsellor adverted to the evidence of a servant maid:

Gentlemen, I do entreat of you to examine this woman, though she is an uneducated peasant, with all severity; because, if she speaks the truth, I think you will agree with me, that so horrible a complication of iniquity never disgraced the annals of a court of justice. He had just risen from the table of his friend behind him, and even from the very board of his hospitality he proceeded to the defilement of his bed. Of mere adultery I had heard before. It was bad enough—a breach of all law, religion and morality; but what shall I call this, that seduced innocence, insulted misfortune, betrayed friendship, violated hospitality, tore up the foundations of human nature, and hurled its fragments at the violated altar, as if to bury religion beneath the ruin of society. Does our proof rest here? No; you shall have it from a gentleman of impeachable veracity, that the defendant expressed himself the discovery in his bed room; “I know very well the jury will award damages against me; ask Summers will he agree to compromise it; he owes me some money, I will give the overplus in horses.” Can you imagine any thing more abominable. He seduced from his friend the idol of his soul, and the mother of his children; and when writhing under the recent wound, he deliberately offers him brutes in compensation. I will not depreciate this cruelty by any comment; yet the very brute he would barter for that unnatural mother, would have lost its life, rather than desert its offspring. I have heard it asserted also; that they mean to arraign the husband as a conspirator, because in the hour of confidence and misfortune, he accepted a proffered pecuniary assistance, from the man he thought his friend. If they do, I call upon you to visit it with vindictive and overwhelming damages. I would appeal, not to this civilized assembly, but to a horde of savages, whether it is impossible for the most inhuman monster, thus to sacrifice to infamy, his character, his wife, his home, his children! In the name of possibility, I deny it; in the name of human-