

which is in effect holding out a premium to contemners of gravity, and imposing a tax upon owls and turkey-cocks? This, if continued, must terminate in anarchy and in the dissolution of society. Laughters proceed from step to step, till they arrive at a degree of boldness, at the very thoughts of which they would once have shuddered. They carry on their attacks at first in disguise, till, bolder grown, they are not dismayed by wigs, nor coifs, nor bands, nor gold chains, nor any other substitutes for sound heads, and good hearts. The first step in opposition to this system, should be a firm determination to refrain from laughing, and the second, to discountenance it by informing against those who are dealers in, or retailers of, ridicule. Additional laws may be required to coerce the laugher, and protect the laughee, and such may be very properly applied for to the retail-law-shop at the police-office, where they may be had cheap, that is to say, for small penalties, and tenfold costs; but what avail laws if not enforced, and how can they be enforced, if the breakers of them are not informed against? my advice therefore to you all is to turn informers, 'tis a thriving and an honourable trade, and you will deserve well of your country. Nothing is more clear than if laughter can be abolished, all will be placed upon a footing of solemn equality* ; and it is also worthy of notice that if all were to become laughers, those who now pursue that traffic would lose their advantage, for it is only by there being abundant matter to ridicule that satirists find employment. Who can doubt the baneful increase of laughter in this province, after we are told that the Scribbler sells ten times more of his trash now than

* Some of the auditors considered this as rather a dangerous word to be used by the honourable chairman.