

may be of having discharged our duty in the protection of innocence, we cannot but regret that these investigations should not be made during the trial, which would in many cases, save to an honest and useful citizen, the disgrace of an unmerited sentence which stamps his character with an ignominious and lasting reprobation ; whilst they would, on the contrary, tend to the detection of crimes, which can only be truly delineated by the means which Medical Science affords of giving to attested facts, a just appreciation of the confidence to be placed in the assertion of ignorant or corrupt witnesses. We are however bound to acknowledge, that in the particular instance to which we just alluded, the life of the accused could not be entrusted into abler hands than those of the eminent Counsel who stood in his defence, but who, unfortunately, placed too much confidence in the judgment of an unenlightened jury. This reflexion we are led to introduce on the present occasion, as it proceeds from a thorough conviction that the practice hitherto observed in this country, of selecting Jurors among the lower class of citizens, who are generally without any education, does not contribute so ably to the ends of justice, particularly when the life of a man is at stake, as if that important body were taken from the more enlightened classes, such as the Grand Jurors are: the latter being, in our opinion, a more competent tribunal than the former, for the discharge of this very serious and sometimes difficult function ; still we are happy to observe this precaution taken in matters of a civil jurisdiction, when the honor or property of the citizen is in jeopardy, and we sincerely hope it may be extended to the protection of life, the dearest of all properties.

We beg pardon for this suggestion ; and we feel confident it would not be doing justice to the good sense of our countrymen, if we were to expatiate longer on a subject which it is our intention, in the following pages, to place in its true