

Friend to produce any evidence to contradict this: how then will the case stand? A tender and affectionate husband, whose wife has born him a child, now asks you for damages against the man who has taken from him the chosen partner of his life, the mother of his child.—This Gentlemen, I think, will appear to you a case worthy of your most serious attention. It is now my duty to state to you the particulars of the present case. The Defendant, Mr. Hunt, had himself been a married man; he had had several children: his wife, who was a most amiable woman, had in her life-time been very intimate with the Plaintiff's family: her manners and her conduct were such as to make her a most desirable acquaintance for the Plaintiff's young wife, who was only nineteen years of age. An intimacy then took place; but in the month of March last, Mrs. Hunt died after lying-in; the Defendant appeared in the greatest affliction, and the Plaintiff and his family endeavoured, by every hospitable attention, to dispel his grief. In return for this kindness he seduced the Plaintiff's wife to leave her tender, unsuspecting husband. On the 8th of July last, the Plaintiff returned home; his wife was not at home. The night was tempestuous, and he imagined every excuse for her absence; he thought she might have been with their relations, or with some near friend; that she was not able to get a coach; but he still expected her every moment. The whole night passed; no wife returned. You, Gentlemen of the Jury, are to consider what were the feelings of a tender and affectionate husband (as I shall prove the Plaintiff to have been) that night, in which, for the first time, his wife was absent. When you shall have formed some estimate of his feelings on that occasion, then, Gentlemen, I request you will pause

a moment, and tell me what were his feelings, on the ensuing morning, when he received the following letter from the Defendant, whom he had always considered his friend, and whom he had never suspected:—

"Sir,—With sorrow great, how can I inform you, that you have *miraculously* misplaced in me your confidence. Your wife cannot return without your forgiveness, and that I think is impossible. See however, directly my poor Brother, who, as well as Eliza (Mrs. Lingham), yourself, and me, must go distracted. Still yours,

JOSEPH HUNT."

Mark the unparalleled impudence of this man—*still yours*—when he has deliberately plunged a dagger in your bosom. Gentlemen, I have heard it said, that in Actions of this nature, we should fix the place of trial rather at Westminster than at Guildhall; that in the City men value more their merchandize than their honour. They are ignorant and impudent libellers who say so. I know and feel, that there is no class of men who value higher what belongs to honour than the Merchants of London. I need not tell you, if the vices of the great descend to the middling classes of life (and certainly the parties in the present suit are only in a middling situation), those who affect those vices should pay the price of them. As I know the men whom I address are respectable Merchants of this great City, I should conceive I insulted your feelings, were I to waste time in descending on the injury for which my Client now seeks redress at your hands. (Mr. GARROW then stated to the Jury the nature of the evidence he should produce.)

The marriage was proved by the officiating Clergyman (Mr. Hart), and by Mr. Joseph Dixon, brother to Mrs. Lingham, who was present at it: It took place on the 16th of August; 1800.