

all the mischiefs which happened in the cruel Dictatorship of Sylla are applied to the present times of France. It begins in this manner:—"I hardly conceive that the mildness of your nature and character will permit you to give credit to the various atrocities committed by the present Dictator; it is not only you who suffer, but your children yet unborn are proscribed, perhaps, before they have seen the light. And was it for this that France has combated Prussia, Russia, Austria, and all Europe, to surrender her sovereignty and her liberty to a Corsican Rebel? These libels were of prodigious length, and were read throughout by Mr. Abbot. (Perhaps the few passages, we have now selected may give a sufficient idea of the complexion of the whole, to understand the nature and object of the prosecution).

The ATTORNEY GENERAL then rose and spoke to the following effect:—"Gentlemen of the Jury, after the very distinct opening of the pleadings, by my learned friend Mr. ABBOT, I flatter myself that I shall be able, very shortly, to put you in possession of the whole of the case which you are this day to try. The simple and not very difficult questions for your consideration will be, whether this person, who is brought up for your judgment, the Prisoner, Jean Peltier, is or is not guilty of publishing the libels which have been read to you? and whether the tendency of those libels, and the motives of their publication, are or are not such as the information attributes to them? Gentlemen, it is impossible for me not to perceive and feel, that great and uncommon interest and curiosity are excited upon this occasion. I see this Court graced by an audience more numerous and brilliant than what we are

accustomed to see; and I hope that this curiosity does not expect its gratification from any passages of my address, or from any of these few observations, which it is my duty now to offer you; if it does, it must be disappointed; for on the present occasion I feel myself equally led by duty and inclination to confine myself to the dull and dry examination of the libels which are the subject of the present prosecution, and of the law as it applies to similar publications. I have then to consider, whether from all we know of the law, both from the practice of the Courts, and from that reason on which the English Law is founded, we can tolerate, as innocent or indifferent, publications of the stamp and complexion of those which are the subject of the present prosecution. No man feels more strongly than I do the distinguished talents of my learned friend (Mr. MINTOSH) who conducts the defence in the present case; but rich as he is in all the treasures and resources of a strong and well stored mind, a brilliant imagination, an acute understanding, and a most cultivated taste, yet I doubt that even he will be able to satisfy the curiosity and interest that have been excited on the present occasion, if he confines himself to the points on which the present prosecution turns; and farther than that I cannot suppose my learned friend will go. I cannot believe that he would *lend himself* to support the principles of the libels that are the subject of the present prosecution. Were he to launch into the wide sea of politics, were he to wander into general observations, he would find an ample field indeed, in the consideration of the most eventful period of the most eventful revolution known in the history of the world; but I trust that he will shape his defence otherwise; and that you will not be perplexed,