

"are written; if he should for a moment think he could serve his client by a republication of the libel; if he were instructed, and thought it consistent with his duty to go over the same discussions, and to repeat the declamation and invective of which we now complain, then, indeed an extensive field would be opened for his ingenuity and eloquence. He would have to expatiate upon the most extraordinary event, of the most extraordinary occurrence, in the most extraordinary and evenful revolution recorded in the annals of history. But if no other higher consideration deterred him from pursuing such a course, the interest of his client would be sufficient for this purpose. Brethren, I think that this libel tends to endanger the tranquillity between this country and a nation with whom we are at peace, I prosecute the author. That charge brings me, and it brings the defendant, this day before you. If the information is thought well founded, if you pronounce a verdict of guilty, when the time comes for appointing the punishment, if it appear that by the defendant's instructions, the last Court of justice in the kingdom is made a vehicle for slander and defamation, all the ill consequences of the libel are aggravated and enhanced. I should still discharge my duty to the Public, I should still sin in my regard for the proper administration of the English Laws, if I did not press upon the Judges to take care that a calumny was not increased by the means employed to check it, and by the punishment they inflicted to shew, not only to France, but to the whole of Europe, that a British Court of Justice impartially determines upon the guilt of those accused, and is not the means of extending defamation."

After the Attorney General had concluded, and the evidence had been examined, Mr. Pitt-Rivers, one of the counsel for Mr. Pettier (the other being Mr. Ferguson) entered on the defence, in a speech, which lasted three or four hours, but which contained, relative to the case of Mr. Pettier, very little more, we believe, than what will be found in the following report, which is copied from the Morning Post.

My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury, I would not so far depart from my duty, or from the respectability of the body to which I belong, as to lend myself to the passions of any client. Whatever respect is due by the law to the rulers of any country, that respect shall be paid by me. Nay more, whatever concerns liberty, the dearest and best of all the interests of man, may indeed call forth my warm feelings, but I shall know how to repress these feelings in every instance in which

they are not borne out by truth. My Lord and Gentlemen, I have to intreat your indulgence, beset as I am with topics of so much difficulty. You may, indeed, conceive that having had the presumption to encounter those difficulties, I have no title to make any more in contending with them. I did not seek them, but having unexpectedly fallen in with them I will not now turn my back on them: here I found them, and here I will meet and engage them with every exertion of whatever power I possess. Acting on these principles, before an English Jury, I am sure that if my feelings shall, in any instance, betray me into any excessive warmth, my client will not suffer for my error. He imposed on me the trust of his defence, and I could not decline it. Still less can I betray it, having once undertaken to charge myself with it. He is entitled to a just, faithful, and fearless defence, and he shall have it, so far as it can be afforded by my humble talents, actuated by a warm and honest zeal in the discharge of my duty. Intrepidity has been too long used at the English bar, that it is unuseful to me, at this moment, to descend upon it; still less can I claim any merit for adding up to it. I have only to say, that if the bar could have been silenced or overawed by any power, whatsoever, no jury would now be here. That pride and boast of our free constitution could not this day have existed. It is owing to the intrepidity of the bar, that you, gentlemen, are now here to try this cause. It was therefore, perhaps, too much for me to say, that my client should have a fearless defence, in a place, where fear never entered any bosom, but that of a criminal. Yet, surely, if, in any case, a timid feeling could invade a place so fortified against it, it must be in this, where the prosecutor is the master of a great empire, and the defendant a poor proscribed French emigrant, compelled to relinquish his country, in 1792, driven out by the daggers of his countrymen. Gentlemen, you recollect that eventful and calamitous period, when our shores were covered with helpless women, and children still more helpless, with priests, strangers to the world, flying from their country, as from a tract overrun with tigers, and seeking in our's a shelter which they did not fail to find. Such of these unhappy fugitives as escaped the scaffold, as survived the trying changes of climates unknown to them, and the multiplied distresses and vexations they had to endure, were recently permitted to revisit their native country. They were indulged in the gratification, and a very high gratification it must be, worn out and exhausted with calamity as they were; they were indulged with permission to die at home. I do not mean to undervalue this indulgence; on the contrary, I am disposed to rate it high; but my client, and a few