

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, 28th MAY, 1803.

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[In the last number of the Register we gave an abridged account of Peltier's Trial; we now publish a more ample account of it, omitting the Speech of Mr. McKintosh, which we find is more fully reported in our last, (*vid.* page 310) than in the paper from which the present report is copied.]

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, FEB. 21.

The King v. Jean Peltier.

This was an information against the Defendant for publishing a libel against Napoleon Bonaparte, the First Consul of the French Republic.

Mr. ABBOT opened the pleadings on the part of the prosecution in the following manner:—Gentlemen of the Jury, this is an information against the prisoner Jean Peltier, for publishing, in a Paper called *L'Ambigu*, several libels against Napoleon Bonaparte, who was at the time of the said publication, and is now, First Consul and Chief Magistrate of the French Republic. The information states, that there subsisted at the time of such publication, and does now subsist, peace and harmony between this United Kingdom and the Republic of France, and that the said libels tend not only to disturb this peace and harmony so happily subsisting between the said Countries, by exciting animosities, jealousies, and resentments, but directly tend to degrade and vilify the said Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul and Chief Magistrate of the French Republic, in the eyes of the French Nation, and to stir up and excite persons in France to assassinate and murder the said First Consul. The Learned Counsel then read the translations of

the different libels which were the subject of this prosecution. The first was in the form of an Ode on the 18th Brumaire; the second was also in verse, and entitled "The Prayer of a good Patriot of the 14th of July, 1802;" the third was a long speech, supposed to have been delivered by Lepidus to the Romans on the Dictatorship of Sylla: These pieces were extremely long. The first Ode contained, among many other strong passages, the following "O eternal Shame of France! When Cæsar was on the Rubicon, he was opposed by the Senate, by Pompey, and by Cato, and though victor on the plains of Pharsalia, a dagger yet remained in the hands of the last of the Romans; but Frenchmen receive their chains without a murmur." It also contained many other strong passages, calling to the French Nation to arm, to march, for the times admitted no delay. The second libel, entitled "The Prayer of a Good Patriot of the 14th of July, 1802," was also in verse, and after affecting to admire the fortune of Bonaparte, whom it describes under the name of the *Son of Letitia*, concludes, "I do not envy his fortunes; let him be named First Consul for life. There is nothing now wanting to him but the Sceptre and the Crown; let him have them, let him be elected Emperor. The story of Romulus reminds me of this, and I wish his *Apotheosis* may follow on the morrow."—The third Libel was stated to be a speech delivered by Lepidus to the Romans, and now addressed to the French, on the subject of the Dictatorship. In this long oration,