

After the close of the Hon. Attorney General's Address, His Honor Judge WILKINS charged the Jury as follows:—

*Gentlemen of the Jury.*—The result of your deliberations in this important cause will not merely affect yourselves and your cotemporaries, but generations that succeed you upon this ever-changing stage of human existence. Your verdict will exercise a powerful influence upon the social happiness of the people of this Province, for it will decide whether peace and order, which are essential to the free elections of representatives in the General Assembly, shall be maintained by the fixed institutions and laws of the land alone, or whether electors, at future elections, may form armed combinations for their protection from apprehended violence, or for the free delivery of their votes. I regretted deeply to hear it avowed by the learned counsel for the prisoner that this was a *political case*. The declaration struck me as not in harmony with the place, or with the occasion. The prisoner is charged with a crime, which, if it be established against him, will subject him to an ignominious punishment, and deprive him of his liberty. The issue of his guilt or innocence is upon a trial in this Court, which you in your place, and I in mine, are bound by the most solemn obligations to conduct according to law and to the evidence. Your oath has charged you "*Well and truly to try, and true deliverance to make, between our Sovereign Lady the Queen and the prisoner at the bar, and a true verdict to give, according to the evidence.*" When your lips touched the sacred volume, and you assented to the prescribed adjuration, "*So help you God,*" you in effect prayed that as you should make true deliverance according to the evidence, so might the Almighty administer *help* to you when you stood at the eternal bar. Having, then, been thus adjured well and truly to try this cause, I will not insult you by the supposition that you could possibly be induced to regard this case as a *political question*, or to permit any other influences to affect your deliberations than grave and matured considerations of duty. The fatal act which led to this prosecution was indeed committed upon an occasion when free men were engaged in the exercise of a valuable and important political right, and when their passions were likely to be excited by the conflict of political opinions. But we owe it to ourselves, and to those who may come after us, so to act in the discharge of our respective duties here, that how violently soever that conflict may rage without these walls, within them it shall not intrude—that we carefully preserve for ourselves, and our children, this sanctuary pure and undefiled, wherein Law shall reign in its sacred majesty.

If you and I could be brought to prostitute our offices in the temple of justice to political partizanship—if the hideousness of party strife were to sully the purity of the trial by Jury—if prejudice and passion were to usurp the places of truth and justice here—what security would a colonial subject have for his property, his liberty, his life? If either of us reflects upon the strength of his passions, and infirmity of his nature, he will feel that he knows not how soon he may be even personally interested in upholding the supremacy of the law. The circumstances detailed by the witnesses, many of which, though