

at the head of the Court, did not then contradict Mr. Attorney, and seize that opportunity of laying down authoritatively the law upon the chapter of Libels; but, I presume, that, out of respect to the Crown, he was not willing, at that time, to put down its principal law-officer, in his own court, in the face of the King's Bench; or, perhaps, there were other and better reasons which restrained his Lordship, or rendered it at that instant not so convenient or proper.

By the bye, it is a great happiness for the Police of this realm, and for the reformation of manners, that this same popular man's lot has carried him to preside over Common Pleas only. Juries are not quite so likely to err in mere disputes of *meum* and *tuum*. But, how would Crown-Prosecutions have been managed in such hands! Nothing, for certain, can tend so effectually to the preservation of good order, domestic peace and true loyalty, as the prevention of all invidious writing touching administration, by proper conviction and punishment of the Authors as libellers, that is, under the guise of law; and this can never be effectually done, if men of ordinary life and downright understandings, are to pass their own judgment of the matter, and that judgment is to be deemed the law of the land. For, I don't know how it happens, but the fact undoubtedly is, the generality of people in this country are much disposed both to laugh, and to rail at Administration, and not only to forgive, but to encourage and relish every ridicule, lampoon, or satire, published concerning them, insomuch, that news-papers principally subsist by the ingredient of abuse, and are read in every county of England with eagerness, and