

## A LESSON FOR JURORS.

Sir,

The following lesson for Jurors, which cannot be too generally known and circulated, appears to be well calculated for a place in your Enquirer:

A Judge, who travelled the north west circuit of Ireland, (about thirty-five years ago,) presided at the trial of the following cause: It was the case of a Landlord's prosecution against a *poor man* who was his tenant, for assault and battery, committed on the person of the prosecutor by the defendant, in the preservation of his only child, an innocent and beautiful girl, from ravishment.

When the *poor man* was brought into court and put to the bar, the prosecutor appeared and swore most manfully to every article in the indictment. He was cross examined by the jurors, who was composed of honest tradesmen and respectable farmers. The *poor man* had no lawyer to tell his story; he pleaded his own cause—and he pleaded, not to the fancy, but to the judgment and the heart.—The Jury found him **NOT GUILTY**.

The court seemed highly displeas'd; but the surrounding spectators gladdened to exultation, uttered a shout of applause.

The Judge told the Jury they must go back to their room, and reconsider the matter, adding, "He was astonished they could presume to return so infamous a verdict." The jury bowed, went back, and in a quarter of an hour returned, when the foreman, a venerable old man, thus addressed the Bench:—"My Lord, in compliance with your desire we went back to our Jury-room, but as we found no cause to alter our opinions, or our verdict, we return it to you, in the same words as before **NOT GUILTY**.—We heard your Lordship's extraordinary language of reproof—but we do not accept it as properly or warrantably applying unto us. It is true, my Lord, that we ourselves, individually considered, in our private capacities, may be poor insignificant men; therefore in that light we claim nothing, out of this box, above the common regard due to our humble but honest stations, but, my Lord, assembled here as a Jury, we cannot be insensible to the great and constitutional importance of the department we now fill; we feel, my Lord, that we are appointed, as you are, by the Law and the Constitution, not only as an impartial tribunal to judge between the king and his subjects,—the offended and the offender,—but, we act in a situation of still greater confidence; for we form as a Jury the barrier of the people, against the possible influence, prejudice, passion, or corruption of the Bench."

"To you, my Lord, meeting you within these walls, I, for my own part, might measure my respect by your private virtues,—but the moment I am enclosed in this place, your private character is invisible; for it is in my eyes veiled by your official one, and to open conduct in that, only we can look."

"This Jury, my Lord, does not, in this business presume to offer the Bench the smallest degree of disrespect, much less of insult; we pay it the respect one tribunal should pay to another, for the common honour of both. This Jury, my Lord, did not arraign that Bench with partiality, prejudice, infamous decision, nor yet with influence, passion, corruption, oppression, or tyranny; no, we looked to it as the mercy-seat of royalty—as the sanctuary of truth and justice.—Still my Lord, we cannot blot from our minds the records of our school book, nor erase the