

or anecdote of the day. The other, in his high and reverend province, in pursuance of his duty, and agreeably to his oath, pronounced his opinion upon a matter of law, brought judicially before him, with a gravity and weight equal to any of his most venerable predecessors, becoming his function, and to the universal approbation of every lawyer, and of every man in England. Moreover, the Council for the Crown could, had they not acquiesced in the Chief Justice's opinion, have very easily brought the same matter in judgment before the Chief Justice of England himself, nay, even in the last resort before the House of Lords. Another well known truth, which, probably, the *Loyal Briton* has not yet heard, is, that Mr. Pitt himself neither has, nor ever had any more connection with this desperate libeller, than any one of the blameless great men at present in power. I will likewise tell him one other thing which he little suspects, and that is, so candid are the Ministers now-a-days, that one of the shrewdest and wittiest among them has publicly declared¹ he does not dislike a little opposition, and thinks there is no harm at all in being *rubbed now and then with a little salt*; so that, after all, the Gentleman² before-mentioned only offended (as I ween) by the quantity he put in his pickle: It is therefore most evident it was always very far from this Ministry's desire to have any one creature hanged for such a political mistake. Besides, they know, that we Englishmen, being unaccustomed to the commission of crimes against our Sovereign which are punishable with death, are not sufficiently familiarized to the gallows, to consider the *dangling*

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1) Henley Lord Chancellor, in a speech in the House of Lords
 Wilkes