

TRIAL BY JURY,
The Grand Palladium of BRITISH LIBERTY.

A SONG,

SUNG AT THE CROWN AND ANCHOR, FEB. 4, 1795,

In CELEBRATION of the Late TRIALS for HIGH TREASON,
and TRIUMPHANT ACQUITTALS of

THOMAS HARDY, JOHN HORNE TOOKE,

AND

JOHN THELWALL;

AND IN HONOUR OF THEIR COUNSEL,

THOMAS ERSKINE, AND VICARY GIBBS.

By EDWARD WILLIAMS,

Author of POEMS, LYRIC and PASTORAL, lately published.

HERE, Brothers, we meet in th' abundance of joy,
Prepar'd with our festival strain,
The storms, tho' severe, did but little annoy,
Their thunders exploded in vain:
See how firmly the mountain sustains ev'ry shock,
Tho' lightnings fly, raging, around,
And INNOCENCE, like an immovable rock,
Is ever invincible found.

Come hither! ye *Spies* and *Informers of State*!
With Consciences offer'd for sale;
Come hither! and all your achievements relate!
Whilst Ridicule joys in the tale!
Or will ye, disgrac'd, to your PERJURER throng,
Nor *Memory* with to possess;
Then haste! gnath your fangs! whilst we call for the song
Of Triumph's exulting excess!

Th' ASSERTORS OF TRUTH that were trampil'd awhile,
That *Villainy* fiercely pursued,
Claim the song of our gladness—true Sons of our Isle,
With virtues gigantic endued.
What joy to the world! these to MAN and his CAUSE,
The JURIES OF BRITAIN restor'd:
Our JURIES—our themes of eternal Applause!
Let their names be for ever ador'd.

Boast, BRITAIN, thy JURIES! thy glory! thy plan! †
They treat the *stern Tyrant* with scorn!
O! bid them descend, the best Guardians of Man,
To millions of ages unborn:
Far and wide as the light, of true FREEDOM the soul,
Be thy BLEST INSTITUTION proclaim'd;
With ERSKINE, with GIBBS, on Eternity's roll,
In the language of Glory be nam'd.

† The Principle of Trial by Jury originated in Britain.

