

THIS infamous test of truth is a remaining monument of that antient and savage legislation, in which trials by fire, by boiling water, or the uncertainty of combats, were called *Judgments of God*; as if the links of that eternal chain, whose beginning is in the breast of the first cause of all things, could ever be disunited by the institutions of men. The only difference between torture, and trials by fire and boiling water, is, that the event of the first depends on the will of the accused; and of the second, on a fact entirely physical and external: but this difference is apparent only, not real. A man on the rack, in the convulsions of torture, has it as little in his power to declare the truth, as in former times, to prevent without fraud the effects of fire or of boiling water.

EVERY act of the will is invariably in proportion to the force of the impression on our senses. The impression of pain, then, may increase to such a degree, that  
occupying