

ceed the former, and are sometimes detrimental to the state they were intended to serve.

THOSE ingenious punishments, the *ne plus ultra* of the human mind endeavouring to render death horrible, seem rather the inventions of tyranny than of justice.

THE punishment of the *wheel* was first introduced in Germany, in the times of anarchy, when those who usurped the regal power, resolved to terrify, with unheard of torments, those who should dispute their authority. In England, they ripped open the belly of a man guilty of *high treason*; tore out his heart, dashed it in his face, and then threw it into the fire. And wherein did this *high treason* frequently consist? In having been, during a civil war, faithful to an unfortunate king; or in having spoken freely on the doubtful right of the conqueror. At length, their manners were softened; they continue to tear out the heart, but not till after the death of the offender. The apparatus is dreadful; but