Phil 114, Third Paper Topic

Due: Thursday, May 3, in class, before lecture begins (=2:10).
Maximum Length: Five double-spaced pages, 12-point font, one-inch margins

• Would Bentham agree that lawmakers should never make a law that generally punishes people for crimes they did not commit? Why or why not?
• Would Bentham agree that a jury, or a judge, should never convict, or sentence, a particular person for a particular crime that he/she did not commit? Why or why not? (Hint: Consider a case in which acquitting a defendant would lead to violent riots.)
• Why might the answers differ?
• In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you think that Bentham’s account of punishment is acceptable?