

IMPORTANT TRIAL

Sketch of the trial of Sir Robert Wilson and Messrs. Bruce and Hutchinson, together with Bruce's interesting speech.

Case of Sir Robert T. Wilson, (aged 58, a British Maj. General, not in active service,) Michael Bruce, gentleman, aged 26; John H. Hutchinson, aged 26, Capt. 1st regt. Grenadier Guards to the King of England—the two former born in England, the latter in Ireland.

Their trial, for assisting in the escape of Lavalette, (the Post-Master Gen.) ended before the Court of Assize, at Paris, 24th April. The trial appears to have been quite interesting. The speeches on the last day of the trial, of M. Dupin, their advocate, Wilson and Bruce, are worth perusing. The conduct of the accused, in rescuing Lavalette, partook of chivalry and romance—their sentiments are candid & bold—and, being released, as they were, from the original charge of attempting to subvert the government of France, they open the recesses of their hearts, expose their inmost thoughts, and honestly pleaded guilty to the accusation of assisting a state criminal in his concealment and final escape. Their motives were the force of political opinion & humanity. The freedom of thinking doubtless belonged to them; and however their daring and ingenious conduct and generous devotion may be admired, yet it is doubted by many whether they can be vindicated in their interference to save a man condemned to death by the laws of the State in which they resided. It reflects credit on the French Court of Assizes, in that, when they could have sentenced them to any period of imprisonment, they only sentenced them to the shortest period possible.

M. Dupin, after ally vindicating the character, &c. of the accused, and portraying the military renown of Sir Robert, said: How manners change with times! Among the Athenians, a people proverbial for levity, a wisp of Arcopagus was renowned for his justice, a young man was sentenced to death, because he killed a dove, which, when pursued by a hawk, had sought refuge between his legs, because it was inferred that a person destitute of pity could not be a good citizen. And among us, in the 19th century, shall we see men condemned for having saved the life of a fellow creature, who placed his fate in their hands? Has then our nation, once so vaunted for mildness and politeness, divested itself of every feeling of humanity?—[He went on in this strain at some length, and closed as follows.]—Should it even require a small degree of favour to acquit them, still, I am confident, you will acquit them in order to verify this expression of one of our most illustrious Chancellors, 'Foreigners are privileged persons in France when they implore the justice of the King.'

Sir Robert followed—confessed the facts as to the escape of Lavalette, and vindicated his principles and conduct in a bold and impressive manner. [His speech, as well as that of M. Dupin, was applauded by the spectators—and the President had to check them.] After Sir R. W. had concluded, Mr. Hutchinson was called to the bar, but having nothing further to say—Mr. Bruce then spoke as follows:—Gentlemen, I appear before this tribunal accused of having favoured the escape of Lavalette. If it be a crime to have saved the life of a man, I admit that I am guilty. I will make no boast of what I have done. An appeal was made to my humanity, and my honour compelled me to answer it. If the charge were confined to the affair of Lavalette, I should have but a few words to say to you; but I have been accused of having conspired against the political system of Europe, of having excited the people to take up arms against the authority of the King. It is true, that this absurd, ridiculous, & totally unfounded charge, which has excited so strong an indignation throughout all Europe, has been rejected by the wisdom of the French magistrates; but yet the motives upon which it was grounded still subsist. The Attorney General has presumed to say, in the preamble to the act of accusation—'Accused, you speak French very fluently; in speaking of a Magistrate, and of so worthy a Magistrate, be more guarded in your expressions.'

Mr. Bruce resumed. The Attorney General said, that I was one of those persons who have imbibed anti-social doctrines; that I was an enemy, from principle, to every thing like order and good government, an enemy from principle, to kings, to justice, and humanity, and a friend to the factions of every country. These, it must be allowed, are very heavy charges, but the short explanation which I will give you of my principles will be a victorious answer to these calumnious accusations. I shall not enter into metaphysical abstractions on the law of nations, nor into digressions on politics, but I shall confine myself to an examination of the principles by which I have been always guided.

I am by birth an Englishman. I am enthusiastically attached to the Constitution of my country—that is, the Constitution as established by the glorious Revolution in 1688. Then was formed that exquisite system of government which excites such universal admiration, which causes our country to be pre-eminently denominated the classic land of liberty, which procured us the cinguium of that philosopher, Montesquieu, who belongs not to France alone, but to the whole world, and who says of us, that the English are the only people in the world who know how to make use of their religion, their laws, & their commerce. From the Revolution of 1688, I date the prosperity, grandeur, and liberty of England.

I must say, that if these principles which I profess, which are those of the constitution of my country, are subversive of all ideas of order and good government, and make me an enemy to kings, to justice and humanity—I confess that I am the most guilty of men, & the Attorney General is right; but if, on the contrary, these are the principles that have procured us protecting laws, that secure our persons, our property, and our religion, that have made a people not highly favoured by nature the most happy, the best governed and the most flourishing in Europe, I am justified in concluding, that the accusation was only a revolting calumny. Such are the horrid principles of that Wilson, and that Bruce, of whom the Attorney General has spoken in such a derogatory manner. I inherited them from my ancestors, and they will accompany me to the grave.

As to the affair of M. de Lavalette, politics had no share in it; I was influenced solely by feelings of humanity; you have seen from my interrogatory that I scarcely knew him. It is true that the excellence of his character, his amiable disposition, and prepossessing manners, had excited in me a deeper interest than we generally feel for persons of whom we have seen so little. I never visited him, nor he me, and it was here where I now appear as an accused person, that I had the honour to see for the first time, that virtuous and interesting woman, to whom I beg leave to offer the homage of my respect and admiration. [* Mrs. L. was present.] It has been proved that there was no concert between us and the other accused. I have respected the chains and the bolts of a house of justice. I did not sally forth like Don Quixotte, in search of adventures. An unfortunate man demands my protection; he places confidence in my character; he puts his life in my hands, and claims my humanity. What would have been said of me had I denounced him to the police? I should then have richly deserved that death with which I have been, since threatened. What do I say? What would have been thought of me, had I refused to protect him? I should have been looked upon as a coward, as a wretch without principle, without honour, without courage, without generosity. I should have deserved the reproach of every good man.

But, Gentlemen, there were other considerations which decided me. There was something romantic in the history of M. Lavalette. The miraculous escape from prison, the cruel suspense between life and death in which he remained for such a length of time, the noble devotedness of his wife, the French Alceste, that heroic action which will live up history, struck my imagination, and excited so strong an interest in my heart, that I could not resist its impulse. Besides, as your lafontaine observes with his usual air:— Dans ce monde il se fait l'un l'autre secourir. Il se faut entre-aider; des la loi de nature.

Gentlemen, I am still young, but I have travelled a good deal. I have seen many countries, and examined them with all the attention I was capable of. I have always observed, even among the most barbarous nations, among those which are nearest to the state of nature, that it was held a sacred duty to assist those who had recourse to their protection. It is a duty enjoyed by their religion, their laws, and their manners. A Bedouin of the Desert, a Druse of Mount Lebanon, would rather sacrifice his life than betray the person who had solicited an asylum of him. Whatever may be the crime of the stranger, he sees nothing but the duty of humanity, of hospitality. I, a civilized man, have thought it commendable to imitate the virtues even of barbarians.—And I cannot believe, that among the French people, so celebrated for sensibility, for humanity, for its chivalrous character, which numbers among its Kings a Henry IV. that model of Princes—& would to God all Kings were like him!—which counts among its warriors a Bayard, the most perfect of all, without fear and without reproach, whose motto was to succour the unfortunate—I cannot believe that among such people an Englishman can be condemned for having saved a Frenchman.

Gentlemen, I have acknowledged to you, with the candour and integrity of my character, the whole truth respecting the part which I have had in the escape of M. Lavalette, and notwithstanding the respect which I entertain for the majesty of the laws—notwithstanding the respect which I owe to this tribunal, I cannot be wanting in this respect which I owe to myself in confessing that I am far from repenting of what I have done. Gentlemen I have done; I leave my fate in your hands, and solicit nothing but justice.

The president then summed up the charges and defence. The jury retired for three quarters of an hour, & on their return declared, E. B. R. (the turnkey, sentenced to two years imprisonment) guilty of having facilitated, by his negligence, the escape of Lavalette; R. Roquette, Bonneville, and Guerin, Nor Guilty; Hutchinson, Bruce, and Wilson, Guilty, (sentenced to three months imprisonment.)

BEEZEBUB, the Great Prince of Devils, and Chief of the Infernal Regions, with the advice of his black Lord, and high Peers of his sulphurous dominions—unto his loyal and faithful BLASPHEMERS and SWEARERS, sendeth—

Whereas his most diabolical Majesty, has lately beheld, with the most infernal satisfaction, the rapid progress his subjects on the earth have made, and are making in the black science of blasphemy and profaneness, and who of late added to their catalogue of oaths and curses, a variety of newly invented imprecations, which his Majesty conceives to be equal to any that could have been contrived by the most accomplished peer in the burning lakes; he therefore positively assures such inventors that they shall not pass unrewarded when they arrive in his flaming dominions, shall receive their proper rank and portion according to the service they have rendered his most diabolical Majesty in the world.

And whereas his Majesty, has observed many who have ranked as common swearers, he intends, for their late improvements, to promote them to a higher grade, by a diploma from the pit, which shall qualify them to become public teachers and masters of the infernal art. And his Majesty enjoins upon all such to use the utmost of their power to teach and inculcate blasphemy, high and low swearing, and profaneness, upon all they have intercourse with, by sea and by land, particularly on the rising generation that it may become habitual to them in their future lives; and to impress it on the minds of ladies and gentlemen that it is a mark of politeness and good breeding, to mingle oaths and curses with their common conversation; and that it will cause them to be believed in all they say; for such and like services they shall be eternally rewarded in the lake that burneth with fire & brimstone. Signed at the capitol of the infernal regions, by—BEEZEBUB.

A New-Brunswick, (N. J.) paper of June 25, says, the French minister, Hyde de Neuville, his family and suite, arrived at his residence in the vicinity of this city on Monday last.

Sale of Land

The subscriber being appointed trustee by the High Court of Chancery, for the purpose of selling and conveying certain lands, situate in the County of Anne Arundel, in the State of Maryland, to Richard Mason, deceased, will offer at public sale, in Leonardtown, on the second day of the next August, some few acres of land, situate in Leonardtown, on the second day of the next August, some few acres, lies on Clement's Bay, in St. Mary's County, has on it such improvements as are common in that part of the country, and possesses all the advantages of a situation on a navigable water. Further particulars will be made known on the day of sale. The purchaser will be required to pay the whole amount of the purchase money on the day of sale, or on the ratification of the sale by the chancery; and on each payment will receive from the trustee a deed regularly executed, conveying all the right title, and interest of the mortgagee, and of the heirs of the mortgagee, in and to the said land.

H. H. Chapman, Trustee.

NOTICE

That the subscriber has obtained letters of administration of the estate of John Davidson, all persons having claims against said estate, are requested to bring them in, legally authenticated, and those in any manner indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to—James Williams, Admr. D. B. N.

Coach & Harness Making.

JONATHAN HUTTON. Respectfully informs his friends that he still continues the above business, at his old stand in Corn-Hill street, where all orders for work from the country are punctually attended to. He has a second hand GIG in complete repair, well calculated for use in the country, which he will dispose of on accommodating terms. Persons wanting work done in his line will find it to their advantage to give him a call.

George & John Barber,

Have just received a supply of Summer Hats, New-England Shoes, Hering's & Shad, Oils & Paints. And a fresh supply of Corn. Which they offer for sale on liberal terms. June 27.

300 Bushels of Corn.

The subscriber has this day received three hundred bushels of nice white corn which he will sell low for cash, at his house near the Dock. June 18, 1816.

Farmers Bank of Maryland,

In compliance with the charter of the Farmers Bank of Maryland and with a supplement thereto establishing a branch thereof at Frederick-Town, notice is hereby given to the stockholders on the Western Shore, that an election will be held at the Banking-House in the city of Annapolis, on the first Monday in August next, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 3 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of choosing from amongst the stockholders sixteen directors for the Bank at Annapolis, and nine directors for the Branch Bank at Frederick-Town. By order, John Pinkney, Cashier.

Public Sale.

By virtue of an order from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, the subscriber will offer at sale, on Friday the 26th July next, within a mile of Mount Pleasant Ferry, late the residence of Abraham Chaney, All the Personal estate of said Chaney, consisting of Negroes, Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Hogs, also Household and Kitchen Furniture, Plantation Utensils, &c. Terms of sale—For all sums over twenty-dollars a credit of six months, the purchaser giving bond, with good security, with interest from the day of sale—all under that sum the cash to be paid. Anthony Woodfield.

State of Maryland, sc.

Anne-Arundel County, Orphans Court, June 25, 1816. On application by petition of John Gaither, and Edward Gaither, administrators of MARY GAITHER, late of Anne-Arundel county deceased, it is ordered that they give the notice required by law for creditors to exhibit their claims against the said deceased, & that the same be published once in each week, for the space of six successive weeks in the Maryland Gazette and Political Intelligencer. John Gassaway, Reg. Walls. A. A. County.

A Negro Girl Wanted.

The subscriber wishes to purchase a NEGRO GIRL about 10 or 12 years of age. For such an one, well recommended, a liberal price will be given. John Thompson.

Public Sale.

The subscriber being appointed trustee by the High Court of Chancery, for the purpose of selling and conveying certain lands, situate in the County of Anne Arundel, in the State of Maryland, to Richard Mason, deceased, will offer at public sale, in Leonardtown, on the second day of the next August, some few acres of land, situate in Leonardtown, on the second day of the next August, some few acres, lies on Clement's Bay, in St. Mary's County, has on it such improvements as are common in that part of the country, and possesses all the advantages of a situation on a navigable water. Further particulars will be made known on the day of sale. The purchaser will be required to pay the whole amount of the purchase money on the day of sale, or on the ratification of the sale by the chancery; and on each payment will receive from the trustee a deed regularly executed, conveying all the right title, and interest of the mortgagee, and of the heirs of the mortgagee, in and to the said land.

State of Maryland, sc.

Anne-Arundel County, Orphans Court, June 25, 1816. On application by petition of Anderson Warfield, administrator of the estate of John Warfield, deceased, it is ordered that they give the notice required by law for creditors to exhibit their claims against the said deceased, & that the same be published once in each week, for the space of six successive weeks in the Maryland Gazette and Political Intelligencer. John Gassaway, Reg. Walls. A. A. County.

This is to give Notice.

That the subscriber of Anne-Arundel county, having obtained from the orphans court of A. County, in Maryland, letters of administration of the estate of Richard Higgins, late of A. County, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the 25th day of October next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate. Given under my hand this 25th day of June, 1816. Anderson Warfield, Admr. De Bonis Non W. A.

H. G. Munroe,

Has recently received an extensive assortment of Domestic, British, French, India and German Goods, CONSISTING OF Superior black, blue, brown, olive and mixed cloths, Cassimeres and Imperial Cloths, Black, blue and mixed Stockings, Pattern mixed Angora, Waterloo mixed Cords, marseilles, wrights, Black Florentine and Asturias, Cotton Casimeres & York stripes, &c. &c. India and British Blue & yellow Nankens, Black and colored Bombazetts, assorted, 3-4 7 8 and 4 4 Irish Linens, assorted, 5-4 Irish and Russia Sheeting, Long Lawns & Linen Cambric, 12-4 11-4 12-4 Countertopans, White India Dimity and Jeans, 4-4 & 6-4 Cambric & Jaconet muslin, assorted, 4-4 & 6-4 Fancy and Corduroy do, Plain and figured India & British mill mull, Plain & figured Leno's India & french muslin handkerchiefs and shawls, Ladies & Gentlemen Cotton Hose, assorted.

With a variety of other articles in the Good Line. Groceries. Madeira, Sherry, Liqueur, Old Hyson, Teaballs and Tea, Hops, Hyacinth, Vines, Skin, Soda, Old Spices, Brandy, P. Brandy, of the Choice cargo, Cognac, Holland Gin and Whiskey, Likewise a general assortment of IRONWARE. Among which are Waldron's Double-Boiler Grain and Grass dothes, Stock Locks of all descriptions, &c. &c. All the above Goods were purchased on the best terms and will be disposed of very cheap for cash, or to punctual customers on usual credit.

LOAF AND LUMP SUGAR.

At the Factory Price—For Cash only—May 30.

Two Hundred Dollars Reward.

Ranaway on or about the 25th of January last, a negro man named London, calls himself London Turner, late of the property of Mr. George W. Higgins, of Anne-Arundel County, London is 38 or 40 years of age, five feet, ten eleven inches high, grey eyes, jet black complexion; had on when he absconded a new black fard hat, a blue & great coat, with a large cape; & a blue other clothing with him. London is a complete carpenter and joiner; he has a wife and three or four children, the property of a Mr. Richd Higgins, late in Prince-George's county, as likewise mother and several sisters residing either in George-town, or Washington City. This fellow was purchased by the subscriber at the sale of George W. Higgins's property. A reward of fifty dollars will be given if he is taken out of the state, and the above reward if taken out of the state, and secured in any way so that I get him again. David Ridgely.

LOOK HERE.

At the names and amount of some of these gentry who have large balances standing against them, and are all look at the remarks attending each one's name.—Here they are:—General Armstrong stands indebted five thousand six hundred & twenty eight dollars—and nothing is paid as to further credits, or any proceeding to pay the money. John Beckley, a famous democrat of the Clerk of Congress, stands indebted five thousand one hundred & twenty one dollars.—For which the navy list of balances published in our list from a document after this, 17th January 1816, which amounted to 260,000 dollars, 36 cents.

From the People's Monitor.

PEOPLE'S MONEY AGAIN.

According to promise, we now before our readers an official statement of balances which have been more than three years prior to September last, on the Books of the Treasury of the United States. This statement was sent from the Treasury Department to Congress last winter, by the Comptroller Mr. Anderson, with the following letter:—

Treasury Department, Comptrollers Office, Dec. 8th, 1815.

Six—In compliance with the provisions contained in the act of Congress, entitled, 'An act further to amend the several acts for the establishment and regulation of the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments,' passed 31 March, 1809, I have the honour to transmit to Congress statements of the accounts in the Treasury department; Those of the War and Navy departments have not yet been furnished, but it is expected they will in an early part of the session, and will be duly transmitted.

Statement No. 1. contains a list of balances which appear to have been due more than three years prior to 30th September last, on books of receipts and expenditures of the Treasury. Statement No. 2. contains a list of balances remaining on the Revenue books of the Treasury, which appear to have been due for more than three years, prior to the 1st January 1815.

With great respect, JOSEPH ANDERSON.

The Honourable HENRY CLAY, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the U. States.

This statement, thus officially given by Mr. Madison's Comptroller, contains the names of about a hundred delinquent debtors on Treasury Books; and the amount of the balances thus due is as follows: Total amount of balance originating at the Treasury of more than three years standing, One million five hundred and eighty thousand and fifty six dollars.

Total amount of balances transmitted from the war Department to the treasury, three hundred and sixty thousand, five hundred and two dollars.

Total amount of balances transmitted from the war Department to the treasury, one hundred and eighty thousand, one hundred & thirty four dollars—making in all at the treasury, two million, one hundred and twenty eight thousand, six hundred and ninety two dollars.

If these balances had been collected and settled as they ought to have been, they would have made a sum nearly equal to the nett amount of the present years direct Tax, and would have obviated the necessity of laying that burden upon the people.—As it is we must pay rates both to pay our debts and to pay the costly & growing expenses of our rulers, as well as to be supplied for that portion of the public money which is suffered to be hoarded in the hands of individuals who have fingered it.

General Armstrong stands indebted five thousand six hundred & twenty eight dollars—and nothing is paid as to further credits, or any proceeding to pay the money. John Beckley, a famous democrat of the Clerk of Congress, stands indebted five thousand one hundred & twenty one dollars.—For which the navy list of balances published in our list from a document after this, 17th January 1816, which amounted to 260,000 dollars, 36 cents.