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IMPORTANT TRIAL.

The following brief sketch of the trial of Sir Robert Wilson, and Messrs. Bruce and Hutchinson, together with Bruce's interesting Speech before the French Court, will be read with much interest.

Case of Sir Robert T. Wilson, (aged 38, a British Major-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 and 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 plead guilty to the accusation of assisting a state criminal in his concealment and final escape.—Their motives were the force of political opinion and humanity. The freedom of thinking belongs 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.

Mr Dupin, after ably vindicating the character, &c. of the accused, and portraying the military renown of Sir Robert Wilson, said:

"How manners change with the times! Among the Athenians, a people proverbial for the levity, but whose Areopagus was renowned for its 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 favor 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 upon, but having nothing further to say—

Mr. Bruce then spoke as follows:—"Gentlemen, I appear before this tribunal, accused of having favored 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 honor 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, and 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—

[President—'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 has said, that I was one of those persons who have imbibed anti-social doctrines; that I was an enemy, from principle, to Kings, to justice and humanity, and a friend to the factious 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 eulogium 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, and their commerce. From the Revolution of 1688, I dated the prosperity, grandeur and liberty of England.

"I must say, that if these principles which I profess, which are of the constitution of my country, are subversive of all ideas of order and good government, and make an enemy to Kings, to justice and humanity, I confess that I am the most guilty of men, and 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 saying, 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 my 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 honor 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 into my hands & 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 honor, 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 a length of time, the noble devotedness of his wife, the French Alceste, that heroic action which will live in 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 naivete—

"Dans ce monde il se faut l'un l'autre secourir

"Il se faut entr'aider; c'est 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 enjoined 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 a person who had solicited an asylum of him. Whatever may be the country, 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 VI. that model of princes, and 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 a 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 owe to myself in confessing that I am far from repenting 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, and on their return declared, Eberle (the turnkey, sentenced to two years imprisonment) Guilty, of having facilitated, by his negligence, the escape of Lavalette; Roquette, Bonneville, and Guerin, Not Guilty; Hutchinson, Bruce, and Wilson, Guilty, (sentenced to three months imprisonment.)

BRITISH OPPOSITIONISTS!

The following is an extract from the speech of Mr. Coke, M. P. early in May last, at the Norfolk Agricultural Meeting:—

"I feel no delicacy necessary in speaking of the extravagance of the Prince of Wales—(Applause)—Is there an Englishman who can say from his heart, that 25,000 men are necessary to the defence of this kingdom in time of peace? It is impossible. It may be asserted, that no man, in his senses can believe it. The truth is, that this immense force is to be kept up, in order to please the Prince Regent, and give influence and patronage to ministers. (Applause.) Gentlemen, let Ministers make their expenditure meet the amount of the taxes, and not make the taxes meet the amount of the expenditure. If we must have a large warlike establishment, why is the glory and pride of England, her navy, slighted? This was not the policy of our ancestors. There is but one way of accounting for it, namely, as part of a plan to overthrow the liberties of England, and to simulate our Government to that of the despotic Governments of the continent. Do not indulge the delusive hope, that the Constitution can subsist unimpaired, while a large standing army exists in the country. One or the other must be given up. Let Englishmen decide, and decide in time, which they will choose. Gentlemen, these are my principles, they are the same as when 40 years ago, you first sent me to Parliament. The events of that period have confirmed me in their truth. I have been in Parliament during two long, bloody, and expensive wars; I never voted one shilling of your money for the support of either. I tho't them both unjust and unnecessary wars; and I never would consent to tax the people for their support. What has been the termination of the present war? You are saddled with a debt of 800 millions, and you have succeeded in placing an Usurper on the Throne of France, against the voice of the people. (Some exclamations of No! no! was heard from the gallery.) Yes, Gentlemen, I say an Usurper, and who is kept there by 30,000 British bayonets. Let them withdraw, and Louis 18 would not remain upon the throne an hour. Depend upon it, if Ministers find another pretence for

going to war, the first engine set to work will be the Property Tax. Exhausted and impoverished as the country now is, nothing but peace, and the strictest economy, can save us. Such, Gentlemen, are my views of public affairs. I have never disguised my opinion, but have always thought it my duty to make you fully acquainted with my sentiments on all great questions, and it is a matter of pride and pleasure to me, that during the period in which I have represented you, my public conduct has deserved your approbation.—(Applause.)

TORTURE AT MADRID.

Vicente Richard a respectable enthusiast, suspected of plotting to produce a counter revolution in Spain, was seized and imprisoned in Madrid on the 19th of February. On the rack, he accused as his accomplices the Ex-General Renovales, Don Ramon Calatrava, Don Juan O'Donoju, and Don Juan Antonio Yandiola. Calatrava & Renovales, fled, but Yandiola and O'Donoju, unsuspecting of an accusation so completely groundless, were arrested and thrown into dungeons. They were then put to the torture to extort confessions from them. O'Donoju had the nails of his hands and feet torn off by the roots. His life is despaired of. Yandiola was chained to the ground, and an enormous weight placed on his breast for 48 hours. They both persisted in their innocence to the last.—Yandiola was not liberated from torture until he had become speechless & gone into convulsions. He now lies dangerously ill.—Lon. Pap.

THE LATE SPANISH CORTES

FROM THE UTICA GAZETTE.

There was an interesting debate in the British House of Commons on the 20th of February, on the subject of the late transaction in Spain. Mr Brougham endeavored, in a very able speech, to convince the house of the justice and expediency of the interference on the part of England in favor of those members of the late Cortes, who, instead of being rewarded for their services in the cause of Ferdinand, are suffering the degrading and cruel punishments from that unrelenting bigot.

The speech furnishes some important facts relative to the conduct of the English towards the Cortes. It is asserted, that the British General Whittingham advanced to Madrid before the Spanish tyrant, and surrounded the Cortes with troops in English pay; after which "the proscribed list was brought forward, and the Cortes, with two of the regency, were arrested and cast into dungeons." "But even here (said Mr. B.) our co-operation did not end. Pay and clothing had subsequently been advanced to the amount of half a million. He doubted not that Gen. Whittingham had his instructions for what he did." Mr. B. considered the suffering of the patriots as calling for the interference of the English government. He mentioned the case of a poor tradesman who, one of the tribunals had sentenced to 4 years imprisonment for having promoted political discussions. On seeing the sentence, Ferdinand exclaimed, "What! only for four years imprisonment for a wretch who had presumed to speak in public on politics?" and immediately sentenced the man, who was a cripple to be hanged.

A pleasant anecdote of Oliver Cromwell is related in this speech, who, when a Spanish ambassador represented the inquisition and the colonial trade to be his master's two eyes, replied, "Then I must trouble your master to put out his two eyes."

BALTIMORE July 8.

THE MACEDONIAN ARRIVED.

We have the pleasure to announce the arrival in Annapolis roads of the frigate Macedonian, captain Warrington from Carthage, having on board Christopher Hughes, jun. of this city, who went out as commissioner from our government to demand the release of the American prisoners at that place.

Mr. Hughes has succeeded in the object of his mission, and has brought home in the frigate all the Americans who remained in prison at the time of his arrival at Carthage and St. Martha; they were immediately delivered from prison on his demand.

Among them are Mr. Wm. S. Cooper, and Mr. Louis Comte of this place, and Mr. Smith, mate of the shr. Adeline; this gentleman was severely wounded in a battle, to force the guard some distance from St. Martha, and supplied with the prisoners who were killed. Mr. Morris, of Hartford, Connecticut, is also among those released.

Mr. Hughes landed at Annapolis yesterday morning, and arrived at his

own house in this city in the evening in perfect health.

BALTIMORE, July 10.

MISSION TO CARTHAGENA.

We stated in the Gazette of Monday, the arrival of Christopher Hughes, jun. Esq. the commissioner, sent on behalf of our government to Carthage, to apply for the release of a number of American citizens detained there in prison, and for a restoration of their property. In the first branch of his mission, as has already been stated, Mr. Hughes succeeded; all the Americans in confinement were immediately released and delivered upon his application. In the other object of his mission, we learn with regret, he was wholly unsuccessful. The Spanish government refused to restore any of the property.

We are also assured, that the accounts received here of the cruelties exercised upon our countrymen whilst in confinement, fall short of the truth; the most deliberate barbarities were practised on them.

It will be as highly gratifying to every American to know, as the circumstances is honorable to Mr. Hughes, that whilst employed in obtaining the release of his own countrymen from a confinement where they had experienced so much cruelty, he was not unmindful of the unfortunate condition of others similarly situated.

At the request of Mr. Hughes the Spanish government released from prison, and sent on board the Macedonian, ten English and several French prisoners confined at St. Martha. The Englishmen were put on board a British vessel, the Tay, which arrived the next day for the purpose of demanding their release; the Frenchmen came in the Macedonian to the United States.

BALTIMORE, July 9.

Our fellow-citizens and other merchants established in the American trade at Bordeaux, feeling indignant at the manner in which our Consul has been treated by the Anglo French faction in that city, presented him an Address; the following copy of which has been handed us by a friend:

BORDEAUX, Jan. 29, 1816.

WILLIAM LEE, Esq.

Consul of the United States of America at Bordeaux.

SIR—Your fellow-citizens and others, concerned in the American trade to Bordeaux, have seen, with great indignation, an attempt to defame your public and private character, by some base wretch.

Having witnessed both your official and private deportment, in the most difficult and trying times, it is with pleasure we seize this occasion to testify the purity of both. The ready protection you have afforded us, the talent and zeal with which you have defended the rights of your fellow-citizens do great credit to yourself, and honor to the government you represent, and it ought to be a satisfaction to you to know that you have no enemies among the friends of our country.

These, sir, are the sentiments we entertain towards you, and your highly respectable family. Permit us to add, that the author of this weak and infamous libel, needs only to be known to receive his just reward, the execration of all good men.

We are, with great respect and esteem, your friends and fellow-citizens. [Signed by the gallant Col. Fenwick, and 67 respectable French and American merchants, and others in Bordeaux, whose names we omit to insert, lest it might subject them to the malignant persecutions of the royal and English factions in France]

Balt. Pat.

NORFOLK, (Va.) July 11.

We have just seen a letter from a gentleman at Port au Prince, to an officer of the navy, in this place, dated June 22, which states that at the moment of dispatching his letter, the cidevant Gen. Henry Lee, who had been there for some time, was about to take his departure for Providence—that his constitution is nearly worn out, and that he appears not long for this world. Speaking of the Patriots, it says—"We have just heard of the success of the Patriots on the Main. They have taken Cumana, Barcelona, and Santa Martha, where they massacred 7 or 800 of the Royalists. They drove General Morillo into Carthage, of which no doubt they have possession ere this.—They have marched for Laguiray, and from all the late accounts there is no doubt of their success—I saw the letter containing the above news myself. A vessel sailed from this place, four hours after the news arrived with powder for the Patriots."