

THE NORTH CAROLINIAN

SENTENCE OF BOUGHTON.

The following is the sentence pronounced by Judge Edmonds in the case of "Big Thunder," the leader of the anti-rent riots in New York, and is a faithful picture of the offence:

SMITH A. BOUGHTON—You have been arraigned and tried on a charge of robbery, and a jury, almost of your own selection, have found you guilty of the charge.

You have had a very fair trial. The jurors were selected with great care, two weeks having been spent in subjecting their opinions to the severest scrutiny, and you yourself have afforded the best evidence that they were entirely impartial. You have been allowed to go at large and fully to prepare your defense. You have been defended by able counsel. You have been surrounded by numerous friends, and every item of evidence, which you or they deemed material to your defense, you have been allowed to lay before the jury. You have been, notwithstanding, convicted, and it now only remains for the court to pass sentence upon you.

Your offence, though in form it is presented to us as robbery, is in fact high treason, rebellion against your government, armed insurrection against the supremacy of the laws.

Until you came among them, the tenuity on the Manor were, in outward deportment at least, whatever might have been their feelings, a quiet, orderly, law-abiding people, yourself suffering none of the evils of the tenures of which you complained; you came here a volunteer from another county. If you had confined your operations within lawful and peaceable bounds, you would doubtless have encountered, and perhaps been aided by, the sympathy of many wise and good men, to whom the evils of those tenures were as apparent as they are to you. But such was not your purpose.

You came accompanied by a band of armed and disguised men; you early avowed your intention to resist the execution of the laws. A man of education, you well understood your duty to your country; yet when remonstrated with on the impropriety of your course, you admitted that you knew it to be wrong, yet you avowed your intention to persist in your measures of resistance, because thus alone you could attain your end.

Possessed of a species of popular eloquence, you made your appeals to the interest of the tenants, by holding out to them the prospect of exemption from the payment of rent. To the more lawless and depraved among them, you held up, by means of the disguises which you were the first to introduce among them, the hope of impunity for any crimes they might commit. You thus enlisted in your service several hundred men, whom you publicly paraded in different parts of the country, armed and disguised. And you publicly notified them to meet you on the appointed day, armed and equipped, to resist the sheriff in the discharge of his duty.

When that officer arrived at the village of Copake, in the peaceful line of his duty, you placed yourself at the head of your armed band, and with pistols cocked and swords drawn, you captured him. You warned him not to proceed, but avowed that you had thus met to resist him, and that you intended to do so even to the shedding of blood. You held him a close prisoner for several hours. You surrounded him with your armed associates, and finally, with your pistol presented to his breast, you compelled him to surrender to you the legal process which it was his duty and his purpose to execute. Not content then to discharge him, but most fully to manifest your contempt of the law and its process, you kept him your prisoner until, in his presence, and that of the multitude whom you had assembled there, you buried the papers of which you had thus robbed him.

You afterwards, surrounded in the same manner, publicly avowed that you and they were thus armed in order to resist the sheriff and his posse, in any attempt to arrest you for the crime you had committed. And you carried out your purpose by calling upon your associates to stand by you, when he came to arrest you, by causing yourself to be rescued from his custody, and by yourself presenting a loaded pistol at him, and threatening to shoot him with it.

Under the impulse which you have thus given, and in imitation of your example, peaceful inhabitants have been driven from their homes at night. Houses have been torn down, farms laid waste, the laws forcibly resisted, and the officers of justice fired upon and wounded, while in the discharge of their official duty.

These offences, serious as they are, have been aggravated by the recklessness with which you have persisted in pressing upon the court and jury testimony which you know to be false.

You have been the leader, the active instigator, the principal fomenter of these disturbances. You have made yourself an example of disorder and violence, and you have caused many erring and misguided men to follow it, to their ruin and the disturbance of the public peace. You have, therefore, rendered it necessary that the court should cause you to be a warning example of the certain consequences of such conduct—that your misguided followers and all others may learn from your fate the important lesson that order must be maintained, the laws must be enforced.

Deeply as we may feel for the ruin which you have brought upon yourself and those connected with you, our duty teaches us that forbearance towards you now, when such forbearance towards you heretofore has only led you on to acts of more aggravated outrage, would be cruelty to the ignorant men whom you have misguided, and to the community which you have so deeply injured.

You are therefore to be withdrawn for the residue of your life from the society whose peace you have so wantonly disturbed, and whose laws you have so violently and frequently violated, in the confident hope, that from the example of your fall, all may learn the salutary lesson that the supremacy of the laws must and will be maintained.

The sentence of the Court is, that you be confined in the State prison in the county of Clinton, at hard labor, for the term of your natural life.

THE CIRCASSIANS.

The wars which the Russians have waged, and continue to wage against the Circassians, make that people a subject of some interest to the civilized world, which induces us to publish the following sketch of them, given by the New York correspondent of the Washington Union:

"The face of the country in Circassia is mountainous, interspersed with a great many rapid streams of pure water. It lies between 40 deg. 30 min. and 45 deg. 40 min. north latitude, and 37 deg. and 48 deg. east longitude. Its climate is mild in low situations, and cold in the elevated districts. The soil in places is exceeding fruitful. Many of the valleys are said to be most beautiful and picturesque—vast varieties of trees, plants, and grasses are everywhere met with. Much of the soil is also rocky and sterile, as mountain slopes often are.

The Circassians are remarkable for their love of horses. Their breeds are said to be nearly as famous and equally as good as the best Arabian animals. They stamp on the hide of the animals marks which denote the blood of the horse; counterfeiting which, they punish with death.

Their country abounds with cattle of all kinds—such as sheep, cows, wild oxen, agali, &c. Game is also abundant. Hyenas, jackals, and wolves are also met with. Wild boars are found in the swamps of the Kuban. In the mountains, ores of lead, iron, and copper are said to be met with. Sulphur is found in abundance. Circassia is said to contain no coal or salt. The latter article was formerly obtained from salt lakes of the steppes to the north, and from the Tuks, through the ports of the Black sea. These supplies the Russians have cut off. I suppose they now live without the use of it, as our western Indians prefer to do. Their cattle, though, may suffer for the want of it.

The Circassians are said to be tall and straight in figure, slender about the loins, and elegantly formed; with light skins, fine tresses of hair worn by females; small hands and feet, with proverbial personal beauty and intelligent expression of features. They are often confounded by writers with the Georgians. One traveller relates a most singular custom of facing young girls, which prevails among them. When they attain the age of ten or twelve years, they have a leather or other bandage drawn tight around their waist, which is never removed until their marriage, when their husbands cut it loose with their daggers. They generally go bandaged from two to six years.

The Circassians are divided in their social relations into five grades: 1st, the *Pashi*, or *Fschech-princes*. 2d, *Uork*, or Nobles. 3d, *Uorks*, or Freed men, who have risen to nobility. 4th, the freed men of these new noblemen, called *Begualia*. 5th, *Vassals*. It is said to be death for a man belonging to an inferior rank to marry a woman from the rank of princes, or from any other rank above him, but he can take a woman from the ranks below him with impunity.

The men shave their heads, leaving a single lock, (like many other barbarous people,) which is left to grow full length. The women wear their hair long. The men wear heavy mustachios. Doctors, &c., who are nothing more than conjurers, wear their beards long. It is said the women and men remove hair from their chins, &c., by the use of quick lime and opium. They, like the Arabs, are said to exhibit, in their intercourse with strangers, a strange compound of barbarity and hospitality.

When a stranger enters their country, if first seen by a Circassian, he is liable to be seized and made a slave; but if he enters the country under the protection of a chief, he is secure from molestation, and is hospitably treated. The wife of the *kunak*, or chief, gives her breast to him to suck, as a mark of the greatest hospitality. He, from that time, becomes her son, having all the men for his brethren.

Robbery is considered an honorable occupation; but to be accused of stealing, is a great insult. Although a prince or noble would see one of his own inferior rank quartered, who should marry his daughter, yet he makes no scruple at selling her to either Turks, Tartars, or other foreigners.

Their laws are little less than established customs, administered by a council of elders, composed of princes, nobles, and some of the more aged and wealthy vassals. Justice is principally based upon the law of retaliation, assessment of damages, &c. Robbing a prince is punishable by the forced restitution of nine times the amount—of a noble, an equivalent and fine of 30 oxen—of one vassal from another, is subject only to fine.

As the services of the vassals are due to the princes and nobles, the latter taking from them is not considered robbery.

In the case of adultery, the offending wife has her head shaved, her ears slit, and the sleeve of her gown cut off, when she is mounted on horseback, and sent home to her father, who, if he cannot sell her, kills her.

They are, as might be expected, without learning. The few that read, do so only in the Asiatic or Tatar tongue, which the most of them can speak. Their own language, it is said, is without an alphabet. Their living is peculiar, differing from all others.

THE ARMY WORM.—For some time we have observed in our exchanges notices of the depredations of the "Army Worm," which has for a few years past been so destructive in the south. But now the reality is upon us. The Army Worm is here—in Mecklenburg—yes, in Charlotte. We understand that in most of the eastern and southern portions of the country, the destruction of all vegetable growth by these pestilential visitors is complete—meadows and pasture fields are swept clean in a day or two; and when they no longer have grass to eat, they go upon the corn and cotton. These famine makers have even come to town! In several lots they have made the luxuriant crops of grass disappear in a day or two, and they are now, we learn, consuming our only hope for winter vegetables, the Turnips and sweet potatoes. They are a small worm, striped lengthwise with dark green and yellow stripes—the worm when full grown about an inch and a quarter long. Cannot some remedy against their ravages be invented?—Merleburg Jeffersonian.

Whether the Russians can ever succeed in entirely rooting out these people, is extremely questionable. That they will finally conquer them, is probable. It is impossible that these brave people can ultimately withstand the vast borders of the empire set against them. The contest is likely to be a long and obstinate one which, in its progress, cannot fail to interest the civilized world.

I have principally compiled the foregoing from the best sources within my reach.

THE RUSSIAN SERFS.—THEIR CONDITION

—**THEIR NUMBER.**—In a work recently published, entitled the *White Slave*—a full idea can be gathered of the serf system, which pervades the Russian empire. The number of beings embraced within its folds, is not less than forty-three millions of souls. The Emperor, himself, is the proprietor of twenty-one millions—or, in other words, he owns more slaves than we have people in the twenty-eight states of our Union. One can thus imagine the colossal personal power of such a monarch. He is undoubtedly the most extensive possessor of serfs, of any despot that has ever existed. Genghis Khan or Tamerlane, would not compare with Nicholas. It is also said that is continually augmenting this vast number by confiscations, and by foreclosing mortgages on money loaned, or a fine exacted on the estates of his nobility. In this way, if his successors steadily pursue the same policy, they may monopolize nearly all the serfs in that vast empire. Since the days of Peter the Great, the accumulation of serfs on the imperial domain, has gone on in an extraordinary ratio.—The number has advanced from two or three millions, to twenty-one millions. In this connection it is proper to state, that though the Emperor is nominally a despot over every soul in Russia, both serf and master, embracing an aggregate of sixty millions, yet he is restrained by certain laws and usages from treating all as serfs. His twenty millions are peculiarly the chattels of his will, with all of whom he can do as his pleasure or caprice may dictate.

It has been frequently stated that the serfage of Russia was different from the slavery of the South, in that the serf could only be transferred with the soil, and that therefore you could not buy one, without being encumbered with the other, which to a certain extent was a clog on the selling of human beings, but this is not so.

Though the law is, "that no serf

could be sold without the estate to which he belonged," this is evaded by selling land in the desert wastes of Russia, which is not real-

worth a penny an acre, and attaching, as they call it, the serf or serfs to this newly

carried estate, and thus the sale would be legal.

—**COTTON.**—Those interested in reading the statistics of the great staple of cotton, will read the following figures, shewing the amount of the crops for the last 20 years, and other useful information:

DREADFUL OCCURRENCE.—A MAN LITERALLY DISSOLVED.—A young man named Joseph Branneney, residing at Hadfield, in Derbyshire, and employed at the Dinton Vale print works, belonging to Mr. Potter, was lately found in a pan containing 300 gallons of caustic ley, which was at a boiling heat. How he came in is not known; but it is supposed that he went to the top of the pan to see if the ley was boiling, and, standing on the edge, must have fallen into the horrible grave. The deceased had not been seen about the premises after two minutes past ten o'clock. At a quarter past one, Robert Stubbs went to stir up the liquor in the pan, when, to his great alarm, he discovered some of the deceased's clothes, the body being quite eaten away by the liquor. Assistance was immediately procured, and search was made for the remains of the deceased. The liquor in the pan was thrown away, and at the bottom of the pan nothing but a few bones could be found, and these looking as if they had been in the ground a hundred years. The leather and soles of his clogs were eaten away; a portion of his clothes, that were made of cotton, had sustained little injury; and the laces and nails that had been in his clogs were found. The deceased's teeth were discovered all separate. Strange to say, the deceased's heart was found by itself, quite sound. All that was collected of the body did not weigh seven pounds; and if these parts had remained in the liquor three hours longer, not a particle would have been left. The deceased was about seventeen years of age. This dreadful circumstance has caused the utmost regret to the proprietor of the print-works, who is well known for his benevolent disposition.—*Derby Mercury*.

—**COTTON.**—Those interested in reading the statistics of the great staple of cotton, will read the following figures, shewing the amount of the crops for the last 20 years, and other useful information:

	Bales.
In 1825-6,	509,158
1826-7,	567,743
1827-8,	716,290
1828-9,	870,415
1829-30,	976,845
1830-1,	1,008,947
1831-2,	987,477
1832-3,	1,070,438
1833-4,	1,204,394
1834-5,	1,254,328
1835-6,	1,361,629
1836-7,	1,422,965
1837-8,	1,801,497
1838-9,	1,360,532
1839-40,	2,177,883
1840-1,	1,634,945
1841-2,	1,684,211
1842-3,	2,378,875
1843-4,	2,030,409
1844-5,	2,400,000

The crop of India for the last twelve years has been as follows:

	Bales.
In 1893,	95,000
1834,	88,000
1835,	118,000
1836,	219,000
1837,	145,000
1838,	109,000
1839,	132,000
1840,	216,000
1841,	275,000
1842,	255,000
1843,	182,000
1844,	185,000

The supply from all other countries for the last six years has been as follows:

	Bales.
In 1839,	176,000
1840,	112,000
1841,	119,000
1842,	120,000
1843,	165,000
1844,	150,000

From the foregoing tables, it will appear that we produce about seven-eighths of the whole cotton crop of the world; and that, though other countries have advanced in the production of the staple, yet we have advanced in a still greater ratio. The following is the estimate for 1845, which will probably be found near the truth. This is the whole production of the earth, to wit:

United States,	2,400,000 bales.
India,	150,000
All other countries,	140,000

2,690,000 "

On an average, about one-sixth of our crop has, for the last ten years, been consumed at home: so that, great as has been the increase in the supply, the increase in consumption has kept pace with it, and even gone ahead; while the prospects of the future are, that the present year we shall consume one-fifth, or nearly that, and the year to come not far from one-fourth of our whole crop. But to the facts. The total consumption in Great Britain for the last eight years has been as follows:

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