

POETRY.

FROM THE CHARLESTON COURIER.

THE HARP.

Stood on the shore and gazed on the billow,
That framed from above on the wreck
Covered shore
And over me hung, on the wild sighing willow,

The harp of delight now melodious no more.
I heard the last blast as it rolled from afar
When it passed over the chords, and aroused
A deep strain.

But all music was gone—'twas a soul grating jar,
And the crush of the chords to the tumults of pain.
Ah! such is the fate of our joys and our pleasures,
The refulgent shadows of Eden in bloom;

AN ACCOUNT

Of the late intended Insurrection among a portion of the Blacks of Charleston, South-Carolina.

CONTINUED.

On the 1st of July the Court proceeded to the trial of MONDAY GELL, who, together with CHARLES DRAYTON, had been apprehended; the first, on the 27th of June, and the latter on the 2d of July.

By referring to the Appendix (D.) and (F.) the nature of the testimony against these individuals will be seen. In reference to the case of Monday Gell it was established that he had been a very important ringleader, and that his shop in Meeting-Street, was a place at which many meetings were held; at all of which he was present, lending the most zealous aid, and affording the strongest countenance; and if any confirmation of his guilt should be sought for, it may be found in his own confession in the Appendix (K.) After Monday Gell and Charles Drayton were convicted there appeared to be a pause in our further disclosures, and some prospect of the investigation closing with their execution and that of John Horry, Harry Haig and Gullah Jack, (for the guilt of the latter, see Appendix (D.) (E.) & (F).)

On the 9th of July, however, these five men were called before the Court to receive sentence, and after it had been pronounced, with the most impressive solemnity, they were withdrawn to a common ward in the Work-House, for half an hour, until separate cells could be provided for them. It was at this moment that Charles Drayton, overwhelmed with terror and guilt, went up to Monday and reproached him with having induced him to join in a scheme which had placed him in such a miserable and perilous situation. To this appeal, Monday not only confessed his guilt, but observed to Charles—that their present fate was justly and precisely what they had a right to expect, after their detected and defeated project. On which there immediately ensued between them a conversation on the extent of the guilt of others, in which Monday gave Charles the names of many accomplices whom he had not previously known in the plot;—the arrival of the blacksmith to iron the convicts, and the turnkey to convey them to separate cells, interrupted the conversation.

Charles, during the night of the 9th, sent for Mr. Gordon, who has charge of the Work-House, and informed him that he was extremely anxious to see the attendant, as he had some important disclosures to make. By day-light on the morning of the 10th, this message was conveyed to the person for whom it was intended, and Charles was visited at sun-rise. He was found in a state of the most lamentable depression and panic, and he seemed prepared to make the most ample declarations from the fear of death, and the consequences of an hereafter, if he went out of the world without revealing all that he knew, in relation to the Conspiracy, in which he had been so active an agent. Before his narrative was received, he was most specially put on his guard, that no promises could be made to him of a reversal of his fate, but that he might rest satisfied, his condition could not be worse by his coming out with a full disclosure of all that he knew. He then stated many particulars that had come to his own knowledge, proving a much wider diffusion of the plot than, at that period was imagined; and, after giving up the names of several of his comrades, he mentioned the conversation which had been commenced and broken off, in the common ward of the Work-House, between Monday Gell and himself. As Monday, at this period, did not seem disposed to make any confessions to others, whatever he might be inclined to do to his friend Charles, it was considered important, that the conversation between them should be renewed, and they were brought together in the same cell, and left for 24 hours alone; but some little stratagem was employed, to divert the suspicions of Monday, that Charles was confined with him merely for the purpose of getting information out of him.

On the morning of the 10th, the Court were convened, and apprized, generally, of these new disclosures, which Charles had made, but as he was still cloistered with Monday, he could not be examined on that day, the Court adjourned to meet on the 13th, on which day Monday Gell's own confession was heard by the Court. Between the 10th and 13th, Charles & Monday were separated (having been respited by His Excellency, the Governor, at the request of the Court) & Charles, on his re-examination afforded much important information, which he had deriv-

ed from Monday. On Monday's having all this brought to his view, he confessed his own guilt, as well as the truth of the statements which he had made to Charles.

Contemporaneously with these communications, PERAULT, belonging to Mr. Strohecker, was taken up, on the 10th, and on his being closely and judiciously examined by the master, he gave a large mass of intelligence confirming what had been related by Monday and Charles, and supplying several deficiencies in their testimony, were especially that part of it which related to the transmission of certain letters to San Domingo. These disclosures, with some further details which were obtained from Harry Haig, (whose confession and subsequent testimony went to implicate a corps of Gullah or Angola negroes, that had been organized under the command of their chief, Gullah Jack) gave ample employment for three or four days to the Committee of Vigilance, during which upwards of sixty slaves were apprehended.

It would very much transcend the limits necessarily prescribed to this brief memoir, to go over all the trials that subsequently ensued, on these fresh discoveries. As the most important part of the testimony, adduced on these trials, is to be found in the Appendix, it is deemed altogether superfluous to make a special application of it to each of the cases, as this would result in a repetition fatiguing and uninteresting to the reader. It will be sufficient to single out a few of the cases most pregnant in interest, and to remark, that the Court on its reorganization on the 13th, justly estimating the extent of the labor before them, laid down certain rules of discrimination in the guilt of the parties to which they give the most definite precision and perspicuity, by adopting two classes of offence; the first involving a primary and the second a minor degree of guilt. Under the first class they brought all those who were ringleaders, who had made a declaration of their belonging to the association, and who had been present, aiding and abetting in the contribution of money, arms or ammunition, at Denmark Vesey's, or who were in the constant habit of visiting Monday Gell's shop and Bulkeley's farm, for the purpose of obtaining and communicating intelligence of the progress of the conspiracy. Those found guilty in this class, were to be punished with death. Under the second class were arranged those who had merely acted in their adhesion to the ringleaders without ever having attended a meeting at Vesey's, or having been recognized by him as confidential men, or contributed to the purchase of arms or ammunition; or endeavored to enlist others. The punishment which awaited those found guilty in this class, was transportation beyond the limits of the United States.

Among the vast number of cases disposed of by the first Court, in a session of nearly six weeks, involving the most intense and unremitting labor, was the case of JACK PRITCHARD, otherwise called GULLAH JACK; (for a statement of which we refer the reader to the Register of August 31.)

The case of TOM RUSSELL, another of the Gullah band, deserves a brief notice. He was tried some days after Jack, and was executed among the twenty-two criminals hung on the lines, on the 26th July. Tom was Jack's armourer, and kept his blacksmith's shop on East-Bay. His part in the conspiracy was confined to the making of pikes and spears, which it appears he did on a very approved model. After these weapons were finished, they were held subject to the order of Jack, & by him sent up to Mr. Bulkeley's farm, near the Cross Roads, where handles were provided for them by Polydore Faber, a Gullah, who met his fate on the same scaffold with Tom Russell. This farm was one of the principal rendezvous of the Gullah band, of which Jack was the Captain.

The trial of LOT FORRESTER, was not without interest, as he was the courier of the conspiracy, and was proved to have gone but of town, for the purpose of inducing the country negroes to join in the insurrection; his journey was both south and north of Charleston. His zeal and perseverance in the cause were strongly proved, and there is every reason for believing that the conflagration of the city was kindled, by Vesey, to him. Match-rope was found in a situation where he had probably secreted it. He was hung on the Lines on the 26th of July.

BACCHUS HAMMETT, who was hung also, on the 26th, did render, and was to

Monday Gell is very well known in Charleston. He is a most excellent harness maker, and kept his shop in Meeting-street. It would be difficult to name any individual more actively engaged in the plot than himself, or more able to aid Denmark Vesey, from his uncommon sagacity and knowledge. He reads and writes with great and equal facility, and obviously seems to have been the individual who held the pen, at all the meetings. At which he wrote more than one letter to San Domingo for succors. His own situation afforded no excuse for the effort in which he was engaged, as he enjoyed all the substantial comforts of a free man; much indulged and trusted by his master, his time and a large proportion of the profits of his labor were at his own disposal. He even kept his master's arms and sometimes his money. Monday is an Ebo, and is now in the prime of life, having been in the country 15 or 20 years.

At the meeting of the Court on the morning of the 13th, Mr. James Legare, from feeble health and great exhaustion during his previous sittings, asked, and obtained leave, to withdraw, whereupon Mr. Henry Deas, was summoned by the Magistrates, who took his seat and served until the adjournment of the Court.

This farm was under the charge of a slave named Billy, who became a witness for the state and gave some important details of the meetings of the Gullahs. Several of whom were executed on the 26th.

have rendered, on the night of the 16th, the most essential aid. Before the latter period he had stolen from his master's store a keg of powder, which was conveyed, first to Vesey's, afterwards to Monday Gell's, and lastly to Gullah Jack, to be prepared into cartridges. On the night of the 16th he was to have slept where the arms of the Neck-Rangers were deposited, and facilitated their seizure and distribution among Gullah Jack's corps, who were to have carried this post, as well as Mr. Duquerois's store, in which there were 500 stands of arms deposited for sale.

The cases of JACK GLEN, BILLY PALMER, and JACK PURCELL, are distinguished, not by any peculiar atrocity, but for the hypocrisy they blended with their crime. Their assent to the plot was distinctly shown, and it was in proof, that Vesey had recognized them all as his men. Jack Glen was a Preacher. Billy Palmer exceedingly pious, and a communicant at the church of his master; and Jack Purcell no less devout. The case of the latter was not without its pathos, from the deep contrition he expressed before his execution; the distressing interest which his mistress is said to have taken in his fate, and the lamentable delusion under which he laboured, which is more particularly unfounded in his confession, in the Appendix marked (L). Jack Glen and Purcell were hung on the Lines. Billy Palmer was respited by His Excellency the Governor, until October next, for a commutation of his punishment to banishment beyond the limits of the United States.

The Court having used the testimony of Monday Gell, Charles Drayton and Harry Haig, very efficaciously, to the ends of public justice, reconsidered the sentences, which had been passed on them, and instead of death, sentence to them to transportation beyond the limits of the U. S.

As a matter of form, Perault, John Enslow, and Billy Bulkeley, (who had become witnesses for the state,) were then tried on their own confessions, and sentenced to be transported beyond the limits of the United States. These individuals were important witnesses in all the apprehensions and trials subsequent to the 13th of July.

Perault gave his testimony with great fearfulness and candour, and Enslow with much composure and connexion; the evidence of both, as well indeed as that of most of the witnesses, was much appreciated by the Court, after a severe scrutiny.

This Court, having disposed of all the cases before them, adjourned on the 26th of July.

At this stage of our investigation, we were satisfied that of all the ringleaders in the conspiracy, Wm. Garner, (who had effected his escape from the city about the 1st of July) only, remained to be punished. As information had been received of his having travelled towards Columbia, a proclamation was issued by his Excellency the Governor, for his apprehension, in promotion of the success of which some subsidiary steps were taken by private means. On the 2d of August our wishes, relating to Garner, were gratified by his arrival in town. He had previously been arrested at Columbia, through the public spirited efforts of the Intendant of that place and Lieut. Maxcy, who overtook and apprehended him at Granby.

On Garner's arrival, a new Court was organized for his trial, and such other cases as might be brought before them, by precisely the same means as those which had been employed on the appointment of the first; and the services of the following gentlemen secured, who were known to possess, deservedly, a large share of the public confidence.

Magistrates.—Jacob Axom and C. M. Furman, Esqrs.

Freeholders.—Hon. Joel R. Poinsett, T. R. Smith, R. Y. Havne, Esqrs. Col. Thomas Roper, Col. John Gordon.

This Court adopted the same rules for their government which had been so humanely and dispassionately adopted by the preceding Court, but, as enough had been done for public example, they determined to visit capital punishment on none but ringleaders. The first case they tried was that of WILLIAM GARNER.

Garner's guilt had all the characteristics, which the Court had assigned to the first class of turpitude; it was not only proved that he was actively engaged in recruiting others, but that he was to have led a troop of horse, at the rising, composed of all such of the conspirators as might have appeared in the streets on horse-back. And further, that he had made an offer of a command to others in his corps.

Four witnesses having sworn positively to his guilt, detailing a variety of particulars, mutually corroborating and supporting each other, he was found guilty and sentenced for execution on the 9th of August, at which period the sentence was carried into effect. This Court having, after a short adjournment, of 3 or 4 days recommenced their session, disposed of 12 cases more, involving a minor degree of guilt, and adjourned finally on the 8th of August.

These trials, together with some private arrangements, made with their owners, in reference to the banishment of several slaves, in cases where their guilt was clear, but not of the first degree, have at length closed the anxious and irksome labours of the corporation, after an examination of little less than two months.

It will be seen, by referring to the Calendar marked (S) that one hundred and thirty-one were committed; thirty-five have suffered death, and thirty seven have been sentenced to banishment. The most important object to be obtained in uprooting a conspiracy, we have fully accomplished, by bringing to punishment the whole of the ringleaders. Monday Gell,

† This Confession of Purcell's will show, that the evil foretold, from the discussion of the Missouri Question, has been, in some degree realized.

‡ See Enslow's Confession, Appendix (M).

whose knowledge of the plot was, probably, exceeded only by Vesey's, has emphatically stated, that the ringleaders were the first six, who were executed on the 2d of July, to-wit: Denmark Vesey, Peter Poyas, Ned Bennett, Rofla, Batteau, and Jesse; to which he has since added himself and Wm. Garner, who was executed on the 9th of August.

We, moreover, believe, that all who were active agents (though not ringleaders) in the conspiracy, have expiated their crimes, or are about to do so, by an eternal exile from our shores. It may be mentioned, in confirmation of this belief, that Monday Gell, from memory, made out a list of 42 names, of those who were in the habit of visiting his shop, for the purpose of combining and confederating in the intended insurrection, whom he called his company; every one of whom have been apprehended, and disposed of. We cannot venture to say, to how many the knowledge of the intended evil was communicated, who, without signifying their assent, or attending any of the meetings, were yet prepared to profit by events.—That there are many who would not have permitted the enterprise to have failed at a critical moment, for the want of their co-operation, we have reason for believing.

Before we conclude, some notice of the probable causes of this conspiracy may be expected. As this is a matter of speculation, we shall not speak without reserve. Of the motives of Vesey, we cannot sit in judgment; they have been scanned by a Power who can do higher justice than ourselves. But as they are explained by his character and conduct, during the combinations of the plot, they are only to be referred to a malignant hatred, of the whites, and inordinate lust of power and booty. Indeed, the belief is altogether justifiable, that his end would have been answered, if, after laying our city in ashes, and moistening its cinbers with blood, he could have embarked with a part of the pillage of our banks for San Domingo; leaving a large proportion of his deluded followers to the exterminating desolation of that justice, which would have awaited, in the end, a transient success. His followers were slaves, and for them it would not be so difficult to assign a motive, if it had not been distinctly proved, that without scarcely an exception, they had no individual hardship to complain of, and were among the most humanely treated negroes in our city. The facilities for combining and confederating in such a scheme, were amply afforded, by the extreme indulgence and kindness, which characterises the domestic treatment of our slaves. Many slave owners among us, not satisfied with ministering to the wants of their domestics, by all the comforts of abundant food, and excellent clothing, with a misguided benevolence, have not only permitted their instruction, but lent to such efforts their approbation and applause.

Religious fanaticism has not been without its effect on this project, and as auxiliary to these sentiments, the secession of a large body of blacks from the white Methodist Church, with feelings of irritation and disappointment, formed a hot-bed, in which the germ might well be expected to spring into life and vigor. Among the conspirators a majority of them belonged to the African Church,* and among those executed were several who had been Class Leaders. It is, however, due to the late head of their church (for since the late events the association has been voluntarily dissolved) and their deacons, to say, that after the most diligent search and scrutiny, no evidence entitled to belief, has been discovered against them. A hear-say rumour, in relation to Morris Brown, was traced far enough to end in its complete falsification.

That the course which certain discussions assumed in Congress were likewise efficacious in producing both discontent and delusion, is sufficiently apparent.—Jack Purcell's confession in the Appendix, will show to what a purpose Vesey applied those beautiful propositions of civil and natural freedom, which were sported with a wanton recklessness of their consequences, as applied to the condition of a certain portion of our common country.

It is consoling to every individual, who is proud of the character of his country, in the late unhappy events, to be able to say, that, within the limits of the City of Charleston, in a period of great and unprecedented excitement, the laws, without even one violation, have ruled with uninterrupted sway—that no cruel vindictive or barbarous modes of punishment have been resorted to—that justice has been blended with an enlightened humanity, in according to those who had meted out for us murder, rapine and conflagration in their most savage forms—trials, which, for the wisdom, impartiality and moderation that governed them, are even superior to those which the ordinary modes of judicature would have afforded ourselves.

With little to fear, and nothing to reproach ourselves, we may, without shrinking, submit our conduct to the award of posterity, and ourselves to the protection of the Supreme Ruler of events.

[The Appendix, which concludes the account, shall appear next week.]

* An appellation, the seceders assumed after their leaving the white Methodist Church.

WATCH-MAKER & SILVERSMITH. JOHN C. STEDMAN has commenced the above business in this place, and hopes, by his attention, to merit a portion of public patronage. All kinds of repairing usual in such an establishment, done with despatch, and on the shortest notice. An assortment of Silver Work will be constantly kept on hand; Spoons, Ladles, &c. manufactured to any pattern.

N. B. An experienced Watch-Maker will meet with good wages if application be made soon.

An Apprentice will be taken to the Silversmith's trade.

Cash given for old Gold, Silver, and Brass. Raleigh, Aug. 14, 1822. 95-tf

NORTH-CAROLINA.

Treasury Office, 2d Sept. 1822.

THE Public Treasurer, reflecting with the punctual and praise-worthy manner, in which the Sheriffs and the other Revenue Officers of North-Carolina have, for many years past, acquitted themselves of the trusts and duties enjoined on them by law, with respect to the collecting and accounting for the public dues; holds it unnecessary here to call on them or any of them, in regard to the Taxes of the current year; and will therefore consider, that the time fixed by law for settling their Accounts and making Payment to the Treasury, is now at hand; and that it, of course, remains for those concerned to continue so to conduct themselves, as effectually to support and sustain their reputation and high standing which have been hitherto so generally and deservedly accorded to them, as Revenue Officers aforesaid.

JOHN HAYWOOD, Pub. Treas.

By the President of the United States.

WHEREAS, the President of the United States is authorized by law to cause lands to be offered for sale:

Therefore, I, James Monroe, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known that the public sales shall be held as follows, viz:

At the Land Office at Terre Haute, in Indiana, on the first Monday in July next, for the sale of Townships 17 & 18, in range 1, east of the 3d principal meridian line.

17 and 18, in ranges 1 to 9, west do At the Land Office at Vandalia, in Illinois, on the 3d Monday in July next, for the sale of

Townships 11, 12, 13 & 14, in ranges 1 & 2, B of the 3d principal meridian line.

11, 12, 13, 14 & 15, in ranges 3 and 4, do At the same place, on the 3d Monday in August next, for the sale of

Townships 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15, in ranges 5, 6 & 8, east of the 3d principal meridian line.

11 in range 7 do At the Land Office at Palestine, in Illinois, on the 1st Monday in August next, for the sale of

Townships 6, 7, 8 & 9, in ranges 9, 10 and 11 east of 3d prin'l mer'd'n line

5, 6, 7, 8 & 9, in range 14, west of 2d do 8 and 9 12 and 13, do

At the same place, on the 1st Monday in September next, for the sale of

Townships 10, 11, 12 & 13, in ranges 9 & 10, east of 3d prin'l mer'd'n line

10 11 12 and 13, in ranges 12 13 & 14 west of 2d do

At the same place, on the 1st Monday in November next, for the sale of

Townships 14 15 16 & 17 in ranges 9 10 & 11 east of 3 l prin'l mer'd'n line

14 15 16 and 17, in ranges 12 13 & 14, west of 2d do

At the same place, on the 1st Monday in November next, for the sale of

Townships 15 16 17 18 and 19, in ranges 12 3 and 5, west of the meridian line

At the Land Office at the Seat of Justice of the county of Independence, in the Arkansas territory, for the sale of such lands of the United States as are situated in the following described townships and ranges, and which have been excluded from the lottery of the lands appropriated for satisfying warrants for military services, viz:

On the 1st Monday in August next, for the sale of such of the above described lands as are situated in the following townships and ranges, viz:

Townships 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 and 20 in range 1, B of the 5th mer'd'n line

1 2 3 4 5 and 6 2 do 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 and 9 3 do 1 2 10 11 12 13 and 14 4 do 1 2 5 do

1 2 3 9 13 14 15 18 19 & 20, 1, west do On the 1st Monday in September next, for the sale of such of the above described lands as are situated in the following townships and ranges, viz:

Townships 1 2 18 19 and 20, in range 2, west of the 5th meridian line

1 15 16 17 18 19 & 20 range 3 do 1 10 11 13 14 15 16 & 19 4 do 1 2 9 10 11 12 13 and 16 5 do 1 2 4 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 13 and 18 6 do

On the 1st Monday in October next, for the sale of such of the above described lands as are situated in the following townships and ranges, viz:

Townships 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 15 16 17 18 19 and 20, in range 7, west of 5th mer'd'n line

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 15 16 17 18 19 and 20 range 8 do 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 9 do 12 18 19 and 20 10 do 14 10 do

On the 1st Monday in November next, for the sale of such of the above described lands as are situated in the following townships and ranges, viz:

Townships 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 and 11, in range 10, west of the 5th mer'd'n line

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 and 10, in range 11 do 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 and 9 12 do 3 4 5 6 7 and 8 14 do 4 5 and 7 15 do 5 6 and 7 16 do 6 17 do

Each sale will commence with the lowest number of section, township, and range, and proceed in regular numerical order.

The lands reserved by law for the use of schools, or for other purposes, will be reserved from sale.

Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, this 14th day of March, 1822. JAMES MONROE.

By the President: JOSIAH MEIGS, Commissioner of the Gen. Land Office. March 18—75tNov1

Blanks of all kinds may be had at this Office.