

JEWISH MANUSCRIPT.

Curious and unique ancient Manuscript.

The Literati are likely to be highly interested with an original, ancient and complete Manuscript of the Pentateuch, now in the possession of Mr. Joseph Sams, of Darlington Durham.

This original copy is of leather: it is in two volumes, about two feet wide, and measures 169 feet long. It is supposed of goat-skin leather, and is most excellently dressed, so as to have an exquisite softness to the touch. Each sheet of skin is divided into pages, five inches and a half wide. The letters are very large, and not only most excellently written, but ornamented with a number of Tagin or Coronac, which is a thing peculiar to the most ancient manuscripts. Each sheet of leather is stitched very neatly to the others with a kind of substance, in appearance not unlike cat-gut.

The antiquity of this manuscript may be inferred by its being written on leather, a circumstance which would hardly have taken place after the invention of vellum was made. It was recently procured from the Continent under the most interesting circumstances. It is believed to be from 14 to 1500 years old; and in any case is the oldest copy of the law extant. There is reason to believe that it has been above 800 years in one Jewish family, on the Continent. It is well known to what a degree the Jews venerate their sacred books, and with what care they preserve them: It will, therefore, be easily believed, that nothing but the most afflicting and imperious circumstances could induce a family, loving their law, to part with a treasure so precious. During the calamities which followed the train of Bonaparte's wars, a Jewish family, of opulence, was reduced to utter ruin and compelled to emigrate. They came to Holland in their exile, and were there so reduced as to be obliged to pledge, as their last remaining resource, this manuscript of their law, under a limitation of a considerable time for its redemption. The time expired, the pledge was not redeemed, and the property was sold in Holland by the person who lent his money on it. This most valuable and antique performance is now likely to become a public benefit.

It has been preserved with the greatest care, in a rich cover, fringed with a fine silk and lined. The rollers on which the manuscript runs, are beautiful mahogany or iron wood. It has been seen by a number of Hebrew scholars and Jews; the former always expressing a literary enthusiasm, and the latter treating it with the most solemn reverence. It has been collated by a very learned man, and its readings preferred to the most ancient copies we have; so that this may justly be thought to be unique, as well as the most ancient copy of the five books of Moses in existence.

These facts naturally give birth to a few reflections. Is not such a manuscript a national object? Ought it not to be purchased for the British Museum, or the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge? There are many Noblemen and Literati would not scruple a most generous price and for a generous price only its present possessor ought to be induced to part with it. The writer of this article having seen it, thinks, if he may hazard an opinion, that its least value must be 2000 guineas.

PARIS, MARCH 21.

Yesterday took place the exhumation of the remains of the Duke D'Enghien, from the fosse on the south side of the castle of Vincennes. An authentic tradition indicated the spot where his executioners had thrown his body; but, for greater regularity, an express investigation took place on Monday last, conducted by the Counsellor of State Laporte Lalanc. An artilleryman and a peasant of the village of Vincennes gave the most correct information. The peasant, whose name is Grison, aged 80, had himself dug the grave; it was ascertained from him that the grave was dug two hours after the arrival of the Prince, and by order of Harel, who then commanded the castle of Vincennes. The searches were made in presence of a King's Commissioner and several other persons, among whom we remarked the Count de Ruilly, Peer of France, M. de Bethisy, of the Chamber of Deputies, the Vidame de Vasse, the Chevalier De Conty, the Chevalier Jaques, the faithful friend and companion of the illustrious victim, the Marquis de Poyvert, now Governor of Vincennes, who had spent 10 years of his life shut up in it. Count Armand de Beaumont, Commandant, and many others, almost all of whom had been sufferers from Bonaparte's tyranny. Several surgeons were present to ascertain

the bones that might be thrown up. The first object which caught attention was a boot in tolerable preservation, in which were found the bones of the leg and foot; the skull was then found; face was downwards, one leg had remained in an almost vertical position, and the arms were bent towards the back, a rather large stone appeared to have been designedly thrown upon the head, the bones of which were fractured.—Some of the hair was still in preservation.—The various fragments of the body thus collected were placed in a sheet. There were also found some German ducats, a lethern purse, in which there were a Louis and some pieces of silver, a ring, and gold chain which the Prince was in the habit of wearing round his neck. The Chevalier Jaques had stated previously that these articles would be found, unless the Duke had been stripped of them before his death. There was remarked the perforation made by a ball in the shoulder blade, and in the small casque which the Prince wore at the time of execution. His hussar boots were in tolerably good preservation. The sheet containing the fragments were placed in a leaden coffin, and in this state conveyed to the chamber prepared by order of the Marquis de Poyvert.

MARCH 22.

The funeral ceremony of the Duke of Enghien was yesterday conducted with a noble simplicity. Whatever had been collected of the mortal remains of his Highness, had been deposited in one of the buildings of the outer court of the castle of Vincennes. Yesterday, at 11 o'clock, the attendants of the funeral assembled in one of the halls of the castle: they were for the most part the companions of the long and glorious life of the Prince of Conde, the warriors who had braved with himself and his sons, in the field of battle, at once the perils of war, and the fury of executioners, the ancient servants of his illustrious House, or the companions of the childhood of the hero whose last obsequies they were about to perform. The Peers of France, the Members of the Chamber of Deputies, several Foreign Officers, among whom was Sir S. Smith, and a great number of General Officers of the French army attended the pious ceremony. The Clergy having arrived, they proceeded to elevate the body which, till the mausoleum was prepared for it, was to be preserved in the Chapel. For this funeral abode was chosen the very chamber where was held the culpable council, and where was pronounced the terrible murder; and to which they ascended by the very stair-case which the victim had to descend in order to arrive at the place of his suffering. This chamber is formed in the attic, above one of the two principal gates of the castle. The body, born by the subalterns of the chasseurs of the guard, of the corps of artillery and of the train which are quartered at Vincennes, stopped some instants under the archway of the gate. At the moment when the procession arrived at the place of the ceremony, the Marquis de Poyvert, Governor of the castle of Vincennes, formed the troops into a square-battalion, and pronounced the following speech:

"Soldeirs—The funeral ceremony which now calls us together brings with it recollections most painful, yet dear to the hearts of the French. Behold all that remains to us of a young Prince, the last of a race fruitful of heroes. His first exploits promised to France another Great Conde. His fame alarmed the tyrant, who made his death the pledge of a regicide union. It pleased him to immolate him at the foot of that ancient tower where the most illustrious of his ancestors founded the cradle of the French monarchy. Let us honour his memory by eternal regrets, and console his manes by repeating before them the oath of being forever true to our legitimate King *Vive le Roi!*"

This cry was repeated with the warmest enthusiasm by the troops, and all the persons who had assisted at the ceremony. The body having been deposited on a bier, the procession repaired to the parish church, where was to be celebrated the mass which some friends had arranged. The Bishop of Chalons-sur-Saone, officiated. The priest of the parish, who, long an emigrant, had known the Prince in Germany, ascended his pulpit, and, in paying a tribute of regret to the memory of the young hero, who carried to the tomb all the hopes of a noble house, gave respecting the life of the young Prince, many interesting details. All the military were present at the offering. Some distinguished amateurs, united with the first artists of the capital, executed a mass in music, of the composition of M. Boscha, in which were observed several passages of a very fine effect, and particularly a funeral and religious chaunt by M. Martainville.

A report is current at Miran, that the Powers who

signed the last Treaty of Paris, decided, by a secret article, that the Duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guastala, shall be incorporated with the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom, after the death of the Arch-duchess Maria Louisa.

LONDON,

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, MARCH 7.

Todd and others, v. Penland.

This was an action on a policy of insurance on the vessel *Amphitrite*. The policy was one for time, namely, from the 1st of March, 1812, to March 1, 1813, and contained the insurance against all the usual risks; and the assured now sought to recover on the grounds of loss by the perils of the sea, or by fraud and misconduct of the master. The present defendants were the members of the Scarborough Association.

The Attorney-General stated the case, and from his evidence it appeared that the *Amphitrite* was an excellent vessel, and had been for some time employed in the transport services and that in 1810 she underwent a thorough repair, at an expence of upwards of £1200. In 1812, in the latter end of January, she was discharged from the transport service, and on the 10th of April in that year, having undergone the necessary repairs, she sailed from Portsmouth to Quebec, in the service of Messrs Idles and Co. She arrived in safety at Quebec, and having taken in a cargo of timber, she, on the 24th of August, left Quebec, under convoy, for this country. In coming down the Gulf of St. Lawrence, she sprung a leak, and on applying to the Commodore for assistance, he was directed by him to run to Gasby, a small settlement in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.—They accordingly did so, and on their arrival at Gasby, the Captain directed the cargo to be taken out. Very little of the cargo was taken out before she ceased to leak, but the Captain directed them to continue unloading her, and for two days before, the Captain called a survey, the men were employed, under the Captain's directions, in ripping up the planks all round the bows, pulling up her ceilings, and prizing up her timber screws with crow-bars. This very much weakened and injured the vessel, and, in the opinion of the first mate, could only be done for the purpose of procuring her condemnation. Upon as this witness arrived at home, he informed his friends of the Captain's conduct. One or two of the timbers were found defective, and, in compliance with the Captain's wishes, they prized up the rest of the timbers. Witness never remonstrated with the Captain on his conduct, nor did he know any reason he had for wishing to destroy the vessel. He was not aware of any advantage which the Captain could by possibility derive from the condemnation of the vessel. After the crew had been thus employed two days, the Captain called in some persons to survey the vessel, and, on receiving the report of the surveyors, he gave the witness and the rest of the crew their discharge, with written orders on the owners, for their pay. The Captain and all the crew then quitted the vessel, the vessel was about 330 tons burthen, and, on their quitting Portsmouth, they had 10 hands on board, most of whom deserted on their arrival at Quebec. They sailed from Quebec with seven hands, three or four of whom deserted at Gasby. The proper number of hands to navigate such vessel in the merchant service was about 12. Witness joined in the protest sent home to the owners by the Captain, and stated that the crew had deserted in consequence of the leaky state of the vessel.

Capt. Lynes was sent out by the owners to examine into the state of the vessel, and, on his arrival at Gasby, he found her in a most distressed state; her ceilings and planks torn up all round her bows; her hatchways open fore and aft; abandoned by her master and crew, after having been torn to pieces most unnecessarily. The witness, finding she could not be repaired so as to bring her home, for want of materials and workmen, advertised her at Quebec, and sold her for £540 sterling. The Captain had taken the ship's register; or she would have fetched more money. Witness's expence was £355.

Upon this evidence, Lord Ellenborough observed, there were oceans rolling between this case and barbarity; and with respect to loss by the perils of the sea, it was for the Jury to say whether in this case the plaintiffs were entitled to recover. It appeared from the evidence of the mate, that 22 persons were the necessary crew for navigating a vessel of this description; and that even at the period of the vessel departing from Portsmouth, she had no more than ten persons (men and