

Some details were asked of her as to certain circumstances which, though minute in appearance, might throw light on several facts of the accusation. She replied, that she did not recollect them, and assigned for her defect of memory an excuse which will be easily admitted. "At that moment," she said, "I was too much occupied with the execution of my plan to pay attention to what was passing around me."

The President.—Have you ever known or seen these gentlemen (the English,) or any of them? They immediately rose, and Madame Lavalette, after having looked at them for a moment, declared, that she had never known nor before seen them.

Mademoiselle Lavalette was then introduced: as she was not quite 14, the administering the oath to her was dispensed with. She answered to the first question in so feeble a voice, and her embarrassment appeared so painful, that the President, after asking the consent of the prisoners, signified she might withdraw.

The Court rose at half-past five, and was adjourned till

TUESDAY.—Some other witnesses were this day examined, and M. Hua, Advocate for the Crown, then addressed the Court at great length.—After he had ended, the several Advocates for the French prisoners, Eberle, Benoit, &c. &c. made their respective speeches in support each of his separate client; and after these were heard, the Court adjourned till Wednesday; on which day M. Dupin, the Advocate of Sir Robert Wilson and his friends, made a speech, much admired and of considerable ingenuity, but turning principally on points of French law, which would afford little entertainment to our readers. On the facts charged against the accused, after their frank avowals, corroborated by the fullest proof documentary and parole, no possible doubt could remain: and about half-past five on Wednesday afternoon, the Jury (12 in number, drawn by lot, and mostly men connected with the law) delivered their verdict into Court. It was read by their foreman, and contained an acquittal of all the Frenchmen except the turnkey Eberle, who, as well as Sir Robert Wilson, Mr. Bruce, and Mr. Hutchinson, were found guilty. The President, M. De Seze, then proceeded to read the heads of the penal code applicable to the convicted persons. Eberle was sentenced to two years imprisonment. The article applicable to our countrymen was 244, which prescribes imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, nor less than three months, at the discretion of the Judge: and the President, without hesitation, pronounced for the shortest allowable period.

Sir Robert Wilson and Mr. Bruce had previously addressed the Court, as follows:

SIR ROBERT WILSON'S SPEECH.

"Mr. President, you did me too much honour, the day before yesterday, in telling me I was perfectly familiar with the French language; on the contrary, I have need of all your indulgence in endeavouring to express to you how very sensible I am of the liberty you have allowed to my defence, as well as to express our gratitude to the advocate who has afforded us his services with as much talent as zeal.

"Notwithstanding the decision of the Chamber of Accusation, circumstances have been reproduced here which ought to have remained foreign to the discussion before the Court. I have been overwhelmed before you with the most offensive expressions; and yet all my crime consisted in writing as I thought. Liberty is the vivifying principle of our government, and that liberty was always my idol.

"My political creed forbids me to mix in foreign politics. Yes, I would wish to see all men free and independent, and that is not the wish of a conspirator.

"The exercise of their duties and of their rights is the prerogative of men truly free; and you, Gentlemen, like us, will be convinced of this, when you shall have longer enjoyed the constitutional Government of your King.

"It is from intercepted letters that proofs of criminality have been endeavoured to be derived against me. The violation of correspondence is a crime; thus it will have been by the aid of a crime that it has been wished to prove against me a correctional offence. I do not dwell upon this point; but I thought it my duty to point out this circumstance to the meditation of the jury. But who gave publicity to my thoughts? Who laid hold of, and by what means, a correspondence addressed solemnly to the eyes of a brother, and of a personage (Lord Grey,) whose name alone carries with it the guarantee of all that is most illustrious and loyal in that nation of which he has constantly been one of the most zealous and enlightened supporters?

"Upon the accusation of having conducted Lavalette out of France, I will not detain you long. The fact is acknowledged; I have only insisted on the motives.

"It is true that M. Lavalette, with whom I had no particular connexion, had inspired me with an interest which I shared with all classes of society in France. The painful sacrifices, the interesting devotedness, the well-calculated audacity of Madame Lavalette, had singularly increased that interest: and where is the man who would have seen without pain and regret the happiness of that virtuous and for ever illustrious woman close in misfortune and in despair? It is true, also, that I looked upon M. Lavalette as a man condemned to a

period of revolution for an offence solely political, and who, having freely given himself up, trusting to his innocence and the presumed faith of treaties, merited all our interest. But I declare that these considerations, however powerful, had a very secondary influence on my determination.

"The appeal made to our humanity, to our personal character, and to our national generosity; the responsibility thrown upon us of instantly deciding on the life or death of an unfortunate man, and above all of an unfortunate stranger!—this appeal was imperative, and did not permit us to calculate his other claims to good will. At its voice we should have done as much for an obscure unknown individual, or even for an enemy who had fallen into misfortune.

"Perhaps we were imprudent; but we would rather incur that reproach than the one we should have merited, by basely abandoning him who, full of confidence, threw himself into our arms; and these very men who have calumniated us, without knowing either the motives or the details of our conduct—these very men, I say, would have been the first to stigmatise us as heartless cowards, if, by our refusal to save M. Lavalette, we had abandoned him to certain death.

"We resign ourselves with security to the decision of the jury; and if you should condemn us for having contravened your positive laws, we shall not at least have to reproach ourselves for having violated the eternal laws of morality and humanity."

This Address produced a strong impression, and the respect due to the majesty of justice could scarcely prevent the expression of it.

Hutchinson declared that he had nothing to add to the speech of his counsel.

MR. BRUCE'S SPEECH.

I appear before a Court of Justice, on an accusation of having contributed to the escape of Lavalette: if it is a crime to have saved the life of a man, I avow that I am guilty.

I do not wish to derive any vanity from what I have been able to do:—an appeal was made to my humanity, and my honour imposed on me the obligation of answering it. If the accusation had been confined to the affair of Lavalette, I should have few words to say to you; but I have been accused of having conspired against the political systems of Europe, of having excited the inhabitants of France to take arms against the authority of the King. It is true, that this charge, absurd, ridiculous, destitute of all foundation, and which has excited equal astonishment and indignation throughout all Europe, has been rejected by the wisdom of the Chamber of Accusation. But although this accusation has been rejected, the motives on which it was founded still subsist. The Procureur-General, in his act of accusation, has allowed himself to say—

M. the President.—Accused you speak French with very great facility; in speaking, therefore, of a Magistrate, and of so respectable a Magistrate, measure your expressions.

Mr. Bruce continued.—The Procureur-General said that I am one of those persons who are imbued with anti-social doctrines; that I am an enemy from principle, of all order and government—an enemy from principle, of all kinds of justice, and of humanity; and the friend of the friend of the factious, in all countries. These, it must be confessed, are grave accusations; but the explanation which I am going to give of my principles will be a conclusive answer to these calumnious allegations.

I shall not enter into metaphysical abstractions on the rights of men, nor into digressions on politics; I will confine myself to a description of the principles which have always directed my political actions.

I was born an Englishman; I loved with enthusiasm the constitution of my country—that is to say, the constitution as established by our glorious revolution of 1688. It was then that was formed that beautiful system of Government which excites so universal an admiration, which serves as a model to other nations, which makes our country called, by distinction, the classic land of liberty, which earned for us the deserved eulogium of the philosopher Montesquieu, who is the patrimony not only of France but of all the world, and who said of us—"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 may be dated the prosperity, the greatness, and the liberty of England.

I am bound to say, that if these principles which are mine, and which are those of the Constitution of my country, are subversive of all idea of order and good government, and make me the enemy of kings, of justice, and of humanity, I am then the most guilty of men, and my accuser is in the right.

But if, on the contrary, these are the principles which procured for us our protecting laws, which secure to us our persons, our properties, and our religion, which have made of a people little favored by nature or by fortune the most happy, the best governed, and the most flourishing nation in Europe, I have a right to conclude that the accusation is nothing but a revelling calumny. Yes, such are the principles of that Wilson and of that Bruce, of whom the Advocate-General spoke in so indecorous a manner. I inherited them from my ancestors.—I shall carry them to my grave.

As to the affairs of M. de Lavalette, politics had nothing to do with it: I was moved only by the sen-

timents of humanity. You have seen, from my interrogatory, that I was hardly acquainted with him. It is true, that the goodness of his character, the amiability of his disposition, and the sweetness of his manners, had inspired me with a greater interest than is usually felt for a person whom one has seen so little. I was never at his house: he had never been at mine: and it was here, where I appear as an accused person, that I had the honour of seeing, for the first time, that virtuous and interesting wife, and have been enabled to pay her the homage of my devoted and respectful admiration.

It has been demonstrated to you, that there was no connection between us and the other persons accused, I respected the chains and gates of the house of justice. I did not go, like Don Quixotte, in quest of adventures; but an unfortunate man comes and asks my protection; he shews a confidence in my character; he puts his life in my hands; he appeals to my humanity! What would have been said of me if I had denounced him to the police? I should then have deserved that death with which I have since been threatened. What do I say? What would have been thought of me if I had refused to protect him? I should have been looked upon as a poltroon, as a man without principle, without honour, without courage, without generosity—I should have deserved the contempt of all good men. But, Gentlemen, there were other considerations which decided me. There was something romantic in the story of Lavalette. His miraculous escape from prison, that cruel uncertainty between death and life in which he so long remained—noble devotedness of his wife, that French Alcestis—her heroic actions, which will live in history—all struck my imagination, and excited in my heart an interest so lively, that I could not resist its impulse: besides, as your La Fontaine says, who in his simplicity has said every thing.

*"Dans ce monde il se faut l'un l'autre secourir;
Il se faut entr'aider: c'est la loi de la nature."*

Gentlemen—I am yet young, but I have travelled a great deal: I have seen many countries, and have examined, with all the attention of which I am capable, the customs of the people. I have always observed, even among the most barbarous nations, among those who are almost in a state of primitive nature, that it is a sacred thing among them to succour those who have recourse to their protection: it is a duty enjoined by their religion, by their laws, by their customs. A Bedouin of the Desert, a Druze of Mount Lebanon, would rather sacrifice his life than betray the man who had fled to him for an asylum: whatever be his country, whatever his crime, he sees only the duties of humanity and of hospitality; I, a civilised man, thought it my duty to imitate the virtues even of barbarians. And I cannot persuade myself that, among a people celebrated for their sensibility, their humanity, and their chivalrous character—which reckon among their Kings a Henry IV. that model of a Prince—and would to God all Kings were like him—which reckon among their heroes a Bayard, the completest of all, without fear, and without reproach, whose device was always to succour his distressed fellow-creatures—I cannot believe that, among such a people, an Englishman can be condemned for saving the life of a Frenchman.

Gentlemen, I have confessed to you, with all frankness and honour, the whole truth with respect to the part I took 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 the respect which I owe to myself, by avowing that I feel not the least repentance for what I have done.

Gentlemen, I have now said all: I leave you to decide upon my fate, and I implore nothing but justice.

This discourse, pronounced with a strong foreign accent, and with a firm tone sustained throughout, produced like Wilson's, the liveliest impressions; and we heard several old advocates applaud equally the eloquence of the accused and of their defenders.

New-York, June 15.

Treaty with Tunis

"The Sphinx, from Leghorn, 35 days, has brought the Treaty between Lord Exmouth and Tunis; a copy of which we inclose:—

(COPY.)

Declaration of His Highness Mahmood Bashaw, Chief Bey of Tunis, the well guarded City, and the abode of Happiness, made and concluded with the Right Honourable Edward Baron Exmouth, Kt. Grand Cross of the most honorable Military Order of the Bath, Admiral of the Blue Squadron, and commander of His Britannick Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean.

In consideration of the deep interest manifested by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of England for the termination of Christian Slavery, His Highness the Bey of Tunis, in token of his sincere desire to maintain inviolable his friendly relations with Great-Britain; and in manifestation of his amicable disposition, and high respect towards the powers of Europe, (with all of whom he is desirous of establishing Peace) declares that in the event of a future war with any European Power, (which God forbid) that none of the prisoners made on either side shall be consigned to slavery but treated with all humanity as prisoners of war, until regularly