

took from her a jolly boat, oars, &c. a barrel of fish, a barrel of potatoes, and two duck cloth. On the following day boarded a ship from Providence, R. I. for Canton ---took from her a few articles; all of which I considered Piracy, and for which reason, I determined if possible, to take command of the brig; accordingly, on the 1st of Oct. I with some difficulty effected this in the following manner; having got the greater part of the crew to agree with me, by giving me a letter requesting me to take command of the brig and to carry her to a British American port; St. Anthony, one of the Cape de Verd Islands, being then in sight, distant about 14 miles, I hoisted out the cutter and put a sufficient quantity of provisions, &c. in her---I then ordered Capt. Burke, Ceraphine Coro Y. Senderas, (Spanish captain), and nine others into her. Besides the piracies, Captain Burke threatened to rob all British merchant vessels that he might fall in with. After my taking command of the brig, the crew were in a very disorderly state, and indeed threatened to kill each other. On the 2d October, it was represented to me that nine of them were forming a plan to take the vessel from me---on hearing of which, I put them in irons, and confined them below; a number of the others were consulting among themselves, that I should cruise with the brig; seeing that remonstrance would be of no avail, I seemed to acquiesce, at the same time determined, if possible, to carry the vessel to Britain, and to avoid the track of merchant vessels. On the 7th Oct. fell in with the Glenbernie, when a number of the crew were determined to plunder her, the passengers and crew, of every thing that suited them; to prevent which, and for the purpose of ascertaining whether I went on board of the Glenbernie, and after a conference with Capt. Evans, perceiving I had not an opportunity of disclosing what the vessel was, &c. I returned again to the brig, when a number of the crew exclaimed "it would be a d---d shame to let the ship go, we will overhaul her." I asked them what they would overhaul her for---their answer was that they had seen a great number of people on board with watches, and that they knew there must be valuables in the ship, which they were determined to have. It was

obvious to me that if they boarded the ship themselves, and the least resistance was given, they would not hesitate at any crime. Considering these circumstances. I was resolved to go along with them, but after having got near the ship, I was, from appearance, apprehensive of their charging muskets. I again pulled back to the brig, and hoisted a Carthaginian flag, at the same time hailed the ship, telling the Captain that he had better allow me to send the boat on board under these colours, wishing if possible, to prevent the loss of lives; at this time the men placed themselves at the guns, exceedingly anxious to fire on the ship, until I threatened them that the first man that attempted to fire a gun without my orders, I would instantly blow out his brains; they then agreed that the master should be brought on board with his papers, which I at first refused, saying that I would again go on board with them myself---"No" said they, "it is too much condescension, we will make him come on board of us with his papers."---I then said, to satisfy them, I would send for him, for which purpose I ordered five men into the boat, with orders not to touch a single article, or insult any person on board---but say to the Captain that I wished to see him on board with his ship's papers; in a short time they returned with the chief mate and the papers. I took the mate below and looked at his papers, but could not get my mind disclosed to him, as a number of the crew followed him, and stood over the hatchway. I told the officer not to alarm himself, that it was merely for a certain purpose I had sent for the papers, and that they were not all there---but to lay his vessel to for tonight, and give himself no uneasiness; that I should come on board in the morning to see the rest of the papers, and that then I should let the captain know what else I wanted with him. I ordered the men to put the mate on board his own ship, which they complied with. When they returned, they were intent on robbing the ship, or to place five or six men on board that night, to prevent, as they said, the passengers and others from concealing their effects. I caused the boat to be hoisted up, telling them that they might depend on the consequences if they offered to lower her; after much altercation, they

with great reluctance agreed.

At six o'clock the following morning I caused the boat to be lowered, and with five men in her, went on board the ship; I then went with Capt. Evans into his cabin, and requested him to send his steward on deck, and call any of the passengers down that he might think proper, with his chief mate, and I would then let him know what the vessel was, and my intentions, which he accordingly did---I then stated to him the prior occurrences, and that the crew of the brig were determined to rob the vessel, and all persons on board, and, as I have before mentioned, considered the ship in the greatest danger; but that I would lay before him a plan I had formed for the preservation of the whole; upon which he requested me to state the plan, which I did, viz. that I would send a boat's crew on board, which I requested he would seize and secure, upon which he would give me a signal, and that I would prevent any danger that he might otherwise expect from the brig. Upon consideration, he thought my proposal correct, and that he would do every thing in his power to assist me in effecting this; I then parted with Capt. Evans, and immediately repaired to the brig, and ordered the boat's crew to get ready to go on board of the ship; upon this, James Alexander came to me, requesting to know if ten men might not go in the boat. I at first refused, but upon reflection, thought it would be best to allow ten of them to go; but I told them it was unnecessary, as the men on board the ship were not armed, and that if they shewed any resistance, I would destroy the ship. Satisfied with this, they went off---they were not many minutes in the ship, when I saw the signal; I then called all the men aft on board the brig, saying to them, that "I had taken the brig, for piracy, and that I was determined that a piratical action should never be committed with her, while under my charge, and that if any of them attempted to speak of piracy, I would shoot them." This had the desired effect. I then ran the brig along side the Glenbernie, and told Capt. Evans that all was safe. It was then thought requisite that I should come on board of the Glenbernie, that a statement might be drawn out of the proceedings, and to consult

on the nearest and best port to carry the brig to. I was only a short time on board the Glenbernie, when the brig dropt astern, taking with her the second mate and one seaman belonging to the Glenbernie, who were sent on board to take charge in my absence. She made all sail to the north-west.

The Africano is a brig of nearly 400 tons, sails uncommonly fast, and was formerly the United States sloop of war Firefly, mounting 12 carriage guns."

KNOUTING IN RUSSIA.

Mr. Porter represents the executioner of this horrid punishment as of Herculean strength, receiving ten rubles, (45s) a year, and generally knouting one person every month. His apparatus consists of a leathern wallet hung before him, in which he carries a pair of pincers for slitting the nose, and another instrument for marking the forehead. "It is shaped like a round brush, being strongly set with iron teeth. The knout, or whip, is formed thus:---its handle is of wood, about a foot in length, very strong and hard, woven round with leather. To this is attached a stout and weighty thong, much longer than the handle, fastened in the manner of a flail. Next comes a well dried strip of buffalo's hide, much like pliable horn. This the executioner puts on the knout afresh every twenty lashes; its shape is tapering, being full a quarter of an inch thick, and very long. The executioner, putting the thong fast between his legs, raises the machine over his head, and makes a straight down cut, which makes a hollow in a thick board deep enough to cover the finger. It is deemed reproachful to touch the knout. Formerly the office of knouting was deemed honorable, performed by the Grand Dukes of Muscovy themselves, and merchants often paid large sums to be allowed to fill it. Time, however, has changed these ideas, and it is now decreed hereditary in a family, in order that no difficulty should arise in obtaining a person to execute such a hideous task. The wretch whom the author saw undergo this punishment was a coachman, who had robbed and murdered his niggardly master.

"The place," says Mr. P. "generally allotted for public executions is near the Neva, being an open and muddy plain. When I arrived, a few companies of grenadiers were drawn up in line; and the natives were pouring upon the ground in multitudes. The gravity of their rough visages, mingling with the fierce visage of Cossacks, and the severe gloom of the Police, gave an expression of horror to the crowding groups more consonant with the expected scene than the noisy mobs beneath the gallows at the Old Bailey.

"Ten o'clock in the morning was the appointed hour, but more than another hour elapsed before the criminal was brought to the place of punishment. He was a robust and fine looking man, with light hair and beard, possessing not one trait in his face to announce him capable of murder, or even of less terrible crimes.

"The poor wretch, attended by part of the Police, had been walked through the streets, in order to shew him to the populace, and to strike them with horror at his guilt. As soon as the procession arrived in front of the troops, a circle was formed, and preparations made for the instant commencement of the execution. A paper being read aloud in the Russ language, which most probably was an account of his crime and sentence, he was speedily stripped of his clothes, leaving on his person only a pair of loose trousers. In the midst of this silent group (and awful indeed was their silence) stood, firm and well secured, a block of wood, about three feet high, having three cavities in the top to receive the neck and arms. Being fully prepared for this dreadful punishment, the unhappy man crossed himself, repeating his Gosperdiaui Pomeilia with the greatest devotion. The executioner then placed him with his breast to the board, strongly binding him to it by the neck and upper part of his arms, passing the rope close under the