

its service. But the principal reason of their extensive circulation is, the information and entertainment they afford an opulent people, who have leisure and inclination to interest themselves in all public occurrences. On this account the conductors of newspapers seize every opportunity of conveying the earliest information of all events that take place in the kingdom, and though they must be often mistaken, yet the dexterity with which they trace all sources of intelligence is such, that they are generally right."

KINGSTON, (Jamaica) November 17.

Saturday Morris Keaton, the third murderer and pirate, was apprehended at Mrs. Debois's lodging-house, in Rum lane. The unerring hand of Divine Providence was so conspicuous in the detection of this monster, that we cannot resist the impulse of laying a short statement thereof before the public:

A gentleman, who was a lodger at Mrs. Debois's, having learnt that a sick stranger, who called himself captain Carney, had been brought to the house the evening before, determined, from motives of humanity, to enquire after his health; accordingly, about ten o'clock in the forenoon, he went into the sick man's room, seated himself by his bed side, after the usual salutations, and entered into a conversation with him, during the course of which, Keaton, in great agitation, asked the other if some pirates had not been lately apprehended and committed to prison; upon which the visitor replied in the affirmative, and observed with great energy, that they were the most bloody and abandoned miscreants that ever were upon record—which made such an impression on Keaton, that he instantly exclaimed, after striking his forehead with great violence, and falling into an universal tremor—"My God! what a pain I have got in my head, and deadly sickness at my heart! For God's sake, sir, send for a barber, that I may get my head shaved, as I am sure it will abate the fever in my distracted brain!" The other, whose suspicions were instantly awakened by this extraordinary behaviour, after measuring the man from head to foot with his eye, retired out of the room, and returned to a news-paper for Keaton's description, which having dispelled every doubt of his being the pirate in question, he gave notice to a magistrate, who issued a warrant against the villain, and gave it to a party of the town guard to execute.

They immediately proceeded to the house and taxed Keaton with his guilt, which at first he strenuously denied; but upon one of the party reading aloud the name of J. Wilkinson, at full length, on the tail of his shirt, which hung out of his breeches, he again fell into an universal tremor, sunk down upon the bed in suppurative agony, confessed he was the identical person they were in search of, and was carried to the court-house, where he underwent an examination of three hours and a half, in which he made a full and ample confession of his guilt, and at the end thereof was committed a close prisoner to the common gaol of this town.

Animated as we ever have been to gratify the general wishes of the public, and knowing that no incident has more awakened its attention, than the late horrid piracy and murders, we give the substance of Morris Keaton's confession before the magistrates on Saturday last, which the public may rest assured is taken from the best authority.

Morris Keaton is a native of Munster, in the kingdom of Ireland.—He arrived with general Arnold's army at New-York, which being nearly completed, the conclusion of the general peace put a period to his prospects, and the troops evacuated the American territories. He then travelled from place to place on the continent of America in great distress. About four months ago he went to Norfolk, in Virginia, where he became acquainted with Benjamin Johnson, Joseph Twentyman, and one Hughes, with whom he had several meetings, at one of which, it was proposed by Hughes, to procure passages on board the schooner Friendship, or Friends, then lying off Johnson's house, commanded by William Lewis, and bound to St. Thomas's.—to seize upon said schooner, when an opportunity offered, and to murder all the persons belonging to her, without distinction; after some deliberation all the parties unanimously agreed to this heinous and damnable proposal. About 8 days afterwards, having previously agreed for their passages, they embarked on board the schooner and sailed the same day.

About ten o'clock in the evening of the ninth day after they took their departure, Keaton, Johnson, Twentyman, and Hughes, went up to Mr. Chadwick, the mate, who was then at the helm, and, presenting a loaded pistol to his breast, told him that the vessel was theirs, and that he must go forward; upon which Hughes bound and gagged the unhappy man and conducted him to the fore-castle; whereupon Johnson directed Twentyman to take the helm, and steer the vessel, which office he readily accepted; the other three villains then secured William Price, Charles Brown, and a negro man named Jack, all foremast men, whom Hughes immediately proposed to throw overboard, but his associates being averse to this *pro* advice, it was abandoned; Keaton, Johnson, and Hughes, then went into the cabin, where they tied and gagged captain Lewis and Mr. Wilkinson, whom they left in that situation until morning. During the remainder of the night Twentyman steered, while his bloody associates guarded the

prisoners. At the approach of daylight, Keaton, Johnson and Hughes, went into the cabin, and dragged captain Lewis and Mr. Wilkinson to the quarter deck, gagged and bound as aforesaid; whereupon Hughes seized upon captain Lewis, led him to the main chains, and instantly threw him overboard; after which this active and obdurate villain returned to the quarter deck, seized upon Mr. Wilkinson, who by some means or other, got the gag out of his mouth, and begged in the most moving terms for his life; but the sly-hearted villains, deaf to every sensation of pity, heard his piercing entreaties without remorse, and, in attempting to plunge their victim into the ocean, entangled his legs in the shrouds; upon which Hughes stabbed him with a sword, in several places; but this not being sufficient to break his hold, the other villains came to the assistance of Hughes, and presently effected their purpose by precipitating the mangled carcase of poor Wilkinson into the ocean!

The villains then returned to the quarter deck, their hands streaming with the blood of the innocent, and threw Mr. Chadwick into the sea. They then untied the two foremast men and the negro, to work the vessel, first administering unto them, a solemn oath on the bible, to be faithful, and gave directions to Twentyman, who was considered and acted as navigator, to shape a course for Barbados or Antigua. About sixteen days afterwards, Hughes having rendered himself particularly obnoxious to his associates, and especially to the two foremast men, whom he had cruelly beaten upon several trivial occasions, the former gave directions to the latter, to throw Hughes overboard, which they accordingly put into execution after knocking him in the head with an ax. To complete the bloody tragedy, Twentyman the next day, called the negro Jack to the quarter deck, and ordered him to draw a bucket of water to wash the same, which mandate the poor fellow immediately obeyed, and while he was in the execution of it, Twentyman threw him into the sea, with the concurrence of Keaton and Johnson.

It was thirty days after they got possession of the vessel, before they made Antigua, but in a consultation they thought it prudent not to go in, and it being the unanimous opinion that a French port was more safe and secure, they bore away for Port Louis, in the island of Guadeloupe, where Keaton went ashore, in the assumed character of a merchant, to dispose of the cargo, and would have done, but, on his return to the vessel, being informed that Charles Brown, one of the foremast men, had jumped overboard, and got into a fishing canoe, which carried him ashore, Keaton and his companions thought it advisable, for fear of a discovery, to steer for St. Martin's, where being arrived, they all three went ashore, staid about 24 hours, disposed of that part of the cargo on deck, and discharged William Price, the other foremast man, who previously received from Keaton forty dollars, as a compensation for his trouble, and partly to prevent his disclosing what he had seen on board. They now shaped their course for St. Domingo, on the south side of Hispaniola, where Keaton, for fear of being discovered by some or other of his companions, thought proper to leave the vessel, and after wishing them success, he debarked, taking with him a free mulatto boy, whom they had shipped at St. Martin's, his trunk, and whatever else he could find on board the vessel that might be of service to him, and landed at Niva, a Spanish port in Hispaniola. He afterwards crossed the county to Port au Prince, where, and at St. Mark's, he staid three weeks, going by the title of captain Carney. About eighteen days ago, he embarked at St. Jeremie, on board a French brig for this island, and arrived at Kingston on Monday the 8th instant, when he took up his quarters in a lodging-house; but finding his situation noisy and expensive, he removed last Friday evening to Mrs. Debois's, and terminated his career next morning, as before related.

BENNINGTON, November 29.

The honourable Moses Robinson, Ira Allen, and Nathaniel Niles, Esquires, are elected agents and delegates to congress for this state the ensuing year.

NEW-HAVEN, December 16.

Last Thursday a negro who had served in the continental army during the war, and had been discharged with badges of honour, being apprehended and committed to gaol by his late master, as a runaway servant, was, by writ of habeas corpus filed in his favour, brought before the hon. superior court, then sitting in this place, and was in court claimed by his former master as his property and his slave for life. In the examination of the cause it appeared, that some time in the year 1777, being the property and slave of the claimant, he enlisted into the continental army, for and during the war, with the consent, licence, and permission, of his master, who received the bounty given for his enlistment. Whereupon it was resolved and decreed, That as, at the time of enlistment, no person but a freeman could, by the resolutions of congress, be enlisted into the continental army, the consent of his master to the enlistment amounted in law to a complete manumission—that he was no longer the slave or property of the master, and should therefore be set at liberty. It is pleasing to the benevolent mind to reflect, that in this state, no person, who hath through the course of the late war hazarded his life in the defence of liberty and independence, may by the laws of the land be doomed to perpetual servitude.

HARTFORD, December 21.

Extra of a letter from an American gentleman, now in Europe, to his friend in this city, dated London, October 15, 1784.

"Yesterday I arrived here; having made, since my first landing here, a tour of more than 800 miles. In this tour I have, as I proposed, visited all the principal manufacturing towns, which are truly numerous: and finding a ship that will sail in a few hours, I have only time to communicate some of my truly feeling sentiments for the future well being of our country. The longer I am here, the more sensible I am that the Americans are much happier than the people in England and Ireland; especially the middle and lower class of people, who are loaded and oppressed with taxes. Indeed the people here as well as in other provinces, are critically observing us, to see how we conduct as to government, and unanimity in our federal operations. My travelling, generally without being known as an American, has given me opportunity to hear the sentiments of many different classes. They all say, that, if we remain united, support our credit and pay our debts, we shall be the greatest and happiest people in the known world. Indeed most of the conversation in any company is concerning America. Many in England, think we are divided and shall be more so, as they say the people refuse to pay their taxes. Americans may think their taxes high, but they may be assured, that they are not half so high as in England and Ireland. I hope they will all cheerfully pay their taxes, for were the Americans who complain, to travel in England and Ireland, and see how the poor are oppressed with taxes to support bishops, placemen, pensioners, &c. in luxury and idleness, they would return home, cheerfully pay their quota of taxes, and think themselves the happiest people in the world."

On the evening of Monday the 13th instant, at half past 7 o'clock, a meteor was seen passing rapidly from S. E. to N. W. near y in the zenith of this place. It left a luminous train after it, of several yards apparent length, and its disappearance was followed by a loud report.

NEW-YORK, December 24.

The right honourable major-general, marquis de la Fayette, on Tuesday morning last, embarked on board the Nymph's barge, which was waiting for him at the White-hall stairs; he was accompanied thither by his excellency the governor of this state, the generals Greene, Lamb and Webb, the consul of France, colonel Fish, many other brother officers, and a considerable concourse of citizens; as he passed the battery he was saluted by thirteen guns; after he had got on board, his most christian majesty's frigate saluted the American flag with a continental salute, which was returned by the artillery of the fort with an equal number. The marquis was handed on board the barge by his excellency the governor on one side, and on the other by the consul of France. America owes much to the valour and great exertions of this nobleman; curing the late war, he not only distinguished himself brave in the field and generous to our army, but a warm, steady, disinterested, and influential friend at the court of France.

At the same time, the packet L'Courier de Europe sailed with the November mail for Port l'Orient.

The ship Melbrough, which ran aground on the back of Long Island, as mentioned in a late paper, arrived here yesterday, having, it is said, received but little damage.

Governor Carleton is arrived at Halifax, from London, to take upon him the government of his Britannic majesty's province of New-Brunswick.

A brig lately arrived at Halifax, from London, with convicts, but they were prohibited by the governor from landing.

Dec. 25. The king of Spain has at last broke that sullen reserve which he has so rigidly observed towards the people of the United States, and has appointed James Garzoqui, Esq; as his minister to the United States of America: he is preparing for his journey, and will embark with all possible expedition, and may be soon expected to arrive in this country.

The state of Vermont has chosen delegates to sit in congress, and it is presumed that congress will recognize that state's claim to be a separate government, and admit them into the confederation.

It is proposed, by the post-master at Quebec, to dispatch a mail monthly, during the winter, from that city to this, if it is found that the postage will de-tray the expence.

Dec. 27. We learn from St. Kitt's, that a vessel had arrived at that island from Barbados, the master of which reported, that on Monday the 18th ult. being then at anchor in Carlisle bay, a most dreadful earthquake happened at Barbados, preceded by a deluge of rain, which did great damage all over the island, and sunk two sugar plantations bordering on the sea, in the parish of St. Andrew, commonly called Scotland, no vestige of which remains at this day; the whole space which these estates occupied being covered with salt water. He further reported, that he did not sail until five days after this calamity, and that the convulsion of the earth was still felt when he took his departure, by which many lives were lost.

Dec. 29. Captain Kitts, in the brig Eagle, arrived at Cape Nicola Mole, the 23d of November, he sprung a leak at sea, and carried away his main-

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