

Foreign Intelligence.

TRIAL OF CROSSFIELD FOR AN ATTEMPT TO KILL THE KING.

[It is some time since the public heard of the attempt to kill the king of England by the discharge of an air gun; and the confinement of one Crossfield, as the principal in the construction and use of the gun. It may now be interesting to learn the issue of the trial, under an indictment for the offence. The case was warmly pleaded by the attorney general, and ably defended by the prisoner's counsel—but as they detailed no circumstances in the business not mentioned by the witnesses, we have omitted the details of the defence, and only published the evidence.] [Boston Mercury.]

LONDON, May 12.

OLD BAILEY.

Yesterday the court, consisting of Justices Eyre, Grose, and the Recorder, sat at the usual hour, but were not able to impanel a jury till half past three in the afternoon; when Robert Crossfield was put to the bar, charged, as well as several others, with having constructed an instrument for blowing a dart loaded with poison, with an intent to kill the king.

The first witness was John Dondin, a brass founder in New Street square, who swore that Upton and two other men came at his master's and asked for a tube of certain dimensions, but refused to tell him for what purpose they wanted it.

Joseph Flint and Thomas Bland, likewise two brass founders, gave evidence to the same effect.

David Cutbush, a mathematical instrument maker, had some conversation with Upton and another man respecting an air gun. The other man told him he was very fond of shooting; and had lost some of his fingers by the firing of a gun.

A Mr. Palmer, of Barnard's Inn, had known Crossfield 15 or 16 years, and had accompanied him and Upton to the different brass founders already mentioned, but said he did not understand the nature of the business, and that it was respecting Upton's business that they called at these different brass founders.

John Hall, turner of Bartholomew close, said that he was a member of the London Corresponding Society, and belonged to the 6th division.—He knew Upton and Palmer in Sept. 1794. They and a stranger came to his house at that time, and having asked him, whether he could turn in wood, a sketch was made out by the stranger and himself, agreeable to their directions. He believed the sketch was the same as that produced in Court. It was done in ink before him, and was drawn out on the back of a bill for letting lodgings. Having asked what it was intended for, he was informed by them that it was meant to be used in an electrical machine. He said, on his cross examination, that Upton had been disgraced in the London Corresponding Society by Higgins and Le Maitre.

The Lord Chief Justice observed, that it was unnecessary for the prisoner's Counsel to invalidate what was not in fact before the court—the testimony of Upton.

Mr. Adam having argued that point at some length, the chief justice said, that as Upton's declaration was that of a man not upon oath, it formed no evidence whatever.

After some arguments between Mr. Garrow, the attorney general, and Mr. Adam, on the propriety of producing confessional evidence to establish the guilt of the prisoner, the court decided that measure in favor of the prosecution.

The first witness called was John Le Briton, who said, that he was boat steerer to the Pomona South Sea whaler, and sailed from Falmouth on the 13th of Feb. 1796. The prisoner, Crossfield, came on board as surgeon, a week before the ship sailed from Portsmouth, which was on the 29th of Jan. He was not at that time acquainted with the name of the prisoner, who generally went by the name of the doctor. The Pomona was taken on the 15th of Feb. by Le Vengeance National corvette. The prisoner, with some others, was put on board the corvette, and the witness heard him say, on quitting the Pomona to go on board the Frenchman, that he was happy at going to France and much better pleased on that account than if he were to return to England. He had never heard that the prisoner's name was Crossfield, till his arrival at Brest, which happened on the 23d of Feb. They were often in company together in the prison-ship at Brest, and he heard Crossfield say, that he was one of those who invented the air gun to assassinate his majesty. The witness asked him what the gun resembled? and he said, that an arrow was to be driven through a kind of tube by the force of inflammable air; the arrow was represented to be like a harpoon used in striking whales. They were, after some time, to be sent home in a cartel, and the prisoner then assumed the name of H. Wilson; and put his own name down the second in the muster list. He embarked for England in the cartel ship by the name of H. Wilson, and was described in the muster list as belonging not to the Pomona, but to the Hope.

The witness being cross-examined, admitted that he and the prisoner went on shore together at Portsmouth, and walked publicly about the streets.

Thomas Denis, chief mate of the Pomona, said the prisoner had declared, after they had sailed, that if Pitt knew where he was he would send a frigate after him. He acknowledged that he was privy to the design of getting his majesty assassinated at the play house, and knew how the dart was constructed. The prisoner also said to him, that if Pitt had come over any other bridge than Westminster bridge, he would have been shot. When he arrived at Brest, he boasted that he had no longer any occasion to be ashamed or afraid of his name—Denis then corroborated the evidence of Le Briton with respect to the prisoner's changing his name to Wilson.

Mr. John Winter, owner of the Susannah, from Newfoundland, and carried into Brest on the 13th of December, said he was introduced to Crossfield on board the Revolution prison ship at Brest. The prisoner told him his name was Tom Payne, and

laughed heartily. He confessed he had shot at his majesty near Buckingham house, and had missed him. The witness was often in company with the prisoner during the space of five months at Brest, and Crossfield told him that he had invented the pop-gun, which he described as a tube about a foot and a half long, made for the purpose of discharging a poisoned arrow, which was to make his majesty expire in the greatest agony. The prisoner said he could kill a man at the distance of 30 or 40 yards with it, and without any noise. This language was used by Crossfield very often; perhaps 40 or 50 times, and in the presence of several others. He declared, that he had ordered the poison to be mixed at the Chemist's. He sometimes said, that missing his majesty was very unlucky, and sometimes that it was d—d unlucky. He hoped that he should see the day when the streets of London would run ankle deep with the blood of his majesty and his party. He frequently expressed himself in those terms before many others. The witness particularly recollected that he did so in the presence of Captain Gallery and Captain Collins.

Mr. Winter said, on his cross examination, that the prisoner was at that time in the habit of drinking strong liquors.

Samuel Bennet said, that he was on board the Elizabeth prison-ship with Crossfield, at Brest. He at one time heard the prisoner sing an improper song, and exclaim, "Damnation to the king of England!" He confessed, that he was one of those who attempted to blow a poisoned dart at his majesty. The witness told him that no true Englishman would sing such a song; and the prisoner threatened to have him put in irons. Crossfield declared that Tom Payne's works were the best in the world; and said, that if ever he arrived in England, he would attempt to take away the king's life again. The witness met him again on board the Cartel, and he was desirous by Crossfield not to take any notice of what had passed on board the Elizabeth.

Walter Colman, who apprehended Crossfield on board the Cartel ship, said, that he had offered to him and the other man who were conducting him to Bodmyn, a guinea each if they consented to let him escape. As for the driver, he declared, if they gave him a pistol he would soon settle him.

Elizabeth Upton, wife to Thomas Upton, said that she had seen her husband for the first time on the 22d of February last, between eight and nine o'clock in the morning. His hat was afterwards brought to her by a waterman. She never saw her husband die in her life; she knew Crossfield, and had seen him frequently at her husband's house in company with Palmer; she saw one of the instruments produced in court at her husband's shop—it was brought there by Hill, but she never saw the tube there.

George Steers said, he attended a meeting of the Corresponding Society, and saw Upton there with something in his hand, which appeared to be like the tube then in court.

Thomas Puley corroborated the evidence given by Steers, and added, that Upton took his head when he was asked by him what the tube was designed for?

Mr. Mortimer, the gun smith, explained the effect of an air gun, and of a feathered arrow, the drawing of which had been found in Upton's house, as well as the brass tube. It may be improper to publish all that was described on this subject. He said it was a most dangerous and fatal weapon.

Mr. Ward, a barrister, had seen the design, and shewed it to Mr. Mortimer, in Upton's house.

The jury brought in a verdict not guilty.

WATERFORD, March 17.

It is with pleasure we inform the public, that Mr. Cox* has completed the Ross bridge to the entire satisfaction of the commissioners, and for which they have returned him their public thanks.

We are informed that Mr. Cox sets out for Portuma in the course of this week, in order to erect a bridge over the river Shannon, at that place.

Mr. Cox has been in this kingdom five years and nine months, and has built the following bridges, over different rivers.

Length.	Breadth.	Depth.	At low water.
Londonderry, 1068	feet, 40	feet, 31	feet, 31
Waterford, 833	49	37	
Wexford, 1551	32	29	
Ferry Carrig, 340	27	42	
Ross, 510	40	20	

Also a Drawbridge at Dublin, over the great Rafter at King's End.

Portuma bridge, when completed, will be about 345 feet long—depth of water 24 feet.

(*Mr. Cox is an American, a native of Boston.)

LONDON, May 1.

Extract of a letter from Calcutta, dated 24th December, 1795.

"Of the many strange events that have lately happened, that of our supplying you with bread, is not the least remarkable. To keep in unison with it, we have only to apply to Carolina to supply Bengal with rice, and then the system will be complete: a victory of possibilities over all human calculation.

"The only intelligence that has transpired by the last over-land packet, is that you are starving; and in return you may expect to hear (probably by this conveyance) that we are in a hopeful way in India. This army is not to be amused with speeches. They have no better opinion of the integrity of a House of Commons, than the House have of theirs, and it requires something more than the eloquence of Mr. Dundas to fill the officers into security. Though I am not in the secret, I own that I am not without apprehensions that, before this reaches you, you will hear of the army having taken upon itself the redress of its grievances. On this you may rely they are fully prepared, and do not want resolution, inclination, or unanimity.

"In consequence of an advertisement from the Governor, Sir John Shore, prohibiting for the future certain meetings of military officers, a deputation from that corps was appointed to wait on him; and by them he was told, in very plain English, that to his prohibition they neither would nor could; and that as to their object, they both could and would, &c. Upon which Sir John Shore shot it advisable to retract his order, and pacify them with promises as well as he could."

ST. VINCENT'S.

Kingstown, July 11.

We feel inexpressible pleasure in being able to

congratulate our readers on the glorious events of yesterday, when the bravery of our troops in a few hours subdued the enemy at the Vigie. We shall begin our detail with the occurrences that preceded that brilliant affair, which is decisive with respect to our most formidable enemy the French Republicans.

His Excellency General Sir Ralph Abercrombie returned here from Carriacou on Thursday last, in his Majesty's frigate the Arethusa; about that time the whole force destined for the service of the island, either had arrived, or were off this Bay working in. Wednesday about one o'clock in the afternoon, the troops were landed, and immediately marched up to Lion Hill, Cane Garden, and Great-heed's where they were cautioned. The dispositions for attacking the enemy being made, the troops marched in the afternoon of Thursday in the following order:

To Mariaquavaley.

1st Column, commanded by Brig. Gen. Knox.
200 Lovenstein's Regt. [Riflemen.]
100 Hefley's Rangers,
636 14th Regiment.

936

To Calder Ridge, with a 12 pounder, and a five and an inch howitzer.

2d Commanded by Major General Hunter.
50 Lovenstein's,
100 Hefley's Rangers,
314 42d Regiment,
531 53 ditto
50 Pioneers

1045

To Carapan Ridge, with a brass 12 pounder and five and a half inch howitzers,

3d Commanded by Major General Mothead.
50 Lovenstein's,
50 Jackson's Rangers,
254 Buffs,
450 York Rangers,
50 Pioneers.

854

To Ross's Ridge, with two brass 6 pounders,

4th Commanded by Lieut. Col. Fuller,
40 Jackson's Rangers,
220 59th Regiment,
263 63d ditto.
50 Pioneers.

573

Up Warrarawon Valley.
5th Commanded by Lieut. Col. Dickens.
260 2d West India Regiment
57 34th Regiment.

317

To follow the line of march.

6th Reserve, under Lieut. col. Spencer.
145 40th Rgt.
87 54th ditto,

232.

The columns gained their several positions that night or early the next morning, without any material occurrence, except the falling in with three of the enemy at Stubb's estate, two of whom were killed; and the accident of a part of Lieut. Colonel Dickens's division, separating from the main body in the darkness of the night. Lieut. Colonel Colonel Dickens, however, gained possession of the right of the enemy's position at Louis Patience's before day light, an important pass, from which the enemy, principally Charaibs, fled without making much resistance, and where he planted the colours of the 34th regiment. Lieut. Colonel Dickens attempted to carry a strong and commanding post a little to the left of Louis Patience's, but did not succeed, and suffered considerably in the attack.—The Charaibs from the woods, and the enemy at the post of the left, kept up a smart fire at times upon him; they threw shells, and at last brought up a swivel, which was only fired twice, and did no mischief. He maintained his ground, however, but had 51 killed and wounded, out of which number 39 were of the small party of the 34th in his division, and three officers.

The columns under General Hunter and Mothead began to cannonade the Old Vigie from Calder and Carapan Ridges, between 6 and 7 o'clock in the morning; the guns at the former were at about 500 yards distance, and the latter only 300. Parties of the York Rangers, Lovenstein's corps, and of Hefley's Rangers, also took positions in the Canees, and other situations near the enemy's works, and must have done considerable execution. The column under Lieut. Col. Fuller was delayed a good deal by the difficulties they encountered in getting on their artillery; they, however, got up soon after the others, and opened their fire somewhere in front of the old foundation of Ross's house.

In a short time, the effects of our fire were visibly great upon the Old Vigie, and orders were in consequence given at two o'clock to form it, which were executed with a celerity and intrepidity perhaps never excelled. The columns were led on this occasion by Major Stewart of the 42d, and Lieut. Colonel Blair of the Buffs, and these regiments had the honor of carrying that post. The enemy began to move off as soon as they perceived our troops advancing, and just as they were entering the whole fled to their other works. They were instantly followed, and with the same ease. Such was the impetuosity of our troops, that about fifty rushed on to the New Vigie, and had actually got within a few yards of it, when they were recalled. Lieut. Colonel Fuller also pushed forward at the time the other columns moved. A cessation of firing after this took place on both sides, for some time, and about five o'clock, just as our artillery was going to open upon the New Vigie, and the troops prepared to storm it, the enemy sent out a flag to General Abercrombie, with an offer of submission, which was accepted on the terms of their delivering up the other posts of Owia, Rabaca and Mount Young, with their garrisons; but the officer who came with the flag urging General Abercrombie very much to include the French inhabitants and the island negroes who

were in arms with them, in the capitulation, and the General willing to consult the Governor upon the subject, the business was not finally concluded until about nine o'clock next morning, when at noon they marched out with the honors of war, laid down their arms to the number of 460, and were conducted to town and embarked immediately.

Notwithstanding the precautions that were taken to prevent the escape of the enemy during the night of the 10th, about 200 are supposed to have eluded our vigilance and got away from the Vigie. It is, however, supposed they are not got far.

Lieut. Col. Haffey's Rangers afforded the greatest assistance in getting the guns to Colder ridge up a mere precipice; and after they were got to a proper situation, took to their arms and joined a detachment of the 42d regiment and a party of Lovenstein's, in a wood within 90 yards of the Old Vigie, where they kept up a heavy fire, till the assault began, and then advanced with the rest. Major Jackson's Rangers advanced with the column up Carapan ridge, and have great praise for their readiness.

The Commander in Chief has mentioned the Colony Rangers in general orders, in the most flattering terms.—A considerable body of sailors also accompanied the artillery, under command of Capt. Barrott, and fully justified by their great exertion the high estimation in which that body are held. With respect to the Regular troops, we want words to express the sense that is entertained of their gallant behaviour: no troops could behave better.

With respect to our loss, we have great satisfaction in stating, that it is far less than could have been expected from the strength of the enemy's works, and their defence, which was by no means despicable. It amounts to about 100 killed and wounded; the greater part was sustained by Lieut. Colonel Dickens.—The following is the list of officers killed and wounded.

Capt. Douglas, royal engineers, wounded.
Buff's. Captain Johnston, wounded.
34th. Lieutenant O'Donoghue, wounded.
Lieutenant Georges, ditto.
Volunteer Gordon, ditto, since dead.
42d. Lieutenant Simon Fraser, wounded.
59th. Captain Wharton, wounded.
63d. Mj Crosby, wounded.
2d. West India. Capt. McLean, killed.
Capt. Errington, wounded.
York Rangers. Major D'Arville, wounded.
Hefley's Rangers. Capt. Ross wounded.
The loss of the enemy cannot be ascertained—a few only were found killed, and from 50 to 60 wounded in the new Vigie, among which was the rebel Goiton Audibert. Mariner, with his principal officers, were conducted into town after the other prisoners, by a party of the 26th Light Dragoons, and embarked on board his Majesty's ship Experiment, 27th the strongest marks of the indignation of the spectators.

From the Virginia Gazette, &c.

LAWFIELD, June 10th, 1796.

MR. DAVIS,

If you can spare a place in your paper, and think the following experiments worth communication, you will publish them, and oblige your humble servant,
RICHARD PARKER.

I HAVE for a long time believed that the proper cultivation of turnips would be of great utility to the farmers, as they are very nutritious, and an excellent food for cattle, exclusive of their being an wholesome and pleasant root for culinary use. For a great number of years I attempted to raise them in the common mode, but without success; to sow them in the broad cast and hoe them as is always done in England, I have tried, but the ignorance and carelessness of negroes, proved that could not be done to advantage, as no regularity could be expected. At length, four years ago, I thought of a plan of sowing which I was confident would prove successful, as it did not depend on the skillfulness or attention of negroes, (every common hoe negro, though ever so ignorant, being competent to the business.) I procured a straight piece of timber of two inches and an half square, six feet two inches long, and had pins of eight or nine inches long, fixed in it at twelve inches distance. To this piece of timber containing seven pins, were fixed two shafts (not for an horse but a man to draw) and two handles. I then, after the land was put in proper order, marked off a straight line; a person then in the shafts going backwards and keeping the pin at the end of the piece, in the line, with another person at the handle to assist in directing the instrument, six lines were laid off, and by continuing the work in the same manner, it was soon gone through. I afterwards crossed it at right angles and sowed the ground by dropping two or three seeds in each cross, which was quickly performed by children as well as grown persons, who with a small board or cup in one hand containing the seed, with the finger and thumb of the other dropped the seeds in each cross, and with the three hind fingers stirred a little dirt over the seed: This work is performed in a much shorter time than would be supposed. The first experiment I made I was attentive to the time employed in laying off and sowing the ground (twas half an acre) which was laid off in squares in two hours and an half, and sowed in three, by very awkward hands as may be supposed, as 'twas their first assay. When the turnip-tops were the size of a pineapple, all were drawn out except one, the ground was hoed or worked twice, and from the half acre I measured 225 bushels of turnips; the next year from the same quantity of ground I made 200 bushels; the third year from an acre I made 556; those three years were very unfavorable for turnips, and no person or very few in the neighbourhood made any but myself. The last year I sowed an acre and an half, two thirds of which was very mean, and made 900 bushels; 500 bushels were made from half an acre: But this was a remarkable fine year for turnips. The first and third years I sowed the 15th of August, the second year the 23d, and the last the 20th of August. Not satisfied that a foot square was the best distance for turnips, I prepared a square in my garden, made it very rich, put in fine tilth, and divided it into five equal parts,