

COURT-MARTIAL ON CORPORAL GEORGE.

[A London Paper publishes the following summary as the authentic statement of a party present at the trial.]

TRIAL OF CORPORAL SAMUEL GEORGE, OF THE FOOT GUARDS.

Portman Barracks, Saturday, September 29. A Court-martial was held this day, for the purpose of trying Corporal Samuel George, upon the charge hereafter mentioned.

President, Colonel Loftus—Members, Colonel the Hon. J. Walpole, Colonel Steel, Major Cowell, Captain Gough, Captain Cartwright, Lieutenant Bentinck, and four others. Deputy Judge Advocate, Major Wedderburn.

Charge—The following is the substance of the charge: For having, on or about the 11th of August, at the cautions at Knightsbridge Barracks, in the company of a number of non-commissioned officers and privates, falsely stated, that Lieutenant Colonel Gore had associated with, and joined company with, and drunk beer with him, Corporal Samuel George, of the Goldstream regiment of Foot Guards, at a public-house in Oxford-street, on the 23d of August, such conduct being false and disgraceful, &c.

The Court being opened in the usual form— The Deputy Judge Advocate stated the case on the part of the prosecution, to the following effect:—That the Prisoner, from some improper motive, had accused Lieutenant Colonel Gore of very disgraceful conduct. The Colonel had been tried by a Court-Martial (as the members of the Court all knew), and honourably acquitted.

He (the Deputy Judge Advocate) should therefore call evidence only to prove that the accusations were made by the Prisoner, Corporal George, against the Lieutenant-Colonel, and the record of the Colonel's acquittal would be pot in, which would be satisfactory evidence to prove they were false and malicious.

The first witness called was Sergeant Cartland; he stated that he was in the cautions at Knightsbridge barracks, on or about the 11th of August last, in the company of Corporal George, Corporal Perry, Corporal Hopkins, Sergeant Powell, and other non-commissioned officers were present. It was on a Sunday night. He remembered Corporal George making an accusation against Colonel Gore, though at that time he did not mention the Colonel's name, but only said that it was Colonel of the Guards.

The words used by Corporal George on that occasion were, as near as he could recollect, as follows:—"I was the other night in the company of a Colonel of the Guards; we went into two or three public-houses, and drank porter together; the Colonel called for the beer and paid for it; the Colonel first saw me at a print shop window, and came and stood before me, and touched my person in a particular manner—went to another window, and the Colonel followed me, and asked me where I was going; I replied, not to any place in particular, and the Colonel then told me to follow him, and we went to a public-house; the Colonel looked into it, and we went to another, and went into a parlour, and had a pot of beer, which the Colonel paid for."

The above witness, in cross-examination, said, that the Prisoner did not mention the name of Colonel Gore, either before or after he told the above story, nor did he mention the name of the street in which the house was, or the sign of the public-house.

Corporal Perry, the next witness, stated that he was present with the last witness and others at the cautions, on or about the night of the 11th of August, and heard him tell the tale about Colonel Gore; the language the Prisoner used was as follows, and as far as witness could recollect it was spoken in such a manner that all present could hear it: Colonel Gore's servant came into the cautions, and spoke to some of the soldiers present, and when he went out the Prisoner said, "Is it not a pretty piece of business? Why I was in the company of that man's master, Colonel Gore, the other night, and we went into the Nag's head public-house in Oxford-street, and had a pot of porter, which the Colonel paid for at the bar; we drank the porter in a parlour near the bar—and after a person came into the parlour the Colonel left the house." He (witness) was sure that the Prisoner said that it was Col. Gore who drank with him. He mentioned the Colonel's name before he commenced the statement, and so before that all present could hear it. He did not say that he went to three different houses with the Colonel, but direct to one public-house. He did not say they looked into two or three different public-houses; but said they (Corporal George and the Colonel) went direct to the Nag's Head, in Oxford-street.

Corporal Hopkins was the next witness called. He said that he was present in the cautions when Corporal George accused Colonel Gore of improper conduct.

This witness then detailed the statement made by George of a Colonel in the Guards going into a public-house in Oxford-street with him, and drinking part of a pot of porter, which the Col. paid for.

The Judge Advocate asked the witness whether the Prisoner made mention of the name of Colonel Gore, before, at the time, or after, he made the accusation against him in the cautions?

The witness said, that George did not mention the name of Colonel Gore, till after he had told the tale entirely through.

The Court was then ordered to be cleared. The record of the Court-Martial upon Colonel Gore, and his acquittal, was then received as proof of the charge made by the Prisoner being false.

The Deputy Judge Advocate then stated, that although there was a trifling discrepancy in the evidence of the witnesses, yet it was clearly established that the Prisoner had made the charge imputed to him against Colonel Gore, and the Court was satisfied, he had no doubt, that the charge was false and wicked.

The Court after some consultation, found the Prisoner guilty, and sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment in His Majesty's House of Correction, and to be kept to hard labour!

THE LUTINE FRIGATE.

So far back as 1799, His Majesty's frigate the Lutine was wrecked on the coast of Holland, whilst proceeding to Gothenburg with a cargo of silver, partly on Government and partly on private account, and all on board perished excepting one man. For the first time, on this occasion, Government insured their remittances to the Continent at a very low premium, and recovered a total loss from the Underwriters. The actual place where she perished was never discovered till last May, when to the great satisfaction of Lloyd's Coffee-house, the ship was seen entire, and still remains visible in the same situation. On the first discovery of her, a resolution was adopted by the Underwriters to attempt the recovery of their property, and the necessary means were taken either to raise the ship, or to break her up in order to save the specie. The Government part of the specie was a remittance, under the name of Subsidy, to enable the legitimate Sovereigns of Europe to escape the then-dominating Revolutionary Government from Holland, and to reconstitute that of the House of Orange, its present head. The present operations of the Underwriters, however, in place of obtaining the sanction of the House of Orange, to recover the property from the Lutine, have been resisted by the same Government, for the reinstatement of which this money was shipped, on the plea that England, in 1799, was at war with Holland, and consequently that the wreck of the Lutine, and her cargo, being within the waters of Holland, are the legitimate property of the Dutch Government. Since the first discovery of the Lutine, several English vessels in the pay of the Underwriters have anchored very near her, but the Dutch Government, for more than three months, have prevented these vessels from working at the wreck. When the difficulties which the grateful House of Orange placed in the way of the salvage of this property were reported to the Underwriters, a memorial was transmitted to the Marquis of Londonderry, whose death probably prevented any attention being given to it. Another memorial was afterwards forwarded to the Earl Bathurst, the *locum tenens* of the Foreign Secretary, and another to Mr. Canning, when he was appointed to that situation, but still no reply has been received by those who have the only just right to the property, because they have paid for it. Another petition, about a month ago, was presented to the Foreign Office, praying that a British frigate might be ordered to take charge of the property, and to place it in the hands of His Majesty's Government, until the point should be settled, whether this specie belonged to the House of Orange, or to the Underwriters at Lloyd's. Even to this most liberal petition, no answer has been received; and in the mean time the winter approaches, and the ship may be again sandal, and the property lost for ever. Here is nearly a million of property, on which many of His Majesty's subjects have claims from ten to thirty thousand pounds, and the Ministers of the Crown do not condescend to give them any reasons why their just right to endeavour to draw from the Ocean their lost property, should be resisted.

OUTRAGES—MISREPRESENTATION.

(From the Southern Reporter.) Various accounts are transmitted, and published in the Papers, from the neighbourhood of Mallow and Doneraile, of outrages committed in the surrounding country, some of them under circumstances of severity, and others in an open and daring manner. Assuredly we do not mean to underrate the folly, and wickedness, and atrocity, of these proceedings; neither do we wish that that vigilance should be lulled which will prevent them from extending; but it is obvious, that a disposition exists somewhere, not only to exaggerate, but to invent, by which great injury must be done to the Country, in deterring persons from coming to reside in it, who, either from inclination, or a returning sense of duty, would willingly make it their home if they thought they could enjoy security.

In the Advertiser of Saturday morning was the following paragraph, among some others of a similar character:—"We have learned, from very respectable authority, that the house of Mr. T. Harris, at Avonlat, near Kanturk, has been attacked and robbed of arms this week. The gentleman who has given us an account of this fact does not authenticate its truth from his own personal knowledge, but he is so totally convinced of its reality, and communicates particulars so minute, that we cannot indulge any scepticism respecting the event."

However, we do not think it consistent with our duty to announce the fact in a manner perfectly unqualified.

In reference to this statement, we have received the following letter from the highly respectable and much-esteemed gentleman whose house was said to have been attacked:—"Sir—May I request that you will condescend to a paragraph which appeared in the Advertiser and Morning Intelligencer of Saturday last, announcing, on a 'very respectable authority,' that my house at Avonlat had been attacked and plundered of arms this week. This statement is utterly false, and I must say, that I consider the publication of such fabulous paragraphs, in such times, as not only unproductive of very bad consequences, but also an act of very great injustice to the inhabitants of this part of the country, as yet in a state of perfect tranquillity."

"I am, Sir, your very obedient servant, THOMAS HARRIS."

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In the Advertiser of Saturday morning was the following paragraph, among some others of a similar character:—"We have learned, from very respectable authority, that the house of Mr. T. Harris, at Avonlat, near Kanturk, has been attacked and robbed of arms this week. The gentleman who has given us an account of this fact does not authenticate its truth from his own personal knowledge, but he is so totally convinced of its reality, and communicates particulars so minute, that we cannot indulge any scepticism respecting the event."

However, we do not think it consistent with our duty to announce the fact in a manner perfectly unqualified.

In reference to this statement, we have received the following letter from the highly respectable and much-esteemed gentleman whose house was said to have been attacked:—"Sir—May I request that you will condescend to a paragraph which appeared in the Advertiser and Morning Intelligencer of Saturday last, announcing, on a 'very respectable authority,' that my house at Avonlat had been attacked and plundered of arms this week. This statement is utterly false, and I must say, that I consider the publication of such fabulous paragraphs, in such times, as not only unproductive of very bad consequences, but also an act of very great injustice to the inhabitants of this part of the country, as yet in a state of perfect tranquillity."

"I am, Sir, your very obedient servant, THOMAS HARRIS."

"Avonlat, Oct. 21." It is evident, from this brief letter, that the "very respectable authority," on whose information the Advertiser built its paragraph, communicated that which was not true; and though he endeavoured to fence himself by two or three qualifications, such as that "he did not authenticate its truth from his own personal knowledge," yet he succeeded so well in his object, that he induced the Editor to send forth the statement "without any scepticism respecting the event." We hope that confiding disposition, which, however indicative it may be of an honourable mind, ever wrought on to bad purposes by interested persons. Certainly it will be no recommendation to us of the veracity of any statement published in the Advertiser, if it be given on "very respectable authority," since a regard to truth is not included in that character.

We regret to state that the following outrages are too well attested to justify any doubt of their having taken place. On Thursday night, all the Tibe Corn, consisting of 15 stacks of Wheat and Oats, the property of the Rev. Mr. Bennett, were burned in the Parish of Cleonore, near Doneraile. The fire continued to burn until a late hour on Friday, when some assistance was afforded, but not in time to save any thing.

On Saturday night, between the hours of seven and eight o'clock, three stands of Tibe Corn, and a large quantity of straw, the property of Mr. Thomas Pouch, of Wallstown, near Doneraile, were entirely consumed.

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The Court after some consultation, found the Prisoner guilty, and sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment in His Majesty's House of Correction, and to be kept to hard labour!

THE LUTINE FRIGATE.

So far back as 1799, His Majesty's frigate the Lutine was wrecked on the coast of Holland, whilst proceeding to Gothenburg with a cargo of silver, partly on Government and partly on private account, and all on board perished excepting one man. For the first time, on this occasion, Government insured their remittances to the Continent at a very low premium, and recovered a total loss from the Underwriters. The actual place where she perished was never discovered till last May, when to the great satisfaction of Lloyd's Coffee-house, the ship was seen entire, and still remains visible in the same situation. On the first discovery of her, a resolution was adopted by the Underwriters to attempt the recovery of their property, and the necessary means were taken either to raise the ship, or to break her up in order to save the specie. The Government part of the specie was a remittance, under the name of Subsidy, to enable the legitimate Sovereigns of Europe to escape the then-dominating Revolutionary Government from Holland, and to reconstitute that of the House of Orange, its present head. The present operations of the Underwriters, however, in place of obtaining the sanction of the House of Orange, to recover the property from the Lutine,

