

THE "FLOWERY LAND" PIRACY.

Wednesday being the day appointed for the further hearing at Bow-street police-court of the charge against the ten seamen for piracy and murder on the high seas, a crowd assembled all the morning in front of the court to wait the arrival of the prisoners, who, in passing from the prison van to the door of the court, were hissed and hooted by the people.

Mr. Burnaby, the chief clerk, read over the evidence of James Early, given in our last:

William Taffir deposed: I am a Scotchman, and shipped on board the Flowery Land as boatswain and second mate. We left London on the 23th July. John Smith was the captain, and his brother, George Smith, was a passenger going to Singapore. The first mate was Carswell. The steward was a Malay named Abo. The cook was a Chinaman, and so was the lamp-trimmer. He was a man. I do not know their names. The lamp-trimmer was called Casap. The carpenter was named Michael Anderson, and there was a Frenchman, named Candereau, an ablescaman. The ten prisoners were all seamen, able or ordinary. There was some grievance on account of their not being qualified to do their duty. I never saw him use any violence to them. I have heard him call them "coolies" and "sons of bitches." I have heard them complain of not having water enough.

Mr. Welsby: Who was the spokesman?—Witness: Francisco Blanco, once only.

Mr. Welsby: Were these complaints attended to?—Witness: Yes. About the 1st of September Carlos was wanted on deck, but he went and turned into his bed. He said he wanted his watch below, and he was not very well. All the watch, seven in number, then refused to come on deck. They were George Carlos, Mares Watter, Massallino, Francisco, and three others whose names I do not positively know. I and the chief mate, Mr. Carswell, came down and told him to come on deck to his duty, which he refused to do, saying he was sick. The mate took hold of him and pulled him out of his bed, and gave him several blows with his fists. He was made to go on deck, but he would not turn to. The mate ordered me to make him fast to the rigging. I did so, and he remained bound about five minutes. The captain came out of the cabin, and told me to loose him, which I did, and the captain gave him some medicine, and he went and turned in. A few days afterwards Francisco Blanco and Carlos were fighting. The mate and I interfered to stop them from fighting. The mate took hold of Carlos and struck him, I believe. The night the captain was killed I had the first watch from eight to twelve. The mate relieved me at twelve, and I turned in. There was a house on the deck, in which there were four compartments. On the port-side forward these ten men lodged together in one compartment. On the starboard side forward lodged the carpenter, the witness Early, and Candereau. On the starboard side aft was the cook's-galley, and the other was the boatswain's store. Below, on the port side of the companion, the first berth was that of the mate; next to that the captain's brother's, and next mine, and the captain had all the starboard side to himself. The main cabin was between, with a skylight opening on the poop. About three o'clock a.m., I was awakened by a noise on deck, as if people were beating in the companion with handspikes I ran up to try to get on deck, but I could not get up for a person lying on the companion on his face, with his head on a parallel with the top step, and a number of persons beating him with handspikes. I don't know how many. I recognised one, Francisco Blanco. I heard his voice and looked up. It was pretty dark, but I could see his face. I got a blow with the capstan bar. I tried all I could to draw the man down from the ladder, but could not move him. I called to the captain for help, but got no answer. I went to his berth, but he was not there. I then came back to the main cabin, and found him lying dead in a pool of blood on the floor. I trimmed the light, as the light was dim, and saw that his shirt was cut with knives. He was in his night-dress. I went to his brother's berth and found him gone too. I then went to the companion and found that the man lying there was the captain's brother. I went to my berth and shut myself in. The noise continued about ten minutes. I remained there about three-quarters of

an hour. I heard some one during that time singing out to me to come on deck. Then a number of men came down to me. About eight o'clock I saw the prisoners John Lynspoke, Francisco Blanco, Marco Watter, Chanies or Lopez, Antonio Durrenso, George Carlos, and Brazilio Los Santos. I don't remember any others. Marcellus I think spoke, but am not sure. Lyons spoke in English. He called me to come out. He said, "Come out of your berth, we want to speak to you." I said, "What are you going to do with me—are you going to kill me?" He said "No." I came out then. He said, "We have murdered the captain, and the mate, and the captain's brother has got away somehow, I don't know where he is gone. We wish you to navigate the ship to some place, so that we can get on shore." The prisoners were ignorant of navigation. The others were present and heard all that he said, viz., Carlos, Marco Watter, and Chanies. I asked where they wished me to go, and Carlos said somewhere near the river Plate. I agreed to do that. The ship was then 19 south, 36 west. Carlos then proceeded to throw the body of the captain overboard. I asked them to stop and let me sew him up in canvass, for I did not like to see him go overboard like that. I then went to my berth. Witness went on to describe the subsequent proceedings of the men, how they rummaged the captain's effects, and took his money, compelling witness to share the latter amongst them in seventeen parts. They then plundered the cargo; they subsequently sighted an English ship and got the longitude from it. Acting under compulsion he described their ship as the Louisa. In October they arrived at Monte Video, and it was here that the steward met with his fate. The ship went down fast as they got into the boats, and they landed on the shore of the River Plate. A day or two after they got ashore witness and another stole away, and communicated to the people what had happened, when the prisoners were taken into custody.

Cross-examined by Mr. Beard: The crew originally consisted of nineteen men. I am not aware of any misconduct on the part of the men prior to the beating of Carlos. Carlos did not appear to go in fear. Lyons was generally spokesman; the others were sometimes present, not always. I can't say which of the prisoners appeared to be the leader.

At this period of the proceedings it was discovered that the Austrian did not speak German, but Slavonic; and it was therefore arranged that the evidence should be translated to him in Slavonic instead of German.—Mr. Henry thought it advisable that a translation should be made in Spanish also.

The deposition of Taffir was then read over by the chief clerk, Mr. Burnaby, and translated into Spanish and Slavonic by Mr. Rosenberg, and into Greek by Mr. Paskiewitch. This process was very lengthy, and occupied the court for nearly two hours.

Mr. Henry desired the interpreter to explain to the Spaniards, that intimation having been very properly made by the treasury to the Spanish consul, in case he should think it desirable to take steps for their defence, and a Mr. Beard having been appointed by the Spanish consul to defend them, there was no occasion for them to put any questions to the witnesses, Mr. Beard having in fact done so already for them.—This having been done, Mr. Henry then desired the interpreter to explain to the Slavonian, Radack, that a similar communication had been made to the Austrian government, but no solicitor attended for him. If therefore he had any question to put to the witness he was at liberty to do so.—Radack had no questions to put.

A similar intimation was made through Mr. Paskiewitch to the Greeks, Carlos and Watter. They declared they were not Greek subjects—Carlos was a native of Cephalonia, and Watter was a native of Marmora, and consequently a Turkish subject.

Mr. Henry said the Greek and Turkish consuls had better be informed that subjects of those countries were under examination here.

Early being recalled corroborated Taffir's statement as to the sharing of the money. Witness had a share. It was 4l. each amongst seventeen, and there was some over. Did not know what was done with that. Witness took a share, 4l.

Mr. Welsby: You were not very fortunate with yours, I believe.—The witness said he was not, but he believed the rest were nearly all the same. About 1l. 10s. out of his was good money; the rest was bad money or medals. He also gave an account of the murder of the steward, agreeing with the statement

of Taffir. The persons in the boat were the steward, the second mate, the cook, Frank Paul, Marcos, Watter, and witness. It was Lyons and Mauritia who pelted the steward with bottles. They were full bottles of champagne. The steward jumped into the sea, and Lyons said it was too easy a death for him. Witness saw him for a little while, but he was soon out of sight. The boat was fastened alongside, and Lyons ordered him into the boat to clear the bottles. He did not go aboard any more, but stopped in the boat. Never saw the captain's brother or chief mate. Blanco said the mate was singing out when thrown overboard.

The whole of Early's evidence on this and the former day was then translated to the prisoners in the three languages.—The prisoners were then remanded.