

MUTINY, MURDER, AND PIRACY.

On Saturday last, John Lyons, John Williams, Francisco Blanco, Miguel Lopez, Marco Watter, Ambrosio Durranno, Basilio de los Santos, Georges Carlos, Marcellino, and Francisco Paul were brought up for final examination, before Mr Henry, at the Bow Street Police Court, London, on the charges of murder and piracy on the high seas.

Mr WELSBY, instructed by the solicitor to the Treasury, conducted the prosecution; Mr BEARD, instructed by the Spanish, Greek, and Turkish Consuls, defended all the prisoners except Paul.

The circumstances of the case were stated at a previous examination in the evidence of *Wm. Taffer*, who said: I am a Scotchman, and shipped on board the *Flowery Land* as boatswain and second mate. We left London on the 28th of July. John Smith was the captain, and his brother, George Smith, was a passenger going to Singapore. The first mate was John Carswell. The steward was a Malay, named Abo. The cook was a Chinaman and so was the lamp trimmer. The lamp trimmer was called Casap. The carpenter was named Michael Anderson, and there was a Frenchman, named Candereau, an able seaman. 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. 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, Marco Watter, Marcellino, Francisco Blanco, and three others whose names I do not positively know. I and the chief mate, Mr Carswell, came down to Carlos and told him to come on deck to his duty, which he refused to do, saying that 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. On the night the captain was killed I had the first watch, from 8 to 12. The mate relieved me at 12, and I turned in. There was a house on the deck, in which there were four compartments. On the port side forward these 10 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 on the companion with handspikes. I ran 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 steps, and a number of persons beating him with handspikes. I don't know how many. I recognise one—Francisco Blanco. I heard his voice, and I looked up. It was pretty dark, but I could see his face. I got a blow with a 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. He was not there. I came back to the main cabin, and found him lying dead in a pool of blood on the floor. I trimmed the lamp, 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 that I saw—John Lyons spoke, Francisco Blanco, Marco Watter, Chances or Lopez, Mamitio Durranno, George Carlos, Basilio Les Santos. I don't remember any others—Mar-

cellino, I think, but I 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 has 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 they said, George Carlos, Marco Watter, and Chances. 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 degrees south, 36 degrees west. Carlos then proceeded to throw the body of the captain overboard. I asked them to stop and let me sew him up in canvas, 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 had got ashore, witness and another stole away, and communicated to the people what had happened, when the prisoners were taken into custody.

At the examination on Saturday, *Frank Candereau*, who gave his evidence in French, deposed: I was a seaman on board the *Flowery Land*. I remember the captain being killed; some twelve days before that Frank Paul told me that the men were going to kill the captain. I told the captain of this, but he only answered "Oh, no." I remember being woke up on the morning when the captain was killed by Early and the carpenter, who told me to go to the wheel. I went to the wheel, and Paul said, "See the captain; he is lying dead on the floor." When it was daylight I went into the cabin and saw the captain wrapped up in canvas. I helped to haul the captain up on deck; they forced me to do so. Marco Watter said to me, "Lend a hand to throw him into the water and take care of yourself." When it became daylight the cabin was cleaned, and the men broke open the chests. Amongst other things I saw them take out two watches, one belonging to the captain, and one to his brother. When they found the money it was divided, and I was called down to take my share. If it had been good money my share would have been £4; but it was bad money. Some days after that Basilio de la Santos was in the cabin sharpening his knife, and he said to me, "This knife will serve you the same as it did the captain." The ship was sunk at two o'clock in the morning. I saw the cook go up in the rigging, and as the ship went down he still clung to the rigging till the waves closed over him. After the ship sank I saw the steward swimming in the water, and he tried to get back into the boat in which I was, but he did not succeed. Before the ship went down the other sailors told Basilio in Spanish to take a capstan bar and finish him. Basilio, who was in the boat with me, took the bar up, and called to the steward to "come on," holding up the bar in a threatening way to kill the steward, but the steward was not near enough. The steward called upon Lyons to assist him. I did not hear Lyons say anything. For more than half-an-hour I heard him crying out, and then I don't know what became of him. Before we left the ship the steward showed me a wound on his arm, and one in his side. I believe it was done that day for the wounds were fresh.

Michael Anderson, a Norwegian, carpenter on board the *Flowery Land*, gave evidence as to the cruelty of the captain and the circumstances of the mutiny. He rambled a good deal, however, in his evidence, becoming almost unintelligible—"he had so much in his head, he was so frightened at the time." He was not sure about the persons who said they would kill the captain.

At the close of this witness's evidence, Mr WELSBY expressed his opinion that there was no case against Williams as to the murder, and though Paul knew of it, there was no proof that he was consenting. The other eight were all active in the murder. He should ask the magistrate to commit the eight for the six murders, for the piracy, and for scuttling the ship.

Williams and Paul were discharged, and the others committed.

Mr BEARD was instructed by the Spanish Consul to say that if Williams proceeded to the consulate, steps would be taken to carry him back to his own country.

Mr SCHAEFFER made a similar offer with regard to Paul.

Mr HENRY instructed a constable to conduct Williams and Paul to their respective consulates.