

FROM PAPERS BY THE BRITANNIA.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF HER MAJESTY AND PRINCE ALBERT.

LONDON, June 17.

An atrocious attempt to assassinate the Queen and Prince Albert, made on the evening of the 10th June, has spread consternation and astonishment throughout the Metropolis and the whole kingdom. We subjoin the particulars of this daring outrage, collected from various sources:—

A little after six o'clock on Wednesday evening, the Queen, accompanied by her illustrious consort, left Buckingham Palace in a low-hung open carriage, and not attended by any considerable suite. The Royal equipage took the road to Hyde-park, up Constitution-hill. The persons assembled did not happen to be numerous, but the usual respectful and loyal demonstrations were universally manifested.

Her Majesty's phaeton had not proceeded more than fifty yards when a very young man, who had, some time before, been observed leaning against the railing which separates Constitution-hill from the Green Park, stepped forward, and, with deliberate aim, discharged a pistol at the royal pair, whose carriage was at that moment in the act of passing him, at a distance of not more than four yards. On perceiving that the first shot had not taken effect, he, with the coolness which marked his previous demeanour, exchanged the discharged weapon for a second loaded one, which he held in his left hand. This, with the same deliberation, and providentially with the same result as before, he fired after the carriage, which had passed the spot on which he stood in the interval between the two shots.

The Prince exhibited the most perfect self-possession, and instantly urged the horses forward, which had taken alarm, and showed a momentary hesitation. The Queen, also, manifested a presence of mind, and an affectionate solicitude for the safety of the beloved object who was her companion. The carriage proceeded without further molestation.

In the mean time the guilty party, whose age is said not to exceed seventeen, and whose dress and appearance were rather respectable, was observed, with a pistol in each hand, leaning with the utmost composure against the railing of the Green Park, to which he had stepped back after the second discharge. An alarm was instantly given, and the nearest spectators seized and disarmed him almost simultaneously. The honour of being the first in this meritorious service is assigned to various persons. A Mr. Low, of Copt-hall court, City, a Mr. Clayton, of Windmill-street, Golden-square, and Mr. Beckham, one of the pages of honour to the Queen, were among the foremost upon the occasion. A gentleman from the country, we believe, of the name of Pecks, was early and conspicuous in his exertions. The last named person, from his proximity to the assassin, was at first suspected to be an accomplice, and was, under that supposition, taken into custody; but, upon a proper explanation of the fact, he was at once set at liberty. Some police-constables almost immediately came up, and the assassin was conveyed to the station-house in Gardener's-lane, Westminster. On his way to the station-house he, without hesitation, acknowledged that he was the person who fired the pistols at the royal carriage, and that his object was to take away the lives of the Queen and Prince. On being asked if the pistols were loaded with balls, he is said to have replied, "Yes, both of them; but I fired too high." He declined to assign any reason for his execrable treason.

The following description is given of the prisoner.—He appears eighteen or nineteen. He is of a high colour, and the expression of his countenance is rather favourable, and not deficient in intelligence. His eyes are dark; his hair inclines to red; his height about 5ft. 7in. He was dressed in a black frock coat and black stock, cotton waistcoat and grey trousers. On the whole, his appearance is anything but unfavourable.

On the arrival of the prisoner at the station-house, he gave his name EDWARD OXFORD, and was charged before Inspector Partridge, who was on duty, "with maliciously, and with intent to destroy life, firing two pistols at her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, on the road leading to Constitution-hill, about a quarter or 20 minutes past 6 o'clock that evening." On searching OXFORD, neither powder nor ball was found on his person. The pistols which were found in his possession were like duelling pistols, the barrels being from seven to eight inches in length, but without any maker's name. They had percussion caps, and had evidently been recently discharged. On examining the nipples, the percussion caps were found on them exploded, and on one of them, between the cap and the nipple, a piece of thin linen, which had evidently been placed there for the purpose of preventing the pistols exploding in the prisoner's pocket.

It having been ascertained that the prisoner had formerly held a situation as barman at the Hog-in-the-Pound, at the corner of South Molton-street, Oxford-street, and that he lodged at No. 6, West-street, West-square, Lambeth, to the latter place Inspector Hughes was instantly dispatched, for the purpose of making a search of the prisoner's lodging. Oxford preserved a sullen cool demeanour. He spoke very guardedly and rationally, and in answer to a question put to him by the inspector on duty, said that the pistols had been given to him. Shortly after nine o'clock Inspector Hughes returned from the lodgings of the prisoner to the station-house in Gardener's-lane, at which time the Earl of Uxbridge, the Hon. Charles Augustus Murray, the Comptroller, and other members of her Majesty's household, were present. The Inspector then communicated the following important information:—"On entering the apartment which Oxford occupied, he commenced a search and discover-

ed a sword, and in a drawer a quantity of powder and ball, the latter exactly corresponding with the size of the barrels of the pistols taken from the prisoner when seized. On making further search, he discovered a black crape cap, having attached to it three satin bows of a blood-red colour, and a piece of paper containing a list of members of a secret Society, which, he had no doubt, plotted the present occurrence. This list contains from 20 to 30 fictitious names, such as Oxonian, Hannibal, Ernest, &c. &c. The prisoner, on being brought from his cell and shewn these things, did not deny that they were his property, and even admitted that he belonged to a Society, but refused to give up where it was held, or the names of the persons who composed it.

The Hon. C. A. Murray, who was in attendance at the station-house, as well as Mr. Gregorie, the magistrate, observed that, from what he had collected, it was evident that the pistols were aimed at her Majesty's head, and that it was only from the Prince altering his speed that the bullets did not take the desired effect.

Mr. M'Cann, of Parliament-street, was sent for to the station-house, for the purpose of examining the state of the prisoner's mind, and that gentleman having closely questioned the prisoner, expressed his unqualified belief of his perfect sanity. In the course of the examination, Oxford stated that he had never been ill a day in his life, excepting when he was "blown up by gunpowder." Upon being asked his object for committing the act, he turned round, and pointing to the police, replied, "These gentlemen will tell you my object." Mr. M'Cann rejoined that he should like it from the prisoner himself, and the latter coolly observed, "Oh, there are thousands by this time know my object; the act shows it." In answer to further interrogatories, the prisoner said he had drunk only a pint and a half of beer during yesterday, and it appears on investigation he was not an intemperate young man. His mother, with whom he resided, formerly kept a coffee-shop in the Waterloo-road, but has latterly resided in West-street, in private lodgings, having a small but competent income. The prisoner for some time lived as pot-boy at the Hog-in-the-Pound public-house, in Oxford street, nearly opposite Marylebone-lane, but he quitted that service about a month ago, and has since been out of employment. On Tuesday evening, he called upon Mr. Linton, a butcher, in the Waterloo-road, with whose son he was acquainted, and remained there for two hours, but neither upon that nor any other occasion has he betrayed any appearance of incoherency. The assassin up to this time bore a good character. He has a sister, but no brother or father living.

After the prisoner was taken into custody and conveyed to the station-house in Gardener's-lane, Westminster, he appeared very anxious to ascertain how the Queen and the Prince sustained the attack he had made upon them; and on being told that neither appeared at all alarmed, the fellow, with great coolness, observed, "Oh, I know to the contrary; for when I fired the first pistol, Albert was about to jump from the carriage, and put his foot out; but when he saw me present the second pistol, he immediately drew back." He then observed, and appeared to relish the joke, that it was funny to see so many persons seize each other after the shots were fired, adding—"None of them knew it was I that did it, until I declared that I was the man, upon which two of them seized me by the collar, two more kept pulling at the skirts of my coat, and one of them grabbed me behind, which was quite unnecessary, as I had no intention to run away."

On making inquiries as to Oxford's character at the Hog-in-the-Pound, where he lived as barman, the landlord said he left his service on the 1st of May last. He had lived with him about three months. The only eccentricity he exhibited was a knack of continual laughing, in consequence of which he was discharged. His conduct was otherwise rational. His friends reside at Birmingham, which place he left at the age of nine years.

Up to a very late hour the prisoner retained his sullen demeanour, and was constantly watched. Crowds of persons, in deep and anxious conversation, were also to be seen in the neighbourhood of the Palace, and the greatest excitement prevailed.

Soon after the House of Lords met on Thursday, Lord Melbourne, apparently much agitated, and in a faltering tone of voice, announced to their Lordships that a desperate attack on the Queen's life had been made on Wednesday evening, as her Majesty was proceeding from the Palace to Hyde Park. Two pistols were fired at her in the most determined and desperate manner, at no great distance from her person; and it was only wonderful that nothing more unfortunate or melancholy had occurred. He proposed that the House should adopt the course which it had been usual to follow under similar circumstances.

He moved "that an humble Address be presented to her Majesty, to express our horror and indignation at the late atrocious and treasonable attempt against her Majesty's sacred person, and our heartfelt congratulations to her Majesty and the country on her Majesty's happy preservation from so great a danger; to express our deep concern at there having been found within her Majesty's dominions a person capable of so flagitious an act; and that we make it our earnest prayer to Almighty God, that as he has preserved to us the blessings that we enjoy under her Majesty's just and mild government, he will continue to watch over a life so justly dear to us."

The proposal was cordially received with cheers; and it was resolved to communicate the address to the House of Commons in conference. The Duke of Sussex, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Wellington, the Bishop of Durham,

the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl of Shaftsbury, and Lord Melbourne, were named managers of the conference. On the conclusion of the conference, Lord John Russell appeared at the bar of the House of Commons, and stated that the Lords desired the concurrence of the House in their address to the Queen on the late most atrocious and treasonable attack upon her sacred person. The address having been read, Lord John Russell rose and addressed the house.

Sir Robert Peel also spoke. Mr. James hoped Lord John Russell would be able to assure the house and the country that her Majesty's health had not suffered materially by the excitement and agitation which must have been created, more or less, by the treasonable and diabolical attempt at assassination; and perhaps Lord John would also satisfy the public mind on another point, whether evidence had been adduced to criminate others besides the person in custody.

Lord John Russell was happy to state, that two hours ago he had received from the Queen's own lips the assurance that her health had not suffered. The second question, Mr. James himself must see, could not be answered with propriety.

The Colonial Gazette says: the culprit was immediately secured; and although at first it was generally assumed that he intended to kill the Queen, an impression gains ground that there were no bullets in the pistols; none were found; and that the ill conditioned youth only gratified a distempered longing for notoriety, by an act for which he will certainly suffer severe punishment, though not perhaps that of a traitor.

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.—The Gazette of Tuesday contains the following order in Council:—

"That his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury do prepare a form of prayer and thanksgiving to Almighty God, for his late merciful preservation of the Queen from the atrocious and treasonable attempt against her sacred person, on Wednesday the 10th of June; and that such form of prayer and thanksgiving be used in all churches and chapels in England and Wales, and in the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, upon Sunday, the 21st of this instant June, (or so soon as the ministers thereof shall receive the same,) and to be continued for thirty days afterwards."

The following form was, on Wednesday last, issued to churchwardens in the various parishes included in the above order:—

"A FORM OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD.

"Almighty and everlasting God, Creator and Governor of the world, who by Thy gracious Providence hast oftentimes preserved Thy chosen servants, the Sovereigns whom Thou hast set over us, from the malice of wicked men, we offer unto Thee all praise and thanksgiving for Thy late mercy vouchsafed to us in frustrating the traitorous attempt on the life of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria.

"Continue, we beseech Thee, Thy watchful care over her. Be Thou her shield and defence against all the devices of secret treason and the assaults of open violence. Let the light of Thy countenance shine upon her and her Royal consort, and bless them with all happiness. Direct and prosper her counsels; and so guide and support her by Thy holy spirit, that, putting her whole confidence in Thee, she may faithfully rule Thy people committed to her charge, to their good and to the glory of Thy holy name.

"And to us, and all her subjects, O Lord, impart such a measure of Thy grace, that, under a deep and lasting sense of Thy mercy at this time vouchsafed to us, we may always show forth our thankfulness unto Thee by dutiful loyalty to our Sovereign, and constant obedience to Thy commandments.

"Give ear, we beseech Thee, O merciful Father, to these our supplications and prayers, which we humbly offer before Thee, in the name and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Redeemer.—Amen."

Then shall follow the prayer for unity:—"O God, the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace, give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great danger we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from Godly union and concord; and as there is but one body, and one spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen."

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT, LONDON, JUNE 22.

ARRAIGNMENT OF EDWARD OXFORD, FOR HIGH TREASON, AND POSTPONEMENT OF THE TRIAL.

This morning, at nine o'clock, Mr. Serjeant Arabin and Mr. Alderman Lanson took their seats upon the bench, and in a few minutes the court was filled in every part by a highly respectable auditory. At a quarter past nine o'clock the prisoner was placed at the bar, to be arraigned on the indictment. He advanced with a smile to the front of the dock, and manifested great firmness and self-possession. He was respectably dressed in a suit of blue, and his general appearance was youthful and prepossessing. At this time Mr. Sydney Taylor and Mr. Bodkin, who were retained as Counsel for the prisoner, were in court; and, on the prisoner being placed at the bar,

Mr. Sydney Taylor rose to make an application for the postponement of the trial, but

Mr. Serjeant Arabin declined to entertain the application, which, he said, must be made to the judges, when they and the counsel for the prosecution had arrived.

The prisoner was then removed from the bar. In the interval which elapsed from this moment until the arrival of the judges, several distinguished personages were introduced by the Sheriffs to seats upon the bench. Mrs. Oxford, the mother of the unhappy prisoner, sat in a box usually allotted to jurors in waiting. She is a good looking woman, apparently about 40 years of age, and was respectably attired in black.

Precisely at 10 minutes before 10 o'clock the Attorney-General, Sir Frederick Pollock, Mr. Adolphus, and Mr. Wightman, the counsel for the prosecution, entered the Court and took their places at the counsel's table.

At five minutes past 10, the Lord Chief Justice Tindal and the Right Hon. Mr. Baron Parke were ushered to their seats on the bench.

Mr. Clark, the Clerk of Arraigns, in obedience

to the order of the Court, directed Mr. Cope to place Edward Oxford at the bar. A death-like silence prevailed, and every eye was turned to the dock.

The prisoner in a few seconds again appeared, and advanced with a light step and a smile upon his countenance to the front of the bar.

Lord Chief Justice—Let the prisoner be called upon to plead.

Mr. S. Taylor applied to have the trial postponed on affidavit

Lord Chief Justice Tindal—You can make no motion until the prisoner has pleaded.

The Clerk of the Arraigns then read the indictment, which charged the prisoner with having traitorously made an attempt against the life of our Lady the Queen, by discharging at her a pistol loaded with powder and a leaden bullet, with his right hand, and afterwards discharging another pistol at her Majesty, with his left hand, which was also loaded with powder and ball.

The prisoner pleaded "not guilty," in a firm tone.

Mr. S. Taylor then renewed his application for the postponement of the trial, and put in the affidavit of Hannah Oxford, the mother, and Jabez Pelham, the solicitor for the prisoner. Mr. Pelham set forth that he had been engaged to defend the prisoner on the 16th of June, and that he had experienced considerable difficulty in seeing the prisoner; that he had reason to believe the prisoner not to be of sound mind; and that various witnesses, who were absolutely necessary for the prisoner's defence, lived at such a distance that it would be impossible to get them in court. He also stated that from the excited state of mind of the prisoner's mother he could not get such instructions from her as he should be able to have if she had time to collect her thoughts. It is also set forth that the public papers had been publishing statements which were untrue, and which were calculated to create a prejudice against the prisoner; more particularly a letter which had been published late last week in the public papers, from Daniel O'Connell, Esq., M.P. for Dublin, in which the prisoner was charged as being the instrument of a traitorous conspiracy. The affidavit then alluded to the leading article of the Observer of yesterday, all which the deponent Pelham said must be calculated to influence the minds of the Jury.

The Attorney-General said he had such confidence in an English Jury, that he was sure the prisoner would have a fair and impartial trial if they were now to proceed with this important investigation. They would pay no attention to what they had read or heard, but would attend solely to the evidence. But when he heard that important evidence was to be brought forward for the defence, God forbid that he should oppose any application for postponement upon that ground; without any hesitation he yielded to the application. The next session would take place speedily, and he hoped in the meantime there would be no publication of any sort relating to this trial in any of the public prints, that there would be no more publication of letters from the prisoner to the Secretary of State, but that, by a tacit consent, all sides would abstain from any publication relating to the trial.

Lord Chief Justice Tindal said the Attorney General had taken the high and proper ground, and he hoped the public press would in the meantime observe a profound silence on the subject.

THE MURDER OF LORD WILLIAM RUSSELL.—The Globe of Thursday published a confession made by Courvoisier, and sent to the Home Office from Newgate on Tuesday.

The murderer also made the following more concise statement to sheriff Evans—

"After I had warmed his Lordship's bed, I went down stairs and waited about an hour, during which time I placed the different articles as they were found by the police. I afterwards went to the dining room and took one of the knives from the sideboard; I then entered his bedroom and found him asleep. I went to the side of the bed and drew the knife across his throat. He appeared to die instantly.

"FRANCIS BENJAMIN COURVOISIER.

This declaration was made before me, this 23d June, 1840.

WILLIAM EVANS, Sheriff.

An account of a conversation between Sheriff Evans and the prisoner is also given in the Morning Chronicle, as follows—

"In the conversation which Sheriff Evans had on the day this declaration was made, and which lasted for an hour, the murderer assured the Sheriff that there was no truth in the statement that Lord William Russell had gone down stairs, and after charging him with dishonesty, threatened to discharge him on the next day without a character. Nothing at all of the kind ever occurred. His Lordship never went down stairs in the night at all, nor threatened any thing of the sort. His Lordship had certainly spoken to him in a cross tone, and told him to be more attentive to his business, but that was all. There was no further provocation.

"The Sheriff having expressed some surprise at the variance between the two accounts, the murderer said that his uncle had entreated him most solemnly to tell the facts exactly as they occurred; and he determined to state nothing but what was actually correct. He therefore acknowledged, not only that he had committed the murder under the circumstances just described, but that he had contemplated the murder and robbery for a week previously.

"The Sheriff questioned him a good deal upon the acknowledgment that he had so long contemplated the murder as well as the robbery, and he persisted in stating that the murder was premeditated, and not, as had been previously stated, the suggestion of despair at losing his character. He declared, and he wished the Sheriff to let it be known to the world, that the idea was first suggested to him by reading and seeing the performances of Jack Shepherd.

"Upon being asked by the Sheriff whether he had committed any other atrocities, he replied that he had merely stolen two books belonging to Mr. Fector, when in that gentleman's service.

"I am most anxious," said the Sheriff, "to know whether there is any foundation in the report which has got abroad that you had something to do with the death of Eliza Grimwood, who was murdered near the Waterloo Road. Have you any thing to say upon that subject?"

"Courvoisier assured the Sheriff that he knew nothing in the world about that or any other murder, except the murder of Lord William Russell. He knew, he said,