

In the evening two of Mr. Murray's clerks went to see Adam in the jail, to try how far they could prevail upon him; and as soon as he knew they were come, he desired leave to speak with them privately, which being granted, he began with exclamations and protestations of his innocence, declaring it was nothing but damned lies that brought him there, and that he knew who was the author of them, and would be revenged if he died for it: the young gentlemen reasoned with him, telling him if he was innocent to insist upon it, and not be afraid, for he might be assured of having justice done him; but if he was guilty, his denying of it would signify nothing, for that they knew as much about the plot as they that were concerned in it, and the only way to recommend himself to favor, was by making a full confession; he then considered awhile, and desired to know his accuser, they told him they believed it was Jack, which as soon as he heard, he said then I am a dead man, striking his head against one of the beams of the jail; and said further, he was afraid the dog would have served him so. Then he gave the young gentlemen his shoe and knee-buckles [being silver] and some other things, desiring they might be delivered to his brother Cæsar [another negro of Mr. Murray's.] In this manner they parleyed with him a full hour, till at length tired with his obstinacy, they concluded to leave him, but he pressed them to stay, still giving them some hopes of his confession; they told him they had no occasion to stay to hear him repeat the same things over again: he then asked them what they would have him to say? upon which they told him they would have him speak sincerely, whether he was guilty or not: why then said he to speak sincerely, I am guilty.

Confession of Harry, Kip's negro, under conviction, before one of the judges.—He said,

That all the witnesses testified against him in court on his trial was true: Bastian was the first that told him of it; he went to Comfort's for tea-water, saw a great many negroes there, talked about the conspiracy, he drank drams and consented to burn the houses and kill the people; he was only in the kitchen which was very full, and they soon made him drunk, and said he must burn his mistress' house, which he consented to; Derrick Cook's negro was there, Moore's Cato was there, Starling, Mr. Lawrence's negro there, Dick, Mr. Ten Eyck's by Coenties-market there.

Confession of Cato, Mr. Shurmur's negro, under conviction, before one of the judges.—He said,

1. That all the witnesses who spoke against him at his trial, spoke the truth.

2. Comfort's Jack was the first who told him of the plot, and said Cato if I tell you any thing, will you stand to it? he said he would; Jack then told him there are great companies to be made up to take this town; Cato then asked him where they must come to consult of it? Jack told him he must come to his house, and if he did not find him at home, he must go to Hughson's; this was last summer.

3. York, Marschalk's London, and he went to Hughson's, and called for a half-pint of rum, Hughson not at home, but saw the wife and daughter there, Jack was not there, and so they went away again.

4. Talked with Jack several times in the street about it afterwards.

5. He was at the great meeting at Hughson's, when they had the great supper, about four or five weeks before the fort burnt, and there the plot was talked of, as mentioned by the witnesses; (f) they swore; that some when they were there went down into the cellar, forty or fifty negroes there, the room not big enough to hold them all, and some in the yard, nor could all sit down to table, he did not see any book there, but they all swore to do as engaged, which was to burn the fort first, and then all the houses in the town, every one to fire either their master's houses or some other houses, and kill the people: He was to set the neighbour's houses on fire, and not his master's. (g)

6. That he met Gomez's Cuffee, and told him he had promised Jack to set the neighbour's house on fire, (h) and asked Cuffee if he had his tinder-box about him? (for he knew he smoked, and had a new one, and he, Cato, had none) he said he had one; Cato then told him if he would go and set fire to Ben Thomas's house, he would give him half a pint of rum; he agreed to do it, and said he would watch his opportunity when no body saw him; that he (Cuffee) did go and do it, and returned and told him so, and immediately fire was cried out; he gave him the rum. That evening he, Cato, met Comfort's Jack, as witnessed against him, and told him he, Cato, had done the bu-

(f) See Jack (Comfort's) and Bastian's evidence on the trial.

(g) His master lived in Ben. Thomas' neighbourhood.

(h) Probably at the great meeting at captain Jack's; for all the negroes present, it seems, promised him to do something; see Jack (Comfort's) confession, § 31.

ness,⁽ⁱ⁾ concealing that Gomez's Cuffee had done it, lest Jack should blame him for not doing as he promised. Furman's Harry he saw at Comfort's; Ward's Will (a watchmaker) at Hughson's, and [he Will] swore; Peter DeLancey's Pompey (lives sometimes in town and sometimes in country) at Comfort's, [he] swore, a knife in his pocket; Kortrecht's Cæsar at both houses, and [he] swore.

7. It was agreed at Hughson's, that the fort was to burn first, and that Quack should do it, because he had a wife there; then they agreed after that done, they should all set fire as they could.

8. That when they went about the swearing, Hughson told the negroes present, that they must not attempt to draw in any one that was not their countryman; that if they met with any countrymen, they must tell them so; and if they found they were likely to come in, then they might tell them of the plot; and those that were willing, they were to bring to Hughson's to be sworn.^(k)

Now many negroes began to squeak, in order to lay hold of the benefit of the proclamation; some who had been apprehended but not indicted; and many who had been indicted and arraigned, who had pleaded *not guilty*, were disposed to retract their pleas and plead *guilty*, and throw themselves on the mercy of the court; so that confessions were like to be numerous, and business to multiply upon our hands, which made it necessary to call in some gentlemen of the law to our assistance upon the occasion, who very readily undertook the task.

Before the issuing of the proclamation of the 19th instant, for the encouragement of the conspirators to come in, and make voluntary and free confession and discovery, &c. there were betwixt sixty and seventy negroes in jail, who had been already impeached, many of whom after publishing the proclamation, not only confessed their own guilt, in order to entitle themselves to the benefit of it, as may appear by the foregoing examination, but also discovered many of their accomplices who were at large; who were thereupon immediately taken into custody by order of the judges, or grand jury, as the case happened before whom such confessions were made; so that between the 19th and this day, there were upwards of thirty slaves more added to the for-

(i) Meaning the setting fire to Ben. Thomas' house.

(k) These two last confessions should have been placed the 20th June; for they were then taken, being the next day after the conviction of these two criminals; but being mislaid, and not coming to hand before the printer had got beyond that day, occasioned their being inserted here.

mer, insomuch that the jail began to be so thronged, it was difficult to find room for them; and we were apprehensive that the criminals would be daily multiplying on our hands; nor could we see any likelihood of a stop to impeachments, for it seemed very probable that most of the negroes in town were corrupted.

The season began to grow warm, as usual, and it was to be expected that the heat would be increasing upon us daily; so that the judges found there was a necessity of bethinking themselves of taking such speedy measures, as should upon deliberation be thought most adviseable, for ridding the jail of such of them as should by their confessions be thought most deserving of recommendation to mercy; for it was feared such numbers of them closely confined together, might breed an infection, and they must needs have been very offensive to the poor debtors imprisoned in the city-hall, which from the necessity of the case, could not have been prevented or remedied; therefore the judges associated to them the several gentlemen of the law that were in town, viz. Messieurs Murray, Alexander, Smith, Chambers, Jamison, Nicholls and Lodge, in order to consult about this matter, and come to some resolution upon the emergency.

The result of the meeting was, those gentlemen unanimously agreed to bear their respective shares in the fatigue of the several prosecutions, and settled among themselves the part each should take: Messieurs Murray, Alexander, Smith and Chambers, were to assist in their turns, as counsel upon the several trials, as it should best suit their respective convenience, and Messieurs Nicholls and Lodge, to take the negroes confessions, and abstract them and the other evidence into briefs, for the counsel upon the trials. [Mr. Jamison being high sheriff of the city, had other sufficient business upon his hands.]

The gentlemen thus assigned for taking the confessions, having attended most of the trials of the conspirators already passed, and likewise several examinations of criminals, were well acquainted with the account of the plot, according to the course of the evidence concerning it which had hitherto been brought to light; and as it was to be expected, they would have their hands full of that kind of business, it was necessary that some scheme should be settled for the more ready despatch of it: accordingly a method was proposed, and approved amongst us; a draught with several columns, viz. one for the name of each negro; another for his respective owner; another for the matter or substance of the confession; another for the negroes they accused, and two others for the place where sworn at, viz. Hughson's or Comfort's; for Jack, Comfort's negro, was a principal agent for Hugh-

son, and (as may already have been observed from the course of the evidence) had corrupted many negroes, and administered the conspirators' oath to them.

The negroes in general that came to a confession, agreed in the impeachment of Hughson and his family; that the drift of the plot was to burn the town and destroy the inhabitants; that they were sworn into the confederacy at Hughson's, or by Hughson, or some person intrusted by him for that purpose.

As this was already discovered to be the execrable purpose of the conspiracy, these gentlemen (considering the great number to be examined) for the sake of despatch, dropped what was at this time least material, and only minuted down the persons accused, the matter affecting them, where and by whom sworn, and what else came from their examinant which they judged to be most significant; which is the reason that the examinations and confessions taken by those two gentlemen are so concise.

But further, in order to save room, and avoid drawing out this journal to an unnecessary length, which of itself is likely to spin out to a degree beyond patience, the compiler chose not to set them forth in the same manner they were taken, but made them yet shorter, by incorporating the substance of the several columns into the form in which they now appear.

Confessions taken this day by Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Lodge, of the fifteen following negroes.

No. 1. Jack (Breasted's) said that Vaarck's Cæsar (hanged) carried him to Hughson's; that Hughson told him he must join with them in a plot they were making, and swore him to set his master's house on fire, and to cut his mistress's throat.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Pompey (De Lancey's) confession, § 5. 22d June.

No. 2. English's Patrick said that Moore's Cato listed and swore him at Mr. Moore's garden, to be his boy, and to go a frolic with him; that it was after the fort burnt.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Peggy's examination, No. 1. May 9. Sandy's or Sawney's examination, No. 1. § 12. May 22. and No. 3. § 8. June 1. Sarah (Burk's) examination, No. 2. June 1. Tickle's examination, No. 2. § 10. June 13. Pompey (De Lancey's) examination, § 5. June 22. Dundee's examination, § 7, 9. June 24.

No. 3. Provost's Low said that Hughson gave him the book to swear to stand by them to overcome the city.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Col. Moore's Cato's confession, § 8. June 22.

No. 4. Peck's York said that Hughson swore him, and pre-

mised to furnish him ; that Hughson's daughter was present when he was sworn.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Cæsar, alderman Pintard's confession, § 2, June 22.

No. 5. Horsefield's Guy said that Quack and Albany swore him at Hughson's.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Quack's confession at the stake, § 4, May 30. Cambridge's confession, June 30.

No. 6. Lush's Will said that Albany asked him to go and sup at Hughson's, where they went ; that Hughson brought him punch and drams ; that he swore him (Will) and told him he would furnish him with a gun.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Sandy's examination, No. 4. § 4, June 22. Pompey, De Lancey's, confession, § 5, June 22.

No. 7. Second confession.—Groesbeck's Mink said that Hughson swore him in the plot in February last. [See before 18th June, notes of evidence affecting him, adjoined to his first confession.]

No. 8. Captain Brown's Jeffery said that last January Hughson swore him into the plot, and that the first of April the whole company was to be mustered.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Mars, Benson's, confession, June 29.

No. 9. York, (Thompson's) said, that some time last winter, Furman's Harry carried him to Hughson's with Woolf's Dick, and told the prisoner of the plot, and not to tell any body ; that London (A. Van Horn's) was told by the prisoner of the plot, and he agreed to be one ; there were present at the same time at Hughson's, besides the before mentioned, Jack, Comfort's, and Warwick, Hunt's.

No. 10. Second confession.—Tom (Soumain's) said, that Hughson told him he must fire his master's house, and kill his master. There were present at Hughson's at the same time, Quack, Roosevelt's, and Quash, Rutgers's.

See notes of evidence affecting this negro adjoined to his confession, June 26.

No. 11. Scipio (Abrahams's) said, that he was at Hughson's at the great Supper ; that Hughson swore him to burn the houses and kill the people.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Starling's confession, § 3, June 23.

No. 12. First confession.—Livingston's Tom said, that last summer he met Schuyler's Lewis in the fields ; that Lewis told him, he must kill his master and mistress, and carried the pri-

soner to Hughson's; that Hughson swore both of them, and to keep it secret; and that he afterwards wanted to fight Lewis for not doing what Hughson bid him.

See evidence against this negro referred to under his second confession, June 28.

No. 13. Cruger's Deptford said, that De Lancey's Pompey, and Pintard's Cæsar, first engaged him to be concerned in the conspiracy, and Ward's Will afterwards.

Evidence affecting this negro. Pompey, De Lancey's confession, § 10, June 22.

No. 14. Gilbert's Pompey said, that Hieldreth's Diego engaged him first to be concerned, and to burn his mistress's house, and to get a gun to kill the white people; and pressed him to go to Hughson's. That afterwards he was at Hughson's and drank beer, and saw many negroes.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Delancey's Pompey, confession, § 10, June 22.

No. 15. Gabriel Crooke's Prince said, that Mrs. Stilwell's Pedro carried him to Hughson's, and Hughson swore them to stand by him, to kill the white people and fire the house.*(m)*

2. That Marschalk's York, when the first negroes were burning, told Prince, that now it was a fit time to kill the white people; but Prince answered, no, there were too many whites to attempt it.

3. That Titus Mr. Phoenix's negro, was one day last fall on the dock with the prisoner, at one Myers's a gun-smith; that Titus asked Myers to sell him a gun to shoot partridges with; but Myers would not sell him one; that afterwards he saw Titus and asked him what he wanted to buy a gun for? that Titus told him he had been at Hughson's, and they were to rise and kill the white people.

4. That some time before the fort was burnt, he was at Mr. Masterton's; that Cataline, Mr. Masterton's negro was drunk, talking to himself in the yard, that the negroes were fools to do here as they had done in the hot country; for they all burnt and hanged for it in the hot country.*(n)*

5. That there were present at the same time at Hughson's, York of Gabriel Crook, Titus of Phoenix, Mr. Moore's Cato, Kip's Harry, and Furman's Harry.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Pintard's Cæsar's confession,

(m) This in the negroes dialect signifies houses, i. e. the town.

(n) Probably alluding to the conspiracy at Antigua, for which many negroes were executed four or five years ago.

§ 4, June 22. Colonel Moore's Cato's confession, § 2, 6, June 22. Marschalk's York's confession, § 6, June 20. Marschalk's London's confession, § 6, June 20.

Confessions of the four following negroes taken by Mr. George Joseph Moore.

No. 1. Walter's Quack, second confession. Mr. Walter's Quack said, that one Wednesday or Thursday he was at Hughson's, between five and six of the clock in the afternoon, he went with Vaarck's Cæsar and Philipse's Cuffee and Prince, and Van Dam's John; they called for a tankard of egg-punch; they drank it, and Cæsar asked him if he (the prisoner) would conclude along with them to set a great many houses on fire? and Cæsar said, then they would make their escape, for he had an opportunity to go: the prisoner then told him he believed he would, but would consider of it, and give him an answer.

No. 2. Bridgwater (Mr. David Van Horn's) said, that a little before Christmas, on a Sunday morning, Cowley's Cato called to him as he stood at Mr. Van Horn's door, and asked him to drink a dram; he, the prisoner, went with him to Hughson's; a white woman gave them a dram; Hughson was gone out; they came from Hughson's and went to the new dock; Cato there said, countryman, will you help? help what? said the prisoner; he answered, to set houses on fire and kill white folks; the prisoner said that could not be done, and it was wrong; to which Cato answered, there are a great many that will help; who are they? Cato answered, there are many Spanish negroes, Cook, Francis; to which the prisoner said, if you have so many, I will be one, and try what I can do. In the afternoon Cato called again on the prisoner, and asked him to go to Comfort's; he went to see Jack; Jack was not at home; Cook asked him, what are you come to help too? he answered yes; it is very well, said Cook; he went away; and this is all he knows.

Evidence affecting this negro—Cæsar (Pintard's) confession, § 4, June 22. Cato (Moore's) confession, § 2, 6, June 22.

No. 3. York (Ch. Crooke's) said, that on the second day of Christmas he took a walk to the meal-market; met with Comfort's Jack, who called to him and asked him to go and drink a dram; went with him to Hughson's house; Jack had told him there the negroes were going to rise; he had got guns, powder, knife, but said they wanted hands, for they had not got many yet; to which York answered he would be one; Hughson asked him to drink a dram; the prisoner said thank you, and drank; Hughson said, boy, will you stand by it? to which the prisoner answered he would; Hughson said, if he would not

be true, he would stick him with a sword, and pointed to one in a corner of the room; Hughson said, boy, if you stand by it, you must kiss the book; the prisoner did, and said he would stand by it, and would not be a coward; Hughson then said, if you will, you shall be always welcome to my house, come at any time. This was in the kitchen, Jack, Hughson, and he, only present. Hughson made him so drunk he could not stand; several negroes were in another room, does not know them, for he did not see them, only heard their tongues.

2. Had been at Comfort's very often, and talked of it with Jack and Cook; saw Sam, Low's negro there, Marschalk's two negroes, Cowley's Cato, colonel Moore's Cato, Peck's Cæsar. Hughson said, stand by it boys to fight and take this place. Jack told him at his master's shop one day, that he must get a knife; the prisoner said that his master had got knives enough, and he could get one.

3. Knows no more; never was at Hughson's afterwards; Hughson asked him to stay supper there, and eat a mouthful; York asked for bread, butter, and cheese, Hughson fetched him some. He kept out of the way ever afterwards.

Evidence affecting this negro—Cato (Moore's) confession, § 2, 6, June 22. London (Marschalk's) confession, § 6, June 20.

No. 4. Cæsar (Horsefield's) said, that Roosevelt's Quack, about new year, of a working day, met him in the meal-market, and told him he must go with him to some company on the North river; he went there and drank, and Quack asked him to stay supper; he consented; they supped; had a goose and some mutton; the supper on the table before they went there. Albany and Cæsar (Vaarck's) were there.

Being asked several questions about this meeting, and not answering so as to be believed, nor making out any thing, he seemed very much concerned, and said, he understood that Roosevelt's Quack had used his name at the fire, and therefore thought he should be condemned, but declared what he had before said he did because he was afraid of his life, and that he should die if he did not say something, but could not tell what to say, not knowing any thing at all of the plot.

Evidence affecting this negro—Quack's confession at the stake, § 4, May 30. Cambridge's confession, June 30.

Confession of Emanuel, a Spanish negro belonging to Thomas Wendover, taken by a private hand. He said

1. That about new year last he went to walk behind the English church by the water-side, on a Sunday evening, when the drum was beating at the fort, and there he met with Rutgers'

Quash and another negro ; that they asked him to go to Hughson's ; that he did go, and saw a great number of negroes there, among whom were Wan belonging to captain Sarly, Wan whose master is dead, who was a sail-maker (Peter Van Rantz ;) that he talks English very well.

2. That Hughson asked Quash, whose negro he, the prisoner, was? Quash told him Wendover's, that Hughson asked whether he was a good boy? Quash answered yes ; that the negroes were all at supper at a long table, that he saw Hughson amongst them, but no woman, that captain Marshall's Ben sat at the corner of the table, which was very long, and Hughson at the other end with a book by him ; that he did not go into the room but only looked in at the door, and that the room was so full that several of the negroes stood.

3. That Quash told the prisoner to come in and eat, that Hughson said don't you see the room is too full already, let him stay there. The prisoner saw Comfort's Jack and Cook there ; that Quash brought him punch, and some bread and salt pork, that he eat and drank what Quash gave him.

4. That he saw another room, but the door was shut, and does not know whether there was any body in the room.

5. That the prisoner told Quash he must go home and give victuals to the cow, Quash said stay a litle, that he Quash came out to the door to him, and told him the negroes were going to rise and cut the white people's throats with knives, that when he had done his business at home he must come back, and then Quash was to tell him a great deal, and to give him a knife, and that he must be sure to tell no body of it.

6. That the prisoner agreed to kill the white people, and not to discover, but told him he must go home, and he would come back directly.

7. That his master when he came home would not let him go out again.

8. That he went there early the next morning, but the doors being shut he returned home, and that he never went there afterwards.

9. That he has met Quash in the street several times afterwards, who asked him the reason why he did not come there, he told him his master would not let him go out ; Quash told him he must come, for they wanted him very much, for all the negroes he saw there had knives to kill the white people, and next time he went there he would tell him all.

Evidence affecting this negro—Bastian's examination, No. 1 § 10. 11th June.

This day the following negroes were apprehended and committed, viz. widow Van Rantz's John, Mr. Adoniah Schuyler's Lewis, Van Dursen's Diego, Phoenix's Titus, Marston's Scotland, Kiersted's Braveboy, Mr. Philipse's Frank.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28.

Confession of Gomez's Cajoe alias Africa, by a private hand.
He said,

1. That about August last he went to the house of ——(p) in company with three negroes belonging to Captain Wells, that Captain Brown's Jeffery, and James and Frank, three country negroes were there when they went in, that captain Marshall's Ben and his wife came there after him, that Ben said when he first came in, how do ye do, how do ye do, my friends? I hope you will all be my men in a short time.

2. That they sat down and drank together, some time, after which Ben told him that he had some business to do down by the water side, and when he went out said farewell brothers. This is all he remembers to have heard that time, but took no notice of what Ben said as to being his men, not knowing what he meant.

3. The Saturday after new-year, Mr. Gomez's Cuffee asked him to go down to the North river side, to a house there where there were negroes dancing and fiddling, that accordingly he went with Cuffee into Hughson's, and Cuffee called to Hughson and bid him make a mug of punch, that Hughson brought it, and had, as the prisoner says, put above two thirds of strong rum, and made it so sweet that he did not immediately feel the strength of it.

4. That Mr. Roosevelt's Quack, Rutgers's Quash, Vaarck's Caesar, Auboyneau's Prince, and Philipse's Cuffee, came there while they were drinking, they all went up stairs (where there were negroes dancing) except the prisoner and Cuffee, who sat drinking their punch.

5. That he does not know who was there except those he saw go up.

6. That Hughson when they had drank their liquor, asked the prisoner if he would stand his friend; he said what to do? says Hughson you must first swear that you will not discover what I

(p) The wife of Jeffery, lived there.

am going to tell you ; says the prisoner must I swear to a thing that I don't know what it is ? said Hughson come drink about ; after he had drank, then Hughson again told him he must swear, that if he did not he should not go out of the house again ; Cuffee told him he must swear, but that if he had no mind to do it, that he must tell nobody any thing about it ; the prisoner damned his soul to eternity if he ever told any body living ; and Hughson read something in a book, which he does not remember, but believes it was an oath, after which he kissed the book ; then Hughson told the prisoner he need not be afraid, that he had got a great many hands, and would get a great many more, and that the prisoner should bring as many there as he could, that they were to rise and burn the houses and kill the white people, and told him he must get his master's small arms and bring them there, and that he might set his master's house on fire and kill any body he could meet with, master first.

7. That he agreed to whatever they said, in order to get away from them.

8. After which Hughson brought Ben, and drank good success to their undertaking, which health Cuffee and he drank ; after which the prisoner bade them good night, and went away sorry for what he had done. That he never went there afterwards.

9. Hughson told him the fort was to be burnt first, some time in the spring, and when he saw that, every one must prepare.

10. That about a week after the fort was burnt, he was going to the post-house, and met with captain Marshall's Ben by his master's door, that Ben told him he must see if his master had any swords, or guns, or pistols ; the prisoner asked him for what ? Ben said you see the fort is burnt already, it is now time for every man to prepare ; the prisoner said don't be a fool to undertake such a thing, for I will have no hand in it ; if you should be found out don't call my name, for I will have nothing to do with you.

11. That nothing further was said, and nobody else spoke to him after that time.

Evidence affecting this negro—Brash's confession, § 5.

Confession of Tom, Mr. R. Livingston's negro, before one of the judges, No. 2.—He said,

That Lewis, a negro living with Edward Man,^(g) Tiebout's Venture, Gosport, belonging to Bound the quaker, Abrahams's

(g) Mr. Adoniah Schuyler's.

Jack, Wall-street, captain Walton's Fortune, Mr. Henry Cruger's Hanover, and himself, were at Hughson's last summer, where Hughson talked to them of the plot, he told them they must kill the white people and steal their goods, and bring them to his house, and they must kill their masters and mistresses, which they all agreed to and were sworn, and put hands on book to perform it, and keep all secret; they were not so much as to tell a cat or a dog.

2. Hughson told them they were to begin to kill about two months after new-year, but they were to come to him first for orders.

3. That Prince, Kortrecht's negro, told him the day Philipse's storehouse was burnt (as they were screening wheat) that he had been at Hughson's, and was sworn of the plot.

4. That Murray's Adam told him he had been sworn at Hughson's.

See this negroes confession 27th June, before Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Lodge. No. 12.

Evidence affecting this negro—Brash's confession, § 5. Dick (Ten Eyck's) confession, 30th June.

This day the following negroes were apprehended and committed: Tiebout's Venture, Abrahams's Jack, Captain Walton's Fortune, Roerback's Jack.

SUPREME COURT.

MONDAY, JUNE 29.

Present, the second and third justices.

The King against Dorland's Jack, Hardenbergh's Will, negroes.

John Dorland and Johannes Hardenbergh entered into recognizance for the appearance of Jack and Will, two negroes, at the next court of oyer and terminer and general jail delivery for Queen's county, thereon ordered, that the sheriff of Queen's county do discharge out of his custody the said negroes. (r)

His majesty's ordinance for the further enlarging the present term until Saturday, the 25th day of July next, published.

Court adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

(r) See deposition of Stephen Evan.

Confession of Pedro (De Peyster's negro) by John Schultz.
He said,

1. That last fall he went out one Sunday morning with Mrs. Carpenter's negro, Albany; that as they went along the Broadway, they met with Mr. Sleydall's Jack, who was going to Comfort's for tea-water; that at the market near Mr. De Lancey's house they met two other negroes; that Albany asked them all to go down to Hughson's and drink with them; that they first drank cyder, then raw drams; that Hughson sat down and drank with them; that after their liquor was all out, Hughson called Albany aside; when Albany returned, he asked Pedro, Jack, Kid, and Cæsar (Dr. Henderson's) if they would consent to become their own masters? they all answered yes; then he told them they must help burn the town and kill the white people, which they consented to readily, having all drank pretty much. Albany told them they must swear to be true to one another, and not to discover any thing; that Albany had a little book on which they swore; that their oath was, they wished the thunder might split them to pieces on the spot where they first spoke it. Hughson was in the room when they swore, and afterwards told them, that when the time came that they should be wanted, he would take care that they should be sent for.

2. That Kid told Hughson his master had arms enough, and that he would get some of them, and that he would kill his master and mistress and fire the house, that after that he would go into the street and help kill the people there. Cæsar was to act in the same manner.

3. Jack said his master was too cross, and that he would kill him.

4. Pedro said he did tell Jack (Sleydall's) to set Mr. Murray's house on fire, which he promised to do, but afterwards fired the hay-stack.

5. That the reason why they provided knives and cutlasses, was, that the report of a gun would immediately alarm the people, and they thought they might stab many before they were found out.

Evidence affecting this negro—Jack (Sleydall's) confession, § 1. Adam's confession, § 19.

Confession of Jeffery (captain Brown's) and Mars (Benson's) negroes, before the grand jury.

1. Jeffery said, that about Christmas last he went for tea-water, and called for a dram at Hughson's, when Hughson desired him to swear he would do what he desired him, but at that time he would not.

2. Some days afterwards (24th January) he went there again, and at length was persuaded by Hughson to swear to do what he asked him, and to keep it secret, and he did swear; and upon it Hughson told him he was to take the town, and told him of negroes concerned, and that they were to meet the first day of April, viz. to kill the people and take the town.

3. Persons there were—Vaarck's Cæsar, Auboyneau's Prince, and Albany, and were to be concerned.

4. That Holt's negro told him his master was to be concerned.

Mr. Benson's Mars said, that he heard Gomez's Cuffee and Peck's Cæsar say, that Jeffery above was concerned.

Confession of Scotland (Mr. Marston's negro) before one of the judges. He said,

1. That a little before Christmas last he met with Marshall's Ben, and he asked him to take a walk, and he carried him down to Hughson's, where they drank punch; Hughson fetched water and rum, and sugar was upon the table; Ben made the punch; Ben asked him whether he would do as they were going to do? he asked him what that was? Ben answered they were going to rise (meaning the negroes) and to kill the white people; he, Scotland, replied that the white people were too strong for them, they could not do it; so they drank out their punch, and nothing further passed between them at that time. Hughson went in and out of the room all the time he, Scotland, and Ben were there, but whether he attended to or heard their discourse, he cannot say. This was of a Sunday afternoon, church out, and no other negroes there at Hughson's as he saw.

2. The Sunday after this, Ben and he went again to Hughson's and drank punch there; Hughson was at home, and after Ben had talked of the plot to him, and the liquor had made him drunk, he consented to join in it, that is to say, to help burn the houses and to fight the white people; Hughson brought the book in order to swear him, and Ben told him he must put his hand on the book; he asked Ben how far he must swear? Ben said he must wish that the first thunder that came must split him to pieces if he told him any thing of it, or did not stand to his word; and he put his hand on the book and took the said oath, and then they went away, and he never went there again, nor had he ever any more discourse with Ben about it.

This day the following negroes were apprehended and committed, viz. Gosport, Bound's; Cæsar, col. Moore's; Hanover, Mr. Cruger's; Tony or Tonio, Mr. Courtlandt's; Hereford, Myers Cohen's; Kid, Mr. C. Van Horn's; Cæsar, Dr. Henderson's.

SUPREME COURT.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30.

Present, the second justice.

Court opened and adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

Confession of Braveboy, (Mrs. Kiersted's) before one of the judges.

1. He said that some time last summer, Carpenter's Albany came to his mistress's house to bring meat, and called him into the yard, saying he wanted to speak with him, and then asked him whether he would join with them? saying they were going to have a small fight, and if he would be on their side, he should not lose by it, and that they would have him, because he was a fiddler, and he must then be sworn to join with them; and he swore that he wished the devil would fetch him away if he did not join with them and keep all secret. Then Albany told him, he would help him to a gun to kill his master; at which he was so struck, that he did not know whether he stood upon his head or his heels, and said, in the name of God, if you are going upon such business, you may do it by yourselves, for he would have no concern in it: upon which Albany made him promise to keep secret what he had said to him, and not tell it to black or white.

2. That Albany had told him at the same time, that Prince (Auboyneau's) Cuffee (Philipse's) and Cæsar (Vaarck's) were concerned in this design.

3. That about a week after Albany had spoke to him as above, Prince carried him to Hughson's, of a Sunday afternoon in church-time; Hughson was at home, and in company with Cæsar (Vaarck's) Cuffee (Philipse's) and Albany; Hughson at coming in gave him a dram, and then went out of the room and brought in a book, and asked him to swear upon it? but he refused to swear, telling Hughson, that he had already been sworn by Albany, and upon that hasted away, Hughson calling him back, and charging him to keep all secret, and said if he did not, he would fare the worse for it; but he did not return, nor had ever been there since, or talked to any one about it.

4. Braveboy's account of the frolic at the Bowery. (w)

That he was at a free negroes (the negro man and his wife Isabella present) at a house between Mr. Bayard's land and Greenwich-lane.

(w) Mentioned by Mr. Murray's Adam in his confession.

Present—Men.—Mrs. Bickley's Robin and Sussex, Cruger's Fortune, both Mr. Haine's slaves, one a mulatto the other a negro; Othello, Walter's Quack, Curacoa Dick, who played on Braveboy's fiddle.—Wenches—Mr. Frank's Lucena, Mr. Richard's Quack's wife, Maria, Sarah and Hannah, three free negroes. Mr. Henry Cruger's Neptune came there late, about eleven at night, but the wenches turned him away.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Sarah (Burk's) examination and confession, No. 2. Jack (Murray's) examination and confession, § 5. Adam's examination and confession, No. 1. § 19.

Confession of Samuel Myers Cohen's negro Windsor, taken by John Schultz.

1. He said, that about two years ago, when the corn was ripe, he had been of an errand to Greenwich, in company with a negro belonging to Alexander Allair, who is since dead; that they, when they came back, went into Hughson's, and the other negro called for rum; that Hughson brought a whole case bottle full, and told them they might drink as much as they pleased: Windsor offered Hughson three pence, but he told him he would take no money, that he was welcome: Allair's negro told Hughson, this is the man I promised you, he is a good marksman: that Hughson liked him very well, and got up and took a book off a shelf and laid down on a table by him; that he (the prisoner) put both his hands on it; that Hughson then told him, the negroes were to rise and set the town on fire, and kill the white people; that he must set his master's house on fire, and kill his master and mistress before he came out, which the prisoner refused, saying he could not do it; that he did not care to set fire to any house, but would help them to fight.

2. Hughson told him, it is to be done in the spring; that Mr. Allair's negro should tell him the time; and that if he would come to him, he would find him a gun and sword; that he must swear to secrecy, which he did by force; that Hughson put a book upon his breast, and swore some words which he has forgot.

3. That as they came back, the negro of Mr. Allair told him, that Mr. Valet's Tom, and Mr. Nicholas Bayard's Phæon, formerly belonging to Mr. Valet, Mr. Jay's Brash, Mr. Pintard's Cæsar, Mr. Auboyneau's Prince, Mr. Philipse's Cuffee and Mr. Vaarck's Cæsar, were all sworn and belonging to one company.

4. That he has been at Hughson's three or four times alone to drink, and once with Mr. Allair's negro, which was the first time when he was sworn.

The confessions of the seven negroes following, taken by Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Lodge.

No. 1. Varian's Worcester said, that in Christmas holiday's Leffert's Pompey carried him to Hughson's, where were many negroes at supper; that they had punch, &c. and after supper, Hughson, his wife, and daughter, swore to a plot against the white people, and that he (Hughson) swore most or all of the negroes then present, among whom the prisoner was sworn; that some swore by one thing, and some by another: there were present the following negroes, viz. Leffert's Pompey, Kelly's London, Carpenter's Tickle and Albany, and Bastian.

Evidence affecting this negro. Quack's confession at the stake, § 4. Tickle's confession, § 4.

No. 2. Codweis's Cambridge said, that on Christmas Sunday evening, Baker's Cajoe carried him to Hughson's, who swore them both in the plot in the presence of a white girl: that he, Cambridge, afterwards asked Horsefield's Cæsar and Guy about it, who both confessed they had been sworn at Hughson's, and told him, when the work was going forward at York, they would give the prisoner notice, and take him over with them in a canoe to assist them; (x) and Cajoe told them they were to kill such of the negroes as would not assist them.

Evidence affecting this negro—Quack's confession at the stake § 4.

No. 3. Bayard's Pompey says, that Mr. De Lancey's Pompey came to his mistress's to fetch her to Mrs. De Lancey's lying-in; that he and Pompey got gaming together, and then Pompey told him of the plot, and asked his consent to be one among them, and that he consented to it: that afterwards he went to Mr. Peter De Lancey's, where he saw the said Pompey, Pintard's Cæsar, Moore's Cato, and a Spanish negro of captain Cunningham.

Evidence affecting this Negro—De Lancey's Pompey's confession, § 9.

No. 4. Widow Breasted's Toby said, that Christmas holidays Comfort's Cook carried him to Hughson's, where he saw Mr. Jay's Ben, captain Marshall's Ben and some others, who all supped there; that he saw Hughson, his wife, &c. there: that Jay's Ben prevailed on him to kiss the book; that he accordingly did kiss it; that thereupon Ben said he was his man, and should stand to him, but did not tell him for what; but seeing him af-

(x) The masters of these two negroes were butchers who lived over the water on Long Island, opposite to this city.

terwards, he told him he had sworn to fight the white people, and stand by him : that the prisoner promised, and Ben bid him bring him a pistol to Mr. Jay's garden, and told him that they had bought some arms already, and by and by they would rise. The negroes then present (besides) were Comfort's Cook, Cowley's Cato, Philipse's Cuffee, Roosevelt's Quack.

Evidence affecting this negro—Brash's confession, § 4.

No. 5. Ten Eycks Will said, that Albany carried him to Hughson's; that Albany there talked of the number of Cuba men gone off, and said he believed an hundred and fifty men might take this city; and after some discourse, told him of the plot, and swore him by the thunder and lightning to join in the plot and burn his master's house; that Cæsar had given Hughson money to buy arms and powder to furnish the negroes with and to appoint the time for the enterprize. The negroes then present were Albany, Bastian, and Vaarek's Jonneau.

Evidence affecting this negro—Burk's Sarah's examination, No. 2. Pintard's Cæsar's confession, § 4. Tickle's confession, § 4. Jonneau's confession.

No. 6. Phoenix's Titus said, that going one day for yeast to Mr. Rutgers's, Rutgers's Quash swore him to burn his master's house and kill his master and mistress; that he agreed to burn the house but refused to kill his master and mistress.

Evidence affecting this negro—Gab. Crooke's Prince's confession, § 3, 5.

No. 7. Ten Eyck's Dick said, that Carpenter's Albany carried him to Hughson's, where he was sworn into the plot: that Wendover's Toby afterwards informed him of the plot, and asked him to go to Hughson's house, but he refused, having been there before: that Ryker's Frank also told him of the same, and asked him to be engaged: that the negroes then present, were Wendover's Toby, Livingston's Tom, Sleydall's Jack, Ryker's Frank, Carpenter's Albany, Wyncoop's London.

Upon the several examinations taken this day, the following negroes were committed this evening.

Valet's Tom, Bayard's Phæton, Baker's Cajoe, Wendover's Tom, Ryker's Frank.

Minutes of Othello's examination and confession, taken before one of the judges, the 29th and 30th June.

June 29.—1. He said that at a meeting of several negroes at Coenties-market about this time twelvemonth, present, Albany, Cuffee, Philipse's; Prince, Auboyneau's; Adam, and Pompey, De Lancey's; Adam and Albany mentioned the plot to him, and he agreed to join to burn and kill, &c. and swore. Rutgers'

Quash, Cowley's Cato, concerned. Hanover, belonging to Mr. John Cruger, from Curacoa, Albany said he was concerned.

2. Othello was at a feast at Hughson's with a parcel of negroes, when North the constable came and drove them away; present then, Albany, Quamino, Pemberton's, and many others.

3. Othello being asked, why he so positively denied on Saturday, that he knew any thing about the plot, though he was warned of the proclamation, and that the time therein limited for the confederates to come in and make voluntary confession and discovery, would expire as to-morrow, and notwithstanding he was told that there was full and clear evidence against him, why he did not take the recorder's advice, and confess then what he had done now? He answered with a smile, "why, sir, I was but just then come to town."^(y)

June 30.—4. Othello was at a frolic in the Bowery last summer, at which were present,^(z) Walter's Quack, Braveboy, Curacoa Dick, Mr. Haines's Ancram (mulatto) Pompey, Ben. Moore's Tom; a white young man who married a mulatto girl, Braveboy can tell best; a free negro, lives at Kip's-Bay, Braveboy knows his name; Mr. Richard's Cato, Mr. Searle's Pompey, Mrs. Jenny's, Mr. Faviere's Cajoc.

SUPREME COURT.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1.

Present the second and third justices.

The five Spanish negroes convicted of the conspiracy on the seventeenth of June last, were this day called up to judgment, viz. Mr. De Lancey's Antonio, Mesnard's Antonio, Becker's Pablo, Sarly's Juan or Wan, M'Mullen's Augustine; and having nothing to offer in arrest, but protestations of their innocence, Mr. Gomez^(a) was directed to interpret what the court delivered.

Then the third justice proceeded as followeth.

Mr. Gomez, pray tell the prisoners at the bar, that the court observes, 1st. That they were taken with some Spaniards by an

(y) *i. e.* He was willing to spy the land first, to see how it lay, to inform himself how matters stood, what had been doing, and to consider whether there could be room for his escape.

(z) See Adam's confession, § 21, 22, 23. Braveboy's confession, § 4.

(a) He had been an interpreter upon the trial.

English privateer, were brought into this port, and condemned as lawful prize, being supposed to be slaves belonging to the subjects of the king of Spain; and nothing appeared to the court of admiralty (which is the court to which jurisdiction concerning things of this nature does properly belong) to shew that they were freemen, and they have made no pretence or claim in that court to be such, they were therefore adjudged to be slaves.

2dly. That the court of admiralty having so adjudged them to be slaves, they had been severally sold and disposed of, by which means they were discharged from confinement in prison, and thereby have had the opportunity of caballing with other wicked, mischievous and evil disposed persons, as well white men as slaves, and have confederated themselves with them, in a most diabolical conspiracy, to lay this city in ashes, and to murder and destroy all the inhabitants; whereas had they appeared to have been freemen, they would have been prevented this opportunity of venting and gratifying the rancour of their hearts, by being closely confined as prisoners of war.

3dly. If notwithstanding they were freemen, they ought in all reason to have waited the event of the war, and suffered patiently under their misfortune; and when peace should have been concluded, they might have made the truth of their pretensions appear, and then justice would have been done them.

But now, as they are found guilty of this most horrid and villainous conspiracy, by the laws of our land, nothing remains but to pronounce sentence of death against them. Accordingly they were sentenced to be hanged.

The King against Duane's Prince, Latham's Tony, Shurmur's Cato, Marschalk's York, Kip's Harry, negroes.

The prisoners having been convicted of the conspiracy, were brought to the bar, and having nothing to offer in arrest of judgment, the court passed sentence on them to be hanged: and ordered their execution to be on Friday the third instant, and that the body of York should be afterwards hung in chains on the same gibbet with John Hughson.

The King against Sarah Hughson.

This criminal continuing inflexible, it was ordered she should be executed, according to her sentence, on Wednesday the eighth instant.

The King against Benson's Cato, S. Bayard's Pompey, negroes.

These prisoners having desired leave of the court to withdraw their plea of *not guilty*, and to plead *guilty*, it was ordered accordingly; and they pleaded *guilty*, and submitted to the mercy of the court.

The King against Bound's Jeffery, Breasted's Toby, Clarkson's Fortune, Hunt's Warwick, Meyers Cohen's Windsor, Ellison's Billy, negroes.

The prisoners were brought to the bar and arraigned on an indictment for conspiracy, and Jeffery, Toby, Warwick and Windsor pleaded *guilty*, and Fortune and Billy, *not guilty*.

The king against Murray's Jack, Gomez's Cajoe, Hyer's Tom, Schuyler's Lewis, Tiebout's Venture, Bound's Jasper, Abrahams's Jack, Walton's Fortune, negroes.

The prisoners were arraigned on an indictment for the conspiracy; and Tom, Venture, Jasper and Fortune, pleaded *not guilty*, and the two Jacks, Cajoe and Lewis, pleaded *guilty*, and submitted to the mercy of the court.

Court adjourned till to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

The two following negro confessions were this day taken by Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Lodge, No. 1.

Hunt's Warwick said, that London, Wyncoop's negro, went with him to Hughson's about two years ago, that Hughson swore him in the presence of his daughter, to kill his master and mistress, that he ordered the prisoner to steal what money he could and bring it to him, to buy arms and powder, that he (Hughson) had three barrels of powder but wanted more, that he (Warwick) was there (at Hughson's) last Christmas, at the great supper, but did not see all the negroes that were there, he being in the cellar and in liquor.

Evidence affecting this negro—Sarah (Burk's) examination, No. 2. § 1. London (Wyncoop's) confession, § 1.

No. 2.—Mr. Adoniah Schuyler's Lewis said, that on a Saturday afternoon, Mr. Roosevelt's Quack and Rutgers's Quash carried him to Hughson's, that they drank punch there, that he heard nothing of the plot at that time, but Quack engaged him to come to him the next day, which he did, at Mr. Rutgers's brew-house, where Quack swore him to fire his master's house, and kill his master and mistress; that he afterwards set fire to some heading, but it being green, would not take fire. Knows of no others concerned.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Tom (Livingston's) confession, No. 1, 2.

Confession of Sam, negro of colonel Frederick Courtlandt, before one of the judges.—He said,

1. That some time last fall, being at the house of John Hughson, he asked the examinant whether he would be concerned with him to burn the town, and kill the white people? that the examinant consented; that thereupon he gave the examinant a

dram, and told him he expected he would be as good as his word, he answered yes.

2. That about a fortnight after he met with Pompey (Mr. P. De Lancey's negro) and carried him to Hughson's, and when they were there, they and Hughson drank a mug of punch, after which Hughson asked Pompey whether he would consent to stand on his side against the white people, &c. which he consenting to do, Hughson swore the said Pompey, in presence of the examinant and Hughson's wife, to be true ;(b) that the examinant told Pompey he had drank a dram to bind him, which was as good as swearing.

3. That the examinant never spoke to any other negro about the plot, nor has any other negro at any time spoke to him about it.

Evidence affecting this negro.—Pompey (De Lancey's) confession, § 1, 6.

Deposition, No. 1.—John Schultz made oath, that whereas by the judge's orders he took a confession in writing from the mouth of Pedro, belonging to Pierre De Peyster, wherein he accused two negroes, the one belonging to Cornelius Van Horn, called Kid, the other to Dr. Henderson, called Cæsar, that they Kid and Cæsar, with some other negroes and him the said Pedro, were sworn at Hughson's, and there agreed to set fire to houses and destroy the people inhabiting this city: and whereas the said Pedro did, on the 30th day of June, 1741, acknowledge voluntarily to the said John Schultz, Francis Barrow being present, and likewise in the evening of the same day, John Schultz, Pierre De Peyster and Stephen Courtlandt being present, that the words which he spoke relating to himself and the others which he had said were present and all sworn at Hughson's, viz. Kid, Cæsar, &c. was not true, and that Will, a negro belonging to one Ward, a watch maker, being in the same prison with him, had told him that he understood these affairs very well, and that unless he the said Pedro did confess and bring in two or three, he would either be hanged or burnt, and did likewise name the aforesaid as proper ones to be accused, and he the said Pedro did say, that Will was the cause of his making that false confession, which he can prove by four negroes which are in the same prison with him.

Deposition, No. 2.—John Schultz made oath, that a negro belonging to Henry Breasted, called Jack, did, after he had made confession, send for him to the prison, and told him, he

(b) Compare Pompey's confession with this.

had recollected two more negroes, viz. Hereford, belonging to Samuel Meyers Cohen, and Tonio, belonging to counsellor Courtlandt, which were afterwards committed by order of the judges, for being concerned in the conspiracy. And whereas it was desired by the master of the said Hereford, that he should be examined, which he afterwards was by the said John Schultz and Samuel Meyers Cohen, and did declare his innocence of what he was charged with, and the said Hereford being a young boy, did give the aforesaid Schultz a suspicion that he was impeached wrongfully, for which reason he the said John Schultz did again go to the prison, and in the presence of Lancaster Green and Catharine Mills did ask the aforesaid Jack, whether the said Hereford had certainly been concerned? that he should take care not to accuse any one unjustly, and if he had so done, to declare it then, to which the said Jack made answer, that he had told a lie about Hereford, and that he was innocent, as far as he knew, and repeated before Lancaster Green what he had said when he accused them.

SUPREME COURT.

THURSDAY, JULY 2.

Present, the hon. James De Lancey, esq. chief justice; the second and third justices.

The King against Jamaica, a negro.

Upon the former favourable circumstances concerning this criminal, the court ordered his execution to be further respited for fourteen days.

The King against Will, Ward's negro.

This negro being set to the bar to receive judgment, and there having been credible information that this criminal has, within a few years past, been concerned in two conspiracies in the West Indies, the first at St. John's, the last at Antigua, in the year 1736, where (as it was said) he became an evidence, and from thence was shipped to this city, from hence to Providence, but returned hither again, and was here sold: wherefore it was thought high time to put it out of his power to do any further mischief; and having pleaded *guilty* upon his arraignment as before, the court sentenced him to be burnt at a stake, on Saturday, the 4th inst.

The court adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

The eight following negro confessions were taken this day by Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Lodge.

No. 1. Bound's Scipio said, that last Christmas holidays, Comfort's Jack carried him to Hughson's, where there were a great number of negroes, near thirty; that they all supped there, and after supper Hughson got a bible, and told them there was a plot going forward against the white people of the town, that the French and Spaniards were expected, and then would be a fair opportunity; that those that would swear to him to be of his side, should be his men; that they might be all free men; that he, Hughson, swore himself, his wife and daughter, and afterwards swore several of the negroes: that he heard Spanish talked among the negroes, but knows not what negroes they were; that he swore them all to secrecy, and said he would provide arms for all of them; that he, Scipio, was to kill his master and mistress. That he was afterwards at Comfort's, and saw Jack there sharpening knives, which he said were to be used to kill the white people; that several negroes were there, and afterwards Jack told him there was to be a general feast at Hughson's; that when he supped at Hughson's, the daughter of Hughson took the cloth from the table.

Evidence affecting this negro—Cato's (colonel Moore's) confession, § 2, 6.

As soon as Scipio was brought before Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Lodge to be examined, he was asked who his master was, and what was his name? he answered, master, don't you know me? I am Scipio, belonging to Mr. Robert Bound, and formerly belonged to Dr. Nicols; and it being then demanded of him, how he came to be concerned in the conspiracy? (he being a fellow that did not want sense, and had had a better education than most of his colour) he answered, it is true, sir, I ought to have known better; my first master, Dr. Nicols, brought me up from a child, sent me to school, and had me taught to read; he intended to give me to his son, who was bred a merchant, for which reason he put me to a cooper to learn that trade, but his son going to live in the country, he had no use for me in that business; my old master therefore sold me to my present master, Bound, who has likewise been very kind to me; but it was with me as it is with all my colour, who are never easy till they get a dram, and when they have one want more; this was my case on my meeting with Comfort's Jack, who carried me to Hughson's, where from drinking one dram I drank more, till I was bewitched with it, &c. as in the examination above.

Those gentlemen declared this fellow seemed to be the most sensible of any they examined, and appeared very penitent and

sorry for what he had done ; he had, when examined, his bible in his bosom, which he said he read in jail as often as he could.

No. 2. London (Kelly's) said, that last Christmas he went with Carpenter's Tickle and Desbrosse's Primus to take a walk ; that they went to Hughson's, drank punch and beer ; that after they had drank, Hughson told him now was the best time to do something, if they intended to do it, it being war-time ; that London asked what ? that he said he should swear, and got a book and swore him not to tell any body of what he would tell him, and then told him the negroes were going to rise to kill the white people, and that he would find guns for them.

That ten or fourteen days after, Fortune acquainted Ludlow's York, Le Roux's Quash, and Judah Hays' Jack of the design, and asked them if they would be concerned in the plot ? and they said they would with all their hearts, but does not know they went to Hughson's.

Evidence affecting this negro—Tickle's confession, § 1. Primus (Desbrosse's) confession. Worcester (Varian's) confession.

No. 3. Tony (Brazier's) said, that last summer captain Marshall's Ben carried him to Hughson's, where they drank rum, and Ben there told him he must burn his mistress' house, but he said nothing to it, but went away.

Evidence affecting this negro—Cæsar (Pintard's) confession, § 4. Cato (colonel Moore's) confession, § 7.

No. 4. Tom (captain Rowe's) said, that Whitsontide last year he was at Hughson's with Albany and Pemberton's Quamino ; that after they had drank beer and rum, Hughson got a book and swore him and Quamino not to tell any thing about what he would tell them ; and then told them that the negroes did intend to rise against the white people, and that he had some white people in the country that would help him and the negroes ; that the town was to be set on fire, and when it was, Tom, being an old fellow, should run to him to be a drummer, not being fit for any thing else.

Evidence affecting this negro—Sarah (Burk's) confession, No. 2, 3. Tickle's confession, § 2. Quamino (Pemberton's) confession.

No. 5. Fortune (Mr. D. Clarkson's) said, that some time about Christmas last, he was going to Comfort's for tea-water, where he saw captain Marshall's Ben, Mr. Rutgers' Quash, and Mr. Vanderspeigle's Fortune on the hill at Comfort's ; that they carried him to Hughson's, where they had one or two bowls of punch ; that Hughson drank with them and told them they should never want for liquor whether they had money or not ; that after

they had drank, Hughson made him swear and kiss a book, and say, d—n my soul to h—ll if I tell any body ; and told him he must fire his master's house and kill the family, or else he would kill him ; then he promised he would.

2. That he has been at Hughson's three times since, and once heard Hughson say, they were to get some white people out of the country to help them.

Evidence affecting this negro—Brash's confession, § 5.

No. 6. Koertrecht's Cæsar said, that last Christmas he went with Comfort's Jack to Hughson's ; that he was in the shop, and much in liquor ; that he saw a room full of negroes eating and drinking, but does not know who they were, being the whole time in the shop ; that Comfort's Jack coming out with the prisoner, told him, the Spaniards were coming here, and the negroes were going to rise, and would help the Spaniards ; that he offered him (Cæsar) a knife to fight with against the white people, but he refused it, having one in his pocket ; that then Jack swore him to be one among them, and he promised them he would.

Evidence affecting this negro—Colonel Moore's Cato's confession, § 6. Comfort's Jack's examination, § 2, 10.

No. 7. Jonneau said, that last fall he met Vaarek's Cæsar, Philipse's Cuffee and Albany, and they went to the house of Frans, a free negro, to drink a dram ; that Cæsar took him aside and told him the negroes were to rise and take the town, and asked him to be one ; that he then declined it, but afterwards he met with those three, who carried him to Hughson's, where they drank much liquor ; and then Cæsar again asked him to be concerned, that the thing might be done, and he would provide arms, powder and shot ; that he then consented ; and Cæsar swore him into the plot and secrecy : that he has afterwards seen Ten Eyck's Billy sworn there on a book by Hughson, with another negro he knew not, but he was a drummer and wore a laced hat : that they were at the free negro's ; he does not know whether the free negro could overhear the proposal Cæsar made to him when he took him aside.

Evidence affecting this negro—Mary Burton's deposition, No. 2, § 7. Comfort's Jack's confession, No. 1, § 2, 24.

No. 8. Abraham's Jack said, that a little before Christmas, Comfort's Jack and Cowley's Cato carried him to Hughson's, where they drank punch ; that then Hughson asked him, whether he would be concerned with him to kill the white people ? that he consented, and then Hughson told him he must swear

and got a book, and swore the d—l take him if he told any body white or black; that when he should hear fire cried at night, he should kill his master and mistress, and come to him, and he would give him a gun and cutlass: that there was a woman at the fire smoaking that saw him sworn, but did not know whether she were Hughson's wife or who else.

Evidence affecting this negro—Livingston's Tom's confession, No. 2.

This day the grand jury recommended the following negroes to the judges to be discharged, they finding no sufficient evidence against them whereon to found an indictment, viz.

Vanzant's Tom, Cornelius Van Horn's Kid, Myers Cohen's Hereford.—And they were discharged accordingly.

SUPREME COURT.

FRIDAY, JULY 3. A. M.

Present the second justice.

Court opened and adjourned to four o'clock in the afternoon.

Present, the second and third justices.

The King against Pintard's Cæsar, Todd's Dundee, Kortrecht's Cæsar, Ten Eyck's Will or Bill, Rowe's Tom, Lawrence's Sterling, negroes.

The prisoners being arraigned upon an indictment for the conspiracy; all pleaded *guilty*, and submitted to the mercy of the court.

The King against Mars, French's London, Debrosse's Primus, Bridgewater, Lefferts's Pompey, negroes.

The prisoners being arraigned upon an indictment for the conspiracy; all pleaded *guilty*, and submitted to the mercy of the court.

Court adjourned to Monday the sixth instant ten o'clock in the morning.

1. Todd's Dundee's confession—He said, that the first time he was at Hughson's, he, Jack and Comfort's Cook drank a pint of rum together, and the rum they bought at Hughson's with the money he had lost (at play.)

2. That the next time the prisoner bought an half pint of rum and drank it with the same Cook and Jack; and then doctor Hamilton and Hughson called Jack, and asked him what boy that was? Jack answered, Todd's; then the doctor and Hughson called the prisoner and asked him to swear upon a book,

which he refused, and Jack told him he must do it; and that he did swear; the doctor held the book and Hughson read something out of it; and after he had sworn, the doctor took his name down upon a piece of paper; that the doctor, Hughson, and Jack, told him not to tell any body of it; and Jack told him to kill his master and mistress; and that the doctor told him, he should be under captain Jack; that then he asked to go, and they told him he might.

3. That after he had left Hughson's house, he asked Jack what it was he had sworn? Jack told him it was to burn the town and to begin at the fort first; and that Roosevelt's Quack was to set fire to the fort; and then he went home.

4. That when the fire was in Smith's fly, Mr. English's negro Patrick told him, the fires in the town were not half done yet; upon which the prisoner asked Patrick why he said so? he said because he knew it—See his confession before.

Evidence affecting this negro—Arthur Price's deposition, No. 2, § 2. Sandy's examination, No. 3, § 8. Burk's Sarah's examination, 2, § 1.

The three following negro confessions were taken this day by Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Lodge.

No. 1. Mars said that some time about Christmas last, Cuffee, Gomez's, and Peck's Cæsar, informed him of the plot behind old Het's on the dock, and told him they were to burn the houses in the town, and fight with the white people; and asked him if he would join with them? that they swore him by the thunder, not to discover any thing about it; that after the fort was burnt he saw Cæsar (Peck's) and Cuffee (Gomez's) and they told him one job was done.

Evidence affecting this negro—Tickle's confession, No. 1. § 3, 4. Cæsar (Pintard's) confession, No. 2. § 4, 5.

No. 2. Second confession. Primus (Debrosse's) said that Sunday before Christmas, Tickle (Carpenter's) and London (Kelly's) carried him to Hughson's, where they drank, and Hughson asked him if he would stand by him to kill the white people of the town; that the French and Spaniards were coming, and would take the town, and they would help the Spaniards; he told him yes; and then Hughson swore him, the d—l fetch him if he told any body, or did not help them; he said yes: that Hughson told him that when he heard a noise in the town, he must steal his master's gun, and come to his house, and that he should kill his master and mistress; but he said he would not.

2. That two or three days after Van Zant's storehouse was a fire, he met Peck's Cæsar, who told him he had set the storehouse on fire.—See his confession before.

Evidence affecting this negro—Tickle's confession, No. 2. § 1. Caesar, Pintard's, confession, § 4. London, Kelly's, confession.

No. 3. First confession, Sam (Low's) said, that on Easter holidays was a year, he went to Hughson's with Comfort's Jack, where he saw Mr. Philipse's Frank and Hyer's Tom; that Frank was drinking beer; that Hughson carried him into another room, and asked him if he would be concerned with them in taking the town? he said he would, if it could be done; that Hughson told him it could, and then he swore him, and told him that when the houses were on fire, he should come to him, and he would furnish him with arms.

Evidence affecting this negro—Pompey (De Lancey's) confession, § 5. Cato (colonel Moore's) confession § 2, 6. London (Wynkoop's) confession, § 1, 2.

Deposition.—William Nail, servant to Thomas Cox of the city of New-York, butcher, being duly sworn upon the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith, that he, the deponent, having discourse with one London, a negro man slave belonging to Edward Kelly, butcher, concerning negroes that were taken up on account of the plot, heard the said London swear, by G—d, that if he, the said London, should be taken up on account of the plot, he would hang or burn all the negroes in York, whether they were concerned or not.(c)

This day Duane's Prince, Latham's Tony, Shurmur's Cato, Kip's Harry, and Marschalk's York, negroes, were executed at the gallows, according to sentence; and the body of York was afterwards hung in chains, upon the same gibbet with John Hughson.

Some few days after this the town was amused with a rumour, that Hughson was turned negro, and Vaarck's Caesar a white; and when they came to put up York in chains by Hughson (who was hung upon the gibbet three weeks before) so much of him as was visible, viz. face, hands, neck, and feet, were of a deep shining black, rather blacker than the negro placed by him, who was one of the darkest hue of his kind; and the hair of Hughson's beard and neck (his head could not be seen for he had a cap on) was curling like the wool of a negro's beard and head, and the features of his face were of the symmetry of a negro beauty; the nose broad and flat, the nostrils open and extended, the mouth wide, lips full and thick, his body (which when living was tall, by the view upwards of six feet, but very meagre)

(c) It is not improbable but he might know that most of them were concerned.

swelled to a gigantic size ; and as to Cæsar (who, though executed for a robbery, was also one of the head negro conspirators, had been hung up in chains a month before Hughson, and was also of the darkest complexion) his face was at the same time somewhat bleached or turned whitish, insomuch that it occasioned a remark, that Hughson and he had changed colours. The beholders were amazed at these appearances ; the report of them engaged the attention of many, and drew numbers of all ranks, who had curiosity, to the gibbets, for several days running, in order to be convinced by their own eyes, of the reality of things so confidently reported to be, at least wondrous phœnomenons, and upon the view they were found to be such as have been described ; many of the spectators were ready to resolve them into miracles ; however, others not so hasty, though surprized at the sights, were willing to account for them in a natural way, so that they administered matter for much speculation.

The sun at this time had great power, and the season as usual very hot, that Hughson's body dripped and distilled very much, as it needs must, from the great fermentation and abundance of matter within him, as could not but be supposed at that time, from the extraordinary bulk of his body ; though considering the force of the sun, and the natural meagreness of his corpse, one would have been apt to imagine that long ere this it would have been disencumbered of all its juices. At length, about ten days or a fortnight after Hughson's mate, York, was hung by him, Hughson's corpse, unable longer to contain its load, burst and discharged pail fulls(*d*) of blood and corruption ; this was testified by those who were near by, fishing upon the beach when the irruption happened, to whom the stench of it was very offensive.

Those who were inclined to account in a natural way, for what was by some esteemed almost miraculous, by all very surprising, observed, that by the written evidences of witnesses, both black and white, information was given of poison being distributed amongst the conspirators(*e*) and of the use their principals intended should have been made of it ; Harry, a negro doctor, was to bring the negroes poison to use (if they were discovered and taken) before they were executed ; Kane had seen him give poison, as they called it, to Walter's Quack for that purpose, in papers ; Quack said he should not be suspected, he

(*d*) Which may be understood to mean a surprizing quantity.

(*e*) See William Kane's examination, § 16.

might go to the prison to carry victuals, and so could give the poison to those that were condemned, to prevent their execution; (f) Kane saw doctor Harry give a large quantity of it to Hughson.

Mary Burton speaks of their having poison amongst them (g) she says she had seen three or four papers of poison in Hughson's drawers, which she understood he had of some negro.

It has been related already that Hughson when he was brought out of jail to be carried to his execution, had a red spot in each cheek, about the bigness of a shilling, which at that time was by some thought very remarkable, because he was always pale of visage, and the sheriffs (who observed it) did not believe from the care that had been taken, he could have drank any strong liquor in jail, which was an additional reason why they took so much notice of it.

Upon the supposition that Hughson had taken poison, it has been made a question whether that might not have occasioned the swelling of his corpse to so amazing a bulk? Nay his arms, legs and thighs, were enlarged in proportion to the body; this is submitted to the consideration of the curious and connoisseur in physic.

As to the change of complexions in Hughson and Cæsar, some imputed it to the influence of the sun; but to that it was objected, it would be strange indeed that the sun should have two such different effects as to turn Hughson [a white] black, and Cæsar [a negro] whitish.

As to Hughson's taking poison, that by some was thought very improbable, for as it is said in the account of his behaviour at, and going to his execution, his actions were observed to be such as betokened his expectation of being rescued, he held up his hand as high as his pinion would admit of, and seemed to beckon with his finger as one expecting deliverance, and if that was his persuasion he would not have taken poison, which was certain death; and besides if he had taken any, he would have taken a sufficient quantity, and time enough to have answered the design of it, which it must be supposed to be to destroy himself to prevent his execution.

(f) This office we may suppose was to be administered by Quack, without the knowledge of the patients (and he speaks as if they had a confidence in him) in order to despatch them, and prevent their telling tales: for when they found themselves in jeopardy, there might be danger of their speaking the truth, and discovering their principals, in hopes of saving their own lives by it.

(g) In her evidence upon trial of eight negroes, 15th of this month, viz. her testimony against doctor Harry.

To this it was answered, that though he might be determined to take poison to destroy himself, and did take some, yet he might do it with so much reluctance, as not to take the quantity prescribed sufficient to answer the end, which though he might not be aware of, but expect certain death from it, yet the nearer he approached the gallows, the more his thoughts might be confused, and nature prevailed; as long as there is life, there is hopes, and his deliverance might be uppermost in his mind; he would willingly have avoided the infamy of hanging, and stand the chance of saving his life in the bargain.

Whatever were the causes of these changes, the facts are here related, that every one may make their own conjectures upon them.

But Hughson it seems let the worst happen to him in all events, declared as he was going to mount the cart which was to carry him to execution, that he did not doubt but some remarkable sign would happen to him, to shew [or signify] his innocence; and if his corpse becoming monstrous in size, and his complexion (for once to use a vulgar similtude) as black as the d—l, can be deemed remarkable signs or tokens of his innocence! then some may imagine it has happened according to his expectation.

SATURDAY, JULY 4.

The jail being now thronged with negroes committed as confederates in the conspiracy, many whereof had made confessions of their guilt, in hopes of pardon in consequence of the proclamation, and others who were pardoned and turned evidence; it was feared, considering the season of the year, that such numbers closely confined might be apt to breed an infection; therefore the judges thought it was proper to examine the list of them, and to mark out such as should be thought proper to recommend to his honour the lieutenant governor, to be pardoned, upon condition of transportation to be therein limited by a short time, and to distinguish which of them who had been made use of as witnesses, might be necessary to reserve for some time; and for this purpose they associated to them Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Lodge, by whose assistance the following list was accordingly settled, which the judges reported to his honour, and submitted to his consideration.

A list of negroes recommended this day by the judges to his honour the lieutenant governor, for transportation.

Pemberton's Quamino, widow Breasted's Toby, Ten Eyck's Will or Bill, Hunt's Warwick, Soamain's Tom, Crugers's Deptford, Lush's Will, Peck's York, Van Borsom's Scipio, Horsefield's Guy, Benson's Cato, widow Brazier's Tony, Bound's Scipio, Kortrecht's Cæsar, Abrahams's Jack, Todd's Dundee, Lawrence's Starling, Crooke's York, Van Horn's Bridgwater, French's London, Becker's Mars, De Brosse's Primus, Rutgers' Jacob, Groesbeck's Mink, Phoenix's Titus, Schuyler's Lewis, Vaarck's Jonneau, Marston's Scotland, Varian's Worcester, Ellison's Jamaica, English's Patrick, Abrahams's Scipio, Clarkson's Fortune, Pintard's Cæsar, Wilkins's Fortune, Moore's Tom, Leffert's Pompey, Marschalk's London, Low's Wan, Vaarek's Will, Latham's Fortune, Burk's Sarah.

This day Will, Ward's negro, was executed according to sentence, and made the following confession at the stake.

1. He said that William Kane, a soldier belonging to the fort, knew of the plot, and he heard the said Kane say, he did not care if the fort was burnt down; that since the plot was discovered he told Kane he would make a discovery, on which Kane gave him three pounds in bills and told him not to discover; part of which money his young mistress found in his chest.

2. That his mistress lost a silver spoon, which he, Will, stole and carried to Kane's wife, who gave it her husband in his presence, and he sold it to Peter Van Dyke, a silver-smith, and gave him, Will, eight shillings of the money.

3. That Kane and Kelly⁽ⁱ⁾ asked Quack to burn the fort, and said if that was done, they (the soldiers) would have their liberty; and Kelly said you must do it with wet cotton, and that will make no smoke.

4. That he has talked of the plot with Kane and Kelly often, and has been at Kane's house, and has heard that other soldiers were concerned, but does not know them; that he has seen Walter's Quack there, Ryndert's Tom, Gouverneur's Jack, Cayler's Pedro,^(k) and Van Zant's John, went round, who received some money in his hat, collected at a meeting at Kelly's, which money was to be paid to Hughson.

5. That Goelet's Quack and Tiebout's Will drew him in; and called on their names to the last.

6. That De Peyster's Pedro is innocent for what he knows.

7. That Moore's Cato advised him and Pedro to bring in many negroes, telling Pedro that he would be certainly burnt or hanged.

(i) Both soldiers belonging to the garrison, and reputed papists.

(k) This negro not apprehended.

if he did not confess; but that if he brought in a good many it would save his life, for he had found it so himself, and must say he was to set his master's house on fire, which would make the judges believe him.^(l)

8. That Pintard's Cæsar said much the same, and Comfort's Jack advised Cato; but that Jack was a true evidence.

The pile being kindled, this wretch set his back to the stake, and raising up one of his legs, laid it upon the fire, and lifting up his hands and eyes, cried aloud, and several times repeated the names, Quack Goelet and Will Tiebout, who he had said first brought him into this plot.

This evening William Kane, soldier, Goelet's Quack and Tiebout's Will, negroes, were apprehended and committed.

After we had several of the fires mentioned in the introduction to this journal, Goelet's Quack was had up and examined before the magistrates for some suspicious words overheard to be uttered by him to another negro, which seemed to import strong hints as if he had been privy to the occasion of them; but nothing could be made of it, and was therefore discharged. But this was long before we had the least intimation of a conspiracy.

SUNDAY, JULY 5.

Examination of William Kane, soldier, taken before the chief and third justices, No. 1.

1. He said that he was born in Athlone in Ireland, had been in this country four and thirty years, aged about forty.

2. That he never was at Hughson's house, nor did he know where it was.

3. That some time last summer, when the Cuba men^(m) were here, his wife brought home a silver spoon out of the fields, which she had of one of the Cuba men; this was about the time of their embarking; that he believed his wife could tell the name of the man.

(*l*) Pedro, by Schultz's deposition of the 1st inst. charges Will himself with giving that advice: but these are Will's dying words in the midst of flames, and may be supposed to come from him upon a question put, whether he had not advised Pedro so? So rare it is to get the truth from these wretches!

(*m*) Meaning the soldiers raised in this province for the expedition to the Spanish West Indies.

4. That he carried the said spoon to Van Dyke the silversmith, to sell; the spoon was battered up, and he told Van Dyke he believed it was a stolen spoon, but he answered he would buy it for all that; his son endeavoured to open the spoon, to see if he could discover the name, and broke it to pieces; Van Dyke bought it of him, and gave him a milled Spanish piece of eight, and he thinks, to the best of his remembrance, seven or eight shillings in pennies. It was about fourteen days time between his wife's bringing the spoon to him, and his carrying it to Van Dyke.

5. Never was at Kelly's the soldier's house, in his life.

6. Had no acquaintance with John Romme; never was at his house at the battery in his life.

7. That he never was in company with Jury alias Ury, now in jail, nor had he any acquaintance with him; nor was he ever at any congregation or meeting where the said Jury alias Ury, either preached or prayed.

8. That he has no other acquaintance with Connolly, now in jail, than common for one brother soldier with the other; never was at his house in his life.

9. Professed himself a protestant of the church of England, and said that he never was at any Roman catholic congregation in his life.

10. That he has heard Thankful Spotten, wife of James Spotten (both lodgers at his house) say, that she once saw a large company of negroes at Kelly's house, dancing to a fiddle; she said she then lodged at Kelly's; came home about eight of the clock at night, and one of the negroes (a tall one) asked her what business she had there? and threatened to kick her into the fire, if she did not go away: Kelly's wife asked her to go up stairs, and see the negroes dance; then she was going down stairs, and she met Mr. Kennedy's mulatto coming into the room, who huffed the negro fellow, and bid her sit down again.

While Kane was under examination, the under-sheriff came and informed the judges, that Mary Burton had declared, that she had often seen him at Hughson's, amongst Hughson, his wife, &c. and the negroes, when they were talking of the conspiracy, and that he was one of the confederates: whereupon she was ordered to be brought in, and being confronted with Kane, she immediately declared to the effect in the following deposition. The Chief Justice, who was a stranger to the transactions concerning the detection of the conspiracy (having been absent attending the execution of his majesty's special commission at Providence) he thought proper to admonish the witness in an awful

and solemn manner, concerning the nature of an oath, and the consequences of taking a false one, more especially as it affected a man's life: she answered, she was acquainted with the nature of an oath very well, and that she would not take a false one upon any account, and repeated the same charge against Kane over and over, and persisted in it, that what she said was truth; all which Kane as positively denied: whereupon she was sworn, and the following evidence taken.

Deposition No. 5.—Mary Burton being duly sworn and produced before William Kane, soldier, said that she had seen the said Kane at Hughson's very often, talking with Hughson, his wife and daughter, Peggy Salingburgh alias Kerry, Cæsar, Vaarck's; Galloway, Rutgers'; Prince, Auboyneau's, and Cuffee, Philipse's, negroes; and the discourse amongst them was, that they would burn the town, the fort first, the governor and all his family in it, and kill all the white people, and that she heard the said William Kane say, that he would help them all that lay in his power.

Then Mary Burton was ordered to withdraw, and Kane was apprized of the danger he was in, and told he must not flatter himself with the least hopes of mercy, but by making a candid and ingenuous confession of all that he knew of the matter, or to this purpose: but he still denied what had been alleged against him by Mary Burton, till upon most solemn admonition, he began to be affected; his countenance changed, and being near fainting, desired to have a glass of water, which was brought him, and after some pause, he said he would tell the truth, though at the same time he seemed very loth to do it; but after some hesitation began to open, and several hours were spent in taking down heads of his confession, which were afterwards drawn out at large, and distinctly read over to him, and being duly sworn, he made oath that the same was true, and (not knowing how to write) he put his mark to it.

Further examination and confession of William Kane, the same day—No. 2.

1. He said there was one Jerry Corker who tended in the governor's stable, near before Christmas last, when he was sentry at the governor's door, he came out, and he, Kane, being dry, asked him for some beer; he said he would get some, and had rum in his pocket, and would make flip, which he did in a copper pot with loaf sugar; that he, Kane, drank a draught, and when he was relieved at nine at night, Corker came into the guard-room, and asked him if he would go to Croker's at the fighting cocks, where there was to be a christening by a Romish priest? When they were there the people did not come that

night; they stayed till past ten: the next night they went again, and they were not there; the third night they went to New-street, to the house of one Coffin, a pedlar; there they had a child, and christened it, and three acted as priests, and handed the book about.

2. That about four days after, Corker and he were upon guard, and Corker said, by G—d I have a mind to burn the fort. Corker went away some time after the fire at the fort, to work in the country; he believed about the White-plains.

3. That he had heard Corker, John Coffin and Daniel Fagan talking about burning the town, before they went away.

4. One of those who acted as priest, was a little man that lodged at Croker's.(n)

5. That Fagan, Corker and Coffin drew him, Kane, behind the church to a meeting, and would have had him to rob houses with them and go off.

6. That he was at two meetings at Hughson's about the plot; the first was the second day of Christmas, and the second the last Sunday in February, before the fire at the fort:(o) Corker, Fagan and Coffin were at the first meeting; at the second he, Kane, was sworn to secrecy by Hughson; he first who discovered it was to be hanged at low-water mark, his privy-parts were to be cut out and thrown in his face, his belly ripped open, and his body eaten by the birds of the air: Hughson's father and three brothers, and an old white woman they said was crazy,(p) were present: at the second meeting he, Kane, and those men, and Sarah Hughson the daughter, were sworn together: they were to burn what they could of the city, and get what money and goods they could and carry them to Mr. Alexander's house, which was to be reserved for Mr. Hughson: we were to kill the principal people.

7. That if any people came from the country or West-Indies to conquer them; they were to kill the people belonging to the vessels here, and go to Spain: their design was to wait for the French and Spaniards, whom they expected; and if they did not come in six weeks, then they were to try what they could do for themselves(q) most of the negroes he believed would join

(n) Ury lodged there until he removed to Campbell's, to keep school with him.

(o) This agrees with the negro account of the great meeting there.

(p) Probably Luckstead, Hughson's mother-in-law, who pretended to tell fortunes.

(q) This also agrees with the negro account. See Comfort's Jack's confession, § 25.

them if they were like to succeed: this he learnt from Hughson and Corker. Hughson was to be king, and Vaarck's Cæsar the chief among the negroes.

8. That he has heard several negroes say, that Chief Justice's Othello was concerned; Comfort's Jack said so since the fire at the fort, and since the Chief Justice went to New-England.

9. That Corker, who attended the plumber the day the fort was burnt, was at Hughson's several times before he, Kane, was there, and brought him there. The priest, the little man that lodged at Croker's, was several times at Hughson's, and many negroes were christened there by him: he has endeavoured to seduce him, Kane, to the Romish religion(r) at Coffin's house; he, Kane, was asked whether he could read Latin? he said no; then whether he could read English? he said no; then Coffin read, and told him (Kane) what a fine thing it was to be a Roman; that they could forgive sins, and should not go to hell; he (Kane) answered, he would not believe that on any man's word; and there happened a squabble, and he (Kane) went away, or else he don't know but they would have seduced him, the priest and Coffin-pressed him so. He has not heard the priest say any thing of the conspiracy; but from Corker's account, he (Kane) believes he knew it.

10. That Connolly, on the Governor's Island, has owned himself to have been bred a priest, to him (Kane) and was often in company with Jury; Kelly is a Roman; Connolly and he were intimate.

11. That Kelly asked him (Kane) about new-year, if he would go to Hughson's? he asked for what? he (Kelly) said something was to be done there: he (Kane) asked what? he (Kelly) said something you have heard of before; he (Kane) asked what is that? he (Kelly) said, don't you know what Jerry Corker said to you before Christmas about burning the fort? What said he (Kane) is that in agitation still? Yes, said he (Kelly) and ever shall be till the fort be burnt down.

12. That Campbell had an opportunity to come to him (Kane) yesterday in jail, and said, though he could pay the debt he was in for, yet he believed they would not let him out, on account of the priest (Ury) that lodged at his house.

13. That he had seen Holt's Joe at Hughson's at the two meetings, and he said he would do his endeavours with the best.

(r) And it is said Kane was always reputed a papist.

14. That Holt(t) had (the year he left Mr. De Lancey's house, before he left it) whipt his negro Joe very severely, and Joe meeting him (Kane) the next day, when he, Kane, told him of his whipping; he said that cursed dog my master, is the greatest rogue in the world, he would burn all the town to get money; if you knew what was between him and Hughson it would make you stare: and this he repeated the next day.

15. That Walter's Quack has often said he would ride in the coach after he had destroyed his master; he was sworn by thunder and lightning, G-d's curse and hell fire fall on them that first discovered the plot, which was the negro oath.

16. Some black stuff was cut among the negroes, which he did not know, but heard it was to set fire to the roofs of houses in dry weather, he has seen one Harry a negro doctor that lives on Long-Island bring that stuff, and has seen him several times at Hughson's, and at the two meetings: he, Harry, was to bring the negroes poison to use (if they were taken) before they were executed; he, Kane, has seen him give poison (as they called it) to Walter's Quack for that purpose, in papers, which he, Harry, took out of his pocket; Quack said he should not be suspected, and he might go to the prison and carry victuals, and so could give the poison to those that were condemned, to prevent their execution: he, Kane, has seen doctor Harry give a large quantity to Hughson.

17. That Niblet's Sandy was at Hughson's at the first meeting; he (Kane) never was at Comfort's, but has seen the negroes there of Sundays, and come to Hughson's; and has seen three Spanish negroes at Hughson's, but does not know whose they are, except one of captain Sarly's, he should if he saw them know them again.

18. That at the second meeting he was at Hughson's about the plot, there were present about eight negroes, viz. Walter's Quack, Vaarck's Caesar, Philipse's Cuffee, Auboyneau's Prince, Carpenter's Albany, Chambers's Robin, Comfort's Jack, and Niblet's Sandy,(v) he saw all the negroes sworn, and the following ceremony was used: there was a black ring made on the floor about two feet and a half diameter, and Hughson bid every

(t) Holt, a dancing master, he came to this country from South Carolina about four or five years ago, of what religion we know not, but soon after the fire at the fort he thought proper to ship himself off to Jamaica, where he soon after died, and spared the hangman labour.

(v) Though Sandy always denied he ever was there.

one pull off the left shoe and put their toes within the ring, and Mrs. Hughson held a bowl of punch over their heads as the negroes stood round the circle, and Hughson pronounced the oath above mentioned, and every negro severally repeated the words after him, and then Hughson's wife fed them with a draught out of the bowl.

19. That Corker told him (Kane) that Hughson and he had designed to burn the English church last Christmas day, but that Ury the priest said they had better let it alone until better weather, that the roof might be dry and a larger congregation.— Their full design was to burn the English church; they had a greater spite against that than any other, especially this Jury.

20. That at the time that the eight negroes last mentioned were at Hughson's, he saw several other negroes in the house.

21. That at the first meeting that he was at Hughson's, about the plot, he saw Galloway there, and Galloway was very talkative and active about the plot, and said he would lend a brave hand, he would take care of his master, and soon make him breeches.^(w)

The above examination having been distinctly read over to the said William Kane, he being duly sworn, made oath, that the same was true, and signed his mark for his name.

SUPREME COURT.

MONDAY, JULY 6.

Present, the honourable James De Lancey, esq. chief justice, and the third justice.

Court opened and adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

This day John Coffin, pedlar, was apprehended and immediately brought before two of the judges, who examined him concerning the charge against him as one of the confederates in the conspiracy, the fellow seemed to be under terrible apprehensions, trembled and cried, but denied every thing alleged against him by Kane, particularly he protested that he did not know, nor was any wise acquainted with John Hughson, or ever saw him until he was hanged: that he never had any acquaintance with

^(w) He formerly belonged to a leather-dresser and glover.

Kane, nor was ever in his company but once, and then he drank a mug of beer with him at Eleanor Wallis's. Coffin was committed.

Le Roux's Quash, Judah Hays's Jack, negroes, were this day discharged by the third justice, pursuant to the recommendation of the grand jury, who did not credit the evidence of the negro London (Kelly's) which impeached them.

Evidence affecting these two negroes—London (Kelly's) confession, § 2.

This day also doctor Harry, a negro, was apprehended and committed.

SUPREME COURT.

TUESDAY, JULY 7.

Present, the chief justice, the second and third justices.

The King against Phoenix's Titus, Vaarck's Jonneau, Marston's Scotland, Wilkins' Fortune, Latham's Fortune, Burk's Sarah, negroes.

The prisoners having been indicted for the conspiracy, were thereupon arraigned, and pleaded *guilty*, and submitted to the mercy of the court.

The King against Sarah, Burk's negro.

The prisoner having pleaded *guilty*, the court passed sentence upon her to be hanged.

Ordered, that the said Sarah be executed on the morrow, between the hours of nine and one of the same day.

Court adjourned till Thursday, the 9th inst. ten o'clock in the morning.

The reason of the resolution for executing the negro wench Sarah, was that upon the trial of Gomez's Cuffee, Chambers's Robin, Peck's Cæsar, Comfort's Jack and Cook, and Ellison's Jamaica, six of the negro conspirators, she was found indorsed upon the indictment as a witness against every one of them, excepting only Jamaica, and when she was called to give her evidence she prevaricated grossly, and differed so widely from what was penned down from her in her several examinations, that the court could give no further credit to her evidence, so that she deservedly drew the rope about her own neck.

Examination and confession of Adam, before one of the judges, No. 2.—He said,

That he saw the negro doctor Harry at the house of John Hughson, about a week before Christmas last, there were present at that time, Hughson, his wife and daughter, Peggy, and Mary Burton; the doctor was then sworn of the plot, his hand upon the book and kissed it, he was to do as the rest, kill the white people and burn houses; that he had seen doctor Harry at Hughson's four or five times since.

2. That of a Sunday afternoon he saw the said Harry cross from the City-Hall down the Church-street, and so round the English church yard down to Hughson's, and he (Adam) went down to Hughson's and saw him there.

3. That he has seen him once in town about three weeks before the fort fired, and once going down to Hughson's, since the fort burnt. That he had heard he came over in a little canoe.(x)

Doctor Harry was sent for by two of the judges; and being charged with what was alleged against him as one of the conspirators, he stiffly denied all, and declared that he never was at Hughson's, nor had he been in town since he was ordered out by the magistrates.

Then he was confronted with Kane and Adam, who severally repeated the substance of what they had before declared in their examinations concerning him; but the doctor was stout, denied all, and was remanded.

The doctor was a smooth soft spoken fellow, and like other knaves affected the air of sincerity and innocence, but was of a suspicious character, well known to the magistrates of this city, had a few years before been forbid the town for mal-practice in physic, upon the penalty of being severely whipped if he was seen here again.

Examination of Sam, P. Low's negro—second confession.—
He said,

That last Easter was twelve months he went with Jacob, and Abrahams's Scipio to Hughson's house, that when he went in he saw judge Philipse's Frank and the widow Hyer's Tom drinking a mug of beer, that he did not speak to Frank nor to Tom at that time, that he does not know they ever had been told of the plot by either white people or negroes, and that they never mentioned the plot to them, nor they to him; but confesses that he (Sam) was sworn as one of the conspirators; the rest he refers to his former examination.(y)

(x) He lived upon Nassau, alias Long-Island.

(y) The 3d July.