



An Account of the last Dying Words and Execution of MRS. SHUTTLEWORTH, for the Murder of her Husband, on Friday the 7th of December inst. 1821, at Montross, near Edinburgh.

THIS day was fixed for the execution of the unfortunate Margaret Tindale, convicted of the murder of her Husband, Henry Shuttleworth. The appalling apparatus of death was erected yesterday in front of the gaol—a spectacle never before witnessed in this place. About the beginning of last week a petition was transmitted to his Majesty, signed by a number of respectable Gentlemen of the town, praying for a commutation of punishment, that the feelings of the inhabitants might be spared the horrible exhibition of a public execution—and that too of a female. An answer was last night received from the Secretary of State, stating that the case of the prisoner had already received the most minute investigation of the Privy Council, and that the Petition contained no grounds upon which his Majesty's advisers could feel themselves warranted to recommend the interposition of Royal clemency.

Provost Gibson, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Paterson, communicated the result of the Petition to the unfortunate woman. She heard the tidings which extinguished the last ray of hope with great composure, and stated that it was nothing but what she expected. On being visited by her sister the night before her execution, she spoke without any agitation concerning her unhappy situation and the dissection of her body, and reproved her sister for giving vent to the excess of her feelings. Dr. Patterson remained with her till about one o'clock of the morning, assisting her in acts of devotion. After he left her she retired to bed, slept about two hours, and was up and dressed by six o'clock.

In the forenoon she was visited by the Rev. Mr. Dodgson, of the English chapel, who administered the sacrament to her. The constables were summoned to attend in the Town Hall, at twelve o'clock, from which they proceeded about one o'clock, to the front of the prison. About a quarter past two the criminal was brought out, attended by the Rev. Mr. Molleson, Dr. Paterson, and Dr. Dodgson. A part of the 51st Psalm was sung, beginning at the seventh verse, in which a part of the audience joined.

The Rev. Dr. Paterson then delivered a most fervent and impressive prayer, during which the unfortunate woman knelt down, and joined with the greatest fervour. At this time the scene was awful and appalling beyond description. The criminal was neatly dressed in black, with a white apron, and altogether appeared in a clean and handsome manner. She now came forward with a firm pace; and after the executioner had adjusted the rope, she addressed the audience in a strong and audible voice—protesting her innocence of the crime for which she was to suffer, and cautioned the spectators against the vice of drunkenness, and the sin of Sabbath-breaking. Her last words were—"I die innocent—I loved my husband—I love my life—Jesus Christ have mercy on my soul."

About ten minutes before three the drop fell, and she closed her eyes on sublunary objects without any visible struggle.—After hanging about fifty minutes, the body was taken down, and put into a box, to be sent to Edingburgh for dissection, pursuant to her sentence.

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