

Execution.

An Account of the Execution of Mary M'Kinnon, who was Executed at Edinburgh, on wednesday, 16th of April, 1823, and her body given for Dissection, for the murder of William Howat, with her behaviour at the place of Execution.

This day, wednesday 16th April 1823, was executed, pursuant to her sentence, Mrs Mary M'Kinnon for the murder of William Howat, she was tried before the High Court of Justiciary on the 14th last month, and found guilty. From the evidence led at the trial, it appeared that Mr Howat, had had a dinner party on the 8th of February, consisting of five, at his Lodgings, in Broughton Street, and at 9 o'clock in the evening had left there, and proceeded along the Bridge to one of the party's house, when it was proposed by some of them to play a trick on one of the Gentleman, who was from the country, by taking him to a house of bad fame; they accordingly stopt on the South Bridge and went into a house kept by Mrs M'Kinnon; they called for a jug of Toddy, and were assisted in drinking it by 3 women belonging to the house, and when they were for going, the women clamoured about them drinking so little, and endeavoured to keep them within the house; at this time Mary M'Kinnon, who was previously out, came in, and swearing with an oath that she would soon settle them, went to a knife case, and seemed to select the one best suited for the bloody purpose, came and made a thrust at William Howat, who was standing with his back against the kitchen door; one of the Gentlemen observed her give the blow, and he immediately knock her down to prevent her doing further mischief. Howat was carried to the Infirmary when he languished until the 20th and died, some days before his death he distinctly pointed out the woman who stabbed him.

When sentence was pronounced, she fainted away, and was some minutes before she came to herself. Since that time she has behaved very becoming: she did not wish many strangers to visit her, but received the Clergy and other pious Gentlemen very civilly. She sent a petition to his Majesty praying for a mitigation of her sentence, but she received an answer, saying that her prayer could not be granted. She kept herself in hopes previous to the receiving the answer, but since that she was quite resigned to her fate.

From one of the witnesses evidence on her trial, it appears that she was a daughter of a quarter master in his Majesty's service; and that about the age of 15, she was seduced by an Officer, and was immediately disowned by her father, and shortly after neglected by her seducer. She has been for a number of years past, resident in Edinburgh. She was a fine stout looking woman rather lusty, and only 28 years of age.

The scaffold was erected at the usual place head of Liberton Wynd Lawn-market, near to the Lock-up-house before morning, and crowds began to assemble before 5 o'clock, and long before the hour not a foot could be stirred. She was removed from the Calton Jail to the Lock-up-house early on Monday morning and in the course of the forenoon, an unfavourable answer having been received to the second application for mercy made in her behalf it was communicated to her by the Rev. Andrew Thomson who has been unwearied with his attention to the unhappy convict. We understand that she listened to the dismal intelligence with seeming resignation.

After spending some time in the Lock-up-house in devotional exercises, the unhappy criminal proceeded about half past eight to the place of Execution, attended by the magistrates, officers, the Rev. Mr Porteous, and the Rev. Andrew Thomson. When on the fatal spot she conducted herself in the most becoming manner. A little before Nine the drop fell, and she was launched into that world from whence there is no return. Such a concourse of people on such an occasion has not been seen in Edinburgh for many years past.

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