

Execution AND Confession.

An account of the Execution of David Dobie and John Thomson, at Edinburgh on Wednesday the 18th August, 1830, with an account of their behaviour in Jail, and on the scaffold.

Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1830.

Shortly after seven o'clock this morning, the Magistrates, attended by the officers, were admitted to the Lock-up-house, where they found the two unfortunate men in eager conversation with the clergymen, who have since their condemnation been almost their constant visitors. Their minds seemed to be more settled at this awful moment, than what they were a few days previous, this, we judge, was owing to the state into which they were thrown, in taking the last farewell of their relations, who were admitted to see them. Scenes such as these we may picture to ourselves, but it is impossible to give a description;—the parting of Dobie with his wife and children was truly heart-rending, and for a moment we forget the brutality of his crime, in pity for the agonizing feelings of the unhappy wife.

After their sentence both of the criminals although sullen and quite did not seem to be aware of the propriety of applying themselves to the only from whence hope and consolation was now to be derived, and when spoken to on that head, shewed the greatest antipathy and ignorance of the subject. It was thought advisable, for more effectually impressing their awful and lost state on their minds, to separate them, so that the one's attention could not be led away by the discourse of the other; this had the desired effect, for both, from the solitude of their condition, turned their thoughts inward, and the clergymen afterwards found them both ready and willing to hear and converse on the means that was to prepare them for their awful end, and their souls' welfare in the world to come.

When any person spoke of the barbarous cruelty of the deed which they committed, a shudder was observed to come over them, and they more than once repeated, that being in a dismal state of intoxication, they were sensible afterwards of ill-using the woman, but to the brutal extent afterwards proved, they had no recollection of. Alas! what a warning for drunkards. Men to swallow a drug that brings them far below the most savage of the brute creation.

About 8 o'clock, after a long conference with the clergymen, and pathetic prayers offered up for them, the executioner made his appearance, and commenced pinioning the arms of both criminals. They then left the Lock-up-house, guarded by the Town officers and a strong body of police. On the road to the Scaffold, and for a minute after ascending, Dobie seemed as if he was anxious to recognise some person. The crowd was immense, not a point from whence the scaffold could be seen, but what was taken up. After prayers being put up, and a psalm sung, they mounted the drop, and the executioner immediately adjusted the ropes. They for a moment firmly grasped each others hand, and immediately after the signal was given, and they were launched into eternity.

Dobbie was 28 years of age, and Thomson about 22, both natives of Gilmerton, and from their being in the habit of supplying the inhabitants with coals in small quantities, were generally known in Edinburgh. Dobbie, in being conveyed from the Calton hill Jail last night, about 5 o'clock, appeared not the least moved, and mentioned the names of persons he saw from the Coach windows in a kind of jocular manner. Dobbie had a long conversation with Dr Lee on the scaffold, and drunk twice a little cold water.

