

ts ennobling spirit
 who gave the first
 to the block, like
 ere moments when
 ne Boleyn doubted
 sword of the exe-
 his doing so would
 by his ordering all
 There is an expres-
 that a rescue was
 was yet to be tried
 cle of seeing their
 eadsman, that the
 place on her hand-
 his conjugal victim
 he French manner
 as brought over to
 considered remark-
 unfortunate queen
 a the other prepara-
 as to terminate her
 mournful experience
 distinctions that had
 ure, power, royalty,
 d her?
 sad morning of her
 t, and resumed her
 us desire of having
 set, (which in such
), and the fact that
 rd," proves plainly
 n she was about to
 am Kingston, that
 protestation of her
 is sentenced to die
 .¹ It is difficult to
 e wrath of God by
 s Letters.

incurring the crime of perjury at such a moment. She had evidently no hope of prolonging her life, and appeared not only resigned to die, but impatient of the unexpected delay of an hour or two before the closing scene was to take place. This delay was caused by the misgivings of Henry, for Kingston had advised Cromwell not to fix the hour for the execution so that it could be exactly known when it was to take place, lest it should draw an influx of spectators from the city.¹

It does not appear that Anne condescended to implore the mercy of the king. In her letter of the 6th of May she had appealed to his justice, and reminded him that "he must hereafter expect to be called to a strict account for his treatment of her, if he took away her life on false and slanderous pretences;" but there is no record that she caused a single supplication to be addressed to him in her behalf. She knew his pitiless nature too well even to make the attempt to touch his feelings after the horrible imputations with which he had branded her, and this lofty spirit looks like the pride of innocence, and the bitterness of a deeply-wounded mind. While Kingston was writing his last report to Cromwell of her preparations for the awful change that awaited her, she sent for him, and said, "Mr. Kingston, I hear I shall not die afore noon, and I am very sorry therefor, for I thought to be dead by this time, and past my pain."—"I told her," says Kingston, "that the pain should be little, it was so subtle." And then she said, "I have heard say the executioner is very good, and I have a little neck," and put her hands about it, laughing heartily. "I have seen men and also women executed, and they have been in great sorrow," continues the lieutenant of the Tower, "but, to my knowledge, this lady hath much joy and pleasure in death. Sir,

¹ These are his words: "Sir,—These should be to advertise you that I have received your letter, wherein you would have strangers conveyed out of the Tower; and so they be, by the means of Richard Gresham, and William Lake, and Wythspall. But the number of strangers past not thirty, and not many of these armed; and the ambassador of the emperor had a servant there honestly put out. Sir, if the hour be not certain, so as it be known in London, I think there will be but few; and I think a reasonable number were best, for I suppose she will declare herself to be a good woman, for all men but the king, at the hour of her death."