

wished for the opinion of a Higher Court. The judge granted the request but expressed his opinion against the validity of the plea. It was comic opera of a type more grotesque than any staged by Gilbert and Sullivan.

Smith was placed on a diet of bread and water, but as our author says "paid no attention, patted his hands, sang and acted the fool as usual".

The gaoler could not miss the opportunity of lecturing his prisoner and said, "Smith, it is too late for you to deceive any more and you had better employ your little time in making your peace with God, than to act the fool any longer". He discovered proof too of Smith's duplicity when he found a leaf turned down in the Testament "If any man among you seemeth to be wise, let him become a fool that he may be wise".

Smith's insanity was marked at times and he now stripped off every particle of clothing leaving himself entirely naked, but evidently became less excited as is shown by the following extraordinary letter which was published in the Royal Gazette July 11th, 1815.

"My Dear Sir,—Having heard nothing from you since the late Jail Delivery at King's County, I beg leave briefly to state to you some circumstances of the conduct of the criminal Henry More Smith, since his trial and sentence. After securing him with strong chains to his neck and legs, and with handcuffs he continued beating the floor, hallooing day and night with little intermission, making different sounds; sometimes with jinking his chains: and sometimes without, apparently in different parts of the jail, insomuch that the jailer frequently sent for me, supposing he must be loose from his chains, which I conceived and frequently observed was impossible, being far beyond the power of human strength or invention, in his situation; but on the 24th of May, going into the jail early in the morning (after having examined his chains at 2 o'clock the day before), I found three links of his heaviest chain separated, and lying on the floor, being part of the chain without the staple. He continued in the same way until the 2d of June, when we found the largest chain parted about the middle and tied with a string: which clearly proves that irons and chains are no security for him. I then put on him a light chain, with which he has been ever since. I never discovered him at work at any thing, but he frequently produced effigies or likenesses, very striking, representing his wife. He now produced an effigy of a man in perfect shape, with his features painted, and joints to all his limbs, and dressed him in clothes that he had made in good shape and fashion, out of the clothes that he had torn off himself (being now naked), which was admired for its ingenuity. This he would put sometimes in one position and sometimes in another, and seemed to amuse himself with it, without taking the least notice of anything else; continuing in his old way hallooing, without any alteration, until the