

Je viens d'apprendre à l'instant qu'on devait me transférer demain à la Prison de Poitiers (Département de la Vienne), où je prie votre Excellence de me faire connaître le résultat de mes réclamations.

Mes noms et prénoms sont, Surteau Lamirande, Charles Constant Ernest.

(Translation.)

Excellency, *Paris, Prison of the Police Prefecture, September 11, 1866.*

I HAVE been carried off from the prison of Montreal, where I had been committed on an unjust sentence to await my extradition, under such circumstances that in making them known to your Government I think it will perceive therein a violation of the English law, and of the Treaty of Extradition between France and England, and that it will be able to authorize you to reclaim me from the Emperor's Government.

The sentence which had committed me for the purpose of extradition was appealed against, and the case, already brought on and argued before a Judge of a higher rank than the first one, was to be concluded the next day at 11 o'clock in the morning by the decision of this Magistrate, when the following facts occurred:—

At 11 o'clock at night, after having been present at the pretended departure of the Montreal train for Quebec, the Magistrate in question came to assure himself that I was safe in prison. Between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning I received an order from the Governor of the prison to get up and depart. The French Police Officer, who was sent in pursuit of me, took possession of me with the assistance of several other persons, by force, and without being able to show me the order by virtue of which they were carrying me off. I was placed in a carriage, and taken to a station of the Montreal and Quebec Railway (I think the St. Charles Station), and not to the Montreal terminus. For, making a false start, in order to deceive the public and my counsel, as well as the Judge who was to deliver judgment the following morning at 11 o'clock, and the authorities themselves, the train was started at its usual time, 10 o'clock, and was stopped for three or four hours at the above-mentioned station. I was shut up in custody of three men in a compartment reserved for the use of the servants of the Company. I saw Mr. Spilthorn, one of my New York counsel pass by, probably the only person who had succeeded in discovering my abduction. I wished to speak to him; I was prevented by force. On arriving at Quebec I was put on board the "Damascus," the departure of which had been delayed, and where the counsel of whom I have just spoken, asked by virtue of what order I was thus carried off; the persons who surrounded me replied, that they had no explanations to give him; that they were executing their orders, and had no papers to show. He retired, protesting against this incredible abuse of power.

On arriving at Liverpool, where there was no Magistrate competent to take cognizance of my case, I was taken to London, where I was told such a Magistrate would be found. There I was taken by night to an hotel situated in a street the name of which I do not know, nor yet that of the hotel. Three persons came there; I was told they were lawyers engaged by a despatch from M. Doutre, my counsel at Montreal. After a conversation, at which I was not present, between these gentlemen and a Canadian who accompanied me from Montreal with the French police officer, these three gentlemen retired without my being able to hold any communication with them. At 6 o'clock in the morning I was taken from the hotel and conducted by railway to Dover, from which place I was embarked for France.

When I tell your Excellency that the sentence of the first Judge makes me answerable for the crime of forgery which I do not consider I have committed, either according to French or English laws; that in the proceedings taken against me at New York this count in the indictment was even abandoned; that the Crown Counsel at Montreal himself acknowledged that I had not committed this crime; that besides I do not at all demand to be given up to England to be set at liberty there, but only in order that the proceedings interrupted by force at Montreal may go on, or that I am ready, if it is preferred, to submit the case to the High Court of England, or it matters not to what other jurisdiction, it appears to me that the Queen's Government may be impressed by these weighty reasons, and may request you to reclaim me from the Government of the Emperor.

I beg your Excellency to be pleased to transmit my letter to the English Government and to acknowledge its receipt.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

E. S. LAMIRANDE.

P.S.—The document which those persons who carried me off did not possess, was I