

blasphemy and what had she done that was blasphemous. She had refused to say that the "wafer" in the Romish communion was the real body and the real blood of Jesus Christ, and refused to adore it. The question was asked, "Do you believe the consecrated host is the real body and real blood of Jesus Christ?" On the answer her life would hinge. She knew it. But she dared not give a false answer. "I do not believe it," she calmly replied. All eyes were fixed on the woman, who could not be frightened. She could boldly say, "*I do not believe it.*"

"What was now to be done? One would suppose that such an honest opinion of what is as plain as day light, would not meet with harshness.—But while all eyes gazing, the Judge rose and pronounced upon her the sentence of DEATH. The sentence was in these words:—

"In view of the answers of the Jury and the discussions of the cause, &c, it is proved that the accused, MARIA JOAQUINA, perhaps forgetful of the principles of the Holy religion she received in her first years, and to which she still belongs, has maintained conversations and arguments condemned by the Church, maintaining that veneration should not be given to images; denying the real existence of Christ in the sacred host; mystery of the most Holy Trinity, blaspheming against the most Holy Virgin, the mother of God, and advancing other expressions against the doctrines received and followed by the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church, expounding these condemned doctrines to different persons thus committing the crimes of heresy, blasphemy, &c., I condemn the accused Maria Joaquina, to suffer DEATH, as provided in the law; the cost of the process to be paid out of her goods.

Funchal Oriental, in Public Court, May 2nd, 1844.

JOSE PERREIRA LEITO PITTA ORTEGUEIRA NEGRAO, *Judge, &c.*

"Such a sentence ought to go down to every generation that will know anything of Romanism. Remember this was not done in the dark ages, but in 1844. It was not for murder nor treason, but for daring to deny an absurdity. She had not united with any Protestant Church; she had simply refused to believe an error.

"She thought the sentence would be as unchangeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. She did not ask the Court to reverse it. No apology escaped her lips, no mercy was asked; but she stood with heroic firmness, and commended her persecutors to God praying for their salvation. Death had no terror for such a spirit. Her Lord endured the shame of the cross, and she was ready to die in any shameful way that they dare propose. Her expectation was soon to be in Heaven.

"The English people on the island were deeply affected by such a cruel procedure. They drew up a petition to the Queen of Portugal, asking that this Christian lady might not be so unjustly put to death. An appeal was also carried up to the higher Court, and in 1845, it was declared, that as there had been no trial for two of the charges (heresy and apostacy) she might be released from the penalty of death, but should be kept in prison for three months and should pay a fine of six dollars. But how could she pay this fine? They would not allow her friends to do it. So she must suffer on the fine. Month after month she was kept in the dismal prison. For these six dollars she was imprisoned twenty three months. In all she was kept in prison more than two years and a half."