

The official record is perfectly regular, stating that the condemned man "fell dead instantly, without a struggle or a movement, pierced with twelve balls, nine in the breast and three in the head. Conformably to military regulations, the body remained exposed on the place of execution for a quarter of an hour." It was then "placed upon a litter, covered with a cloth, and carried by the veterans to the hospital for foundlings. At 6.30 the next morning it was conveyed to the burial ground of Père la Chaise, in a hearse, followed by a mourning coach and several other coaches." It had been inclosed in a leaden coffin within an oak one."

In view of this testimony, how can anyone doubt that Ney was executed on the 7th of December, 1815?

The doubters might be scanty in number, and those might be only the few people still alive who were residents of certain parts of North Carolina and the adjacent country between the years 1819 and 1846, and others who have heard and believed the current traditions concerning this matter, had not a thorough investigation been undertaken and carried through by the Rev. Jas. A. Weston, who for twelve years gathered and sifted the evidence with rare perseverance and indefatigable zeal. His work involved two trips to Europe and many journeys in this country, besides a voluminous correspondence, and the results are such as to force every candid person to admit that the testimony collected is both interesting and convincing.

Sufficient space remains for only a brief résumé of the evidence. It must be remembered that Wellington was a free mason of high rank, and so was Ney. Wellington was not all powerful. Some of the allies of England were as vindictive as the Bourbons. Blücher, for instance, wished to have Napoleon shot at the same place where he had had the Duc d'Enghien executed, and at the same hour of the day. But here was a brother of the craft, unjustly condemned. The hastily contrived execution was delayed until arrangements for a *post mortem* rescue, if such a term may be used, could be devised.

According to Mr. Weston's account of the affair, old soldiers were selected who were devoted to Ney. As he walked by the file, he whispered, "Aim high!" When he struck his hand upon his heart, he burst a bag of red fluid, resembling blood, placed there for that purpose, and fell quickly so that the balls would pass over him. The "leaden coffin within an oak one" was a convenient makeweight, well calculated to carry through the deception. That night he rode eighty miles on a swift horse, and a few days later he