

this were not immediately done, all the prisoners should forthwith be put to death. Enquiry was instantly made. Five men were found to have engaged in the conspiracy, but only one of them actually launched the stone. This individual—an Englishman—was delivered up to a guard of soldiers, and he was conducted out of the prison, expecting nothing but instant death by the guillotine. To our great astonishment, however, on the following day a message was sent into the prison, stating, that under all the circumstances of the case, the council had come to the resolution of referring the culprit to the judgment of the prisoners themselves ; and that when they had determined what punishment to inflict upon him, the council would send a deputation from the town to see it carried into execution. The offender was accordingly delivered into our custody, and the whole case was minutely investigated by a tribunal of our own. After finding the prisoner guilty, the sentence of the court was pronounced upon him,—That he should receive 300 lashes upon his naked back, in the presence of all the prisoners, and of the committee appointed to witness the punishment.

The time appointed for carrying the sentence into execution arrived. All the prisoners were summoned to attend in the yard. The commissary himself, attended by the principal magistrates of the town, repaired to the spot. Two stakes had been driven into the ground in the centre of the yard ; to these the culprit was bound by his arms and legs, and the flogging commenced. After a few lashes the blood began to flow. Before he had received fifty lashes, the whole of his back appeared to be raw and streaming with blood. Affected with the cries and groans of the sufferer, and the mangled appearance of his body, the French gentlemen who were present declared themselves satisfied, and besought that the remainder of the sentence might be remitted ; even the commissary himself relented ; and at the united entreaty of the deputation, who were satisfied with the punishment already inflicted, he was taken down from the stakes, and conveyed into the prison. Whether or not it was from the accumulation of distresses, which we were known by the inhabitants of Quimper to have endured, or from the naturally humane and benevolent temper of the French nation, which was now gaining the ascendancy over the demon of cruelty and massacre which Jacobinism had let loose among them, we knew not ; we could not, however, but mark a decided improvement in their treatment of us from this time. The quality of our bread was greatly improved ; a ration of salt-fish, or beef, was added to our daily allowance of food ; and the health of the surviving prisoners began to improve. The former commissary, however, was never more seen amongst us, and another was appointed as his successor. Our wonted employments began to be resumed, and the cheering thought, that we might yet survive to tell our tale on British ground, gave excitement to hope, and vigour to industry.—*ibid.*