

the evening of the 27th of December in the same year, and after an exact inventory of his moveables had been taken and sealed up in his presence, he was secretly conveyed to the castle of Angelo. We shall not enter into the particulars of his trial, but content ourselves with observing, that it is asserted with uncommon acrimony, that his religion "tended towards deism;" that during twenty-seven years of his life he was never perceived to make the sign of the cross; and that "he was not a diligent observer of the precepts of the church which enjoin the hearing of masses on festivals, and fasting and abstaining from flesh meat on certain occasions." The only crime fairly proved against him was that of being a "free mason;" this however is a capital felony within the ecclesiastical state, by an edict of Clement xii. "of glorious memory," confirmed by a bull of "the immortal Benedict xiv." Accordingly Cagliostro being convicted of this "deadly sin," notwithstanding the knowledge and abilities of Signor Gaetano Bernardini, and Signor Charles Louis Constantini, the counsel assigned him, he was condemned to death. The process was then carried before the general assembly of the holy office on the 21st of March, 1791, and, according to custom, was referred to the Pope on the 7th of April following.

We shall conclude this curious article by a copy of the definitive sentence, which will convey a lasting reproach on the reign of Pius the vi. who, under such slight pretences, detained, tried, and condemned Cagliostro to perpetual imprisonment.

"Joseph Balsamo, attainted and convicted of many crimes, and of having incurred the censures and penalties pronounced against formal heretics, dogmatists, heresiarchs, and propagators of magic and superstition, has been found guilty and condemned to the censures and penalties denounced, as well by the apostolic laws of Clement xii. and of Benedict xiv. against those who in any manner whatever favor or form societies and conventicles of free masons, as by the edict of the council of state; against those who are guilty of this crime at Rome, or any other place under the dominion of the Pope.

"Notwithstanding this, by way of special grace and favour, this crime, the expiation of which demands the delivery of the culprit over to the secular arm, to be by it punished with death, is hereby changed, and commuted into perpetual imprisonment, in a fortress, where the culprit is to be strictly guarded, without any hope of pardon whatever. And after he shall have made abjuration of his offences, as a formal heretic, in the place of his imprisonment, he shall be absolved from ecclesiastical censures; and certain salutary penance is to be prescribed to him, to which he is hereby ordered to submit.

"The manuscript book entitled, "Egyptian Masonry," is hereby solemnly condemned, as containing rites, propositions, a doctrine and a system, which open a road to sedition, as tending to destroy the Christian religion, and as being superstitious, impious, heretical, and abounding in blasphemy: this book shall be burnt by the hand of the executioner; and also the other books, symbols, &c. &c. appertaining and belonging to that sect.

"By a new apostolic law, we shall confirm and renew not only the laws of the preceding pontiffs, but also the edict of the council of state, which prohibits the societies and conventicles of free masons, making particular mention of the Egyptian sect, and of another vulgarly called the *Illumin-*