

**A full and authentic report of the trial of Jonathan Martin at the Castle of York, on Tuesday, March 31, 1829, for setting fire to York Minister; with an account of the life of the lunatic. The destruction of the choir of York Cathedral, on the second of February, 1829; the flight and apprehension of the incendiary; his examination and commitment to York city gaol; the proceedings at public meetings held at York, in consequence of the fire; embellished with a striking likeness of Martin and a ground plan of the minister.**

### **Publication/Creation**

York : H. Bellerby, 1829.

### **Persistent URL**

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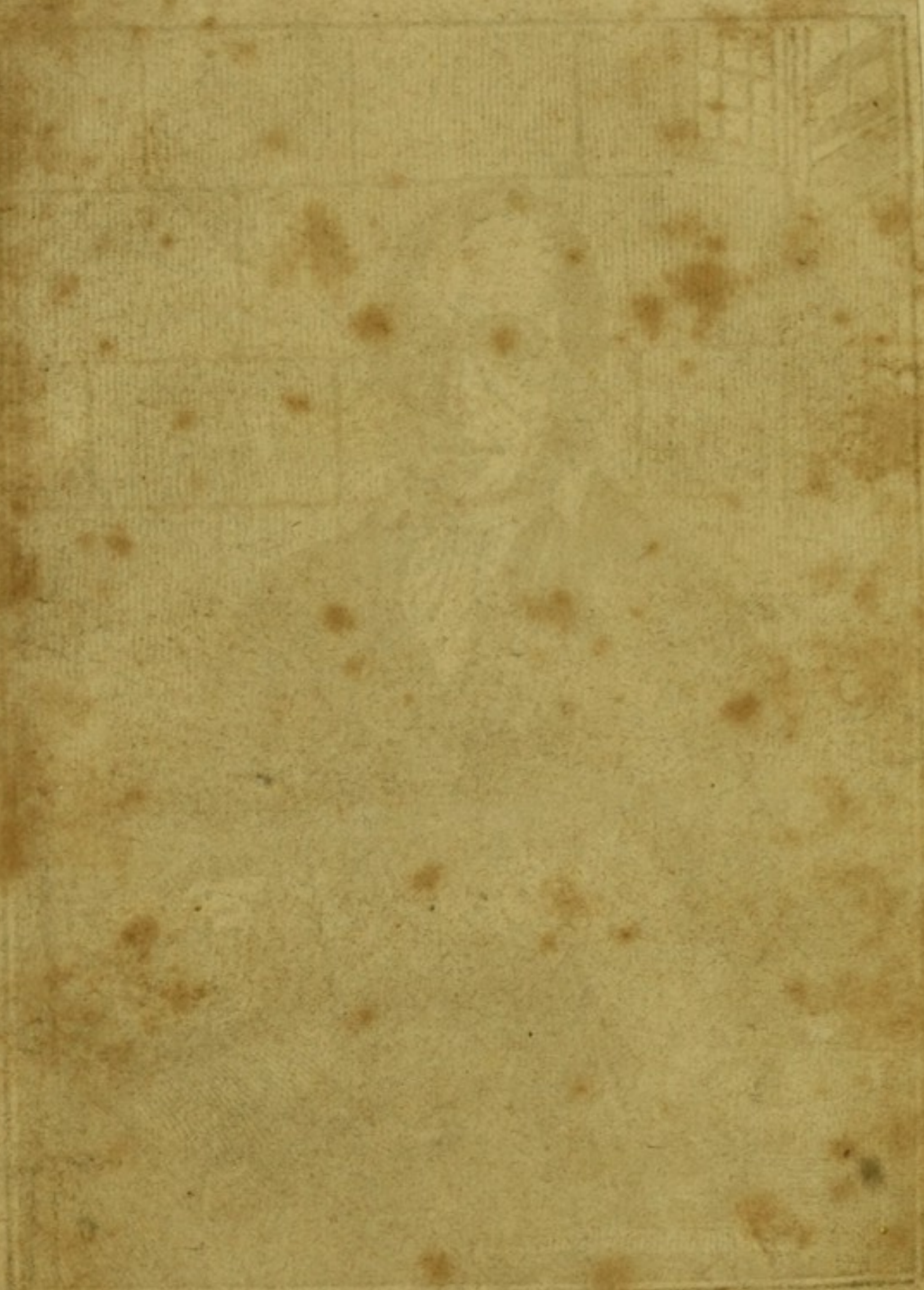
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## JONATHAN MARTIN

### THE LUNATIC,

Who set York Minster on Fire, February 2, 1829.

*From a Painting by Mr. E. Lindley, taken in Prison, by permission of the Magistrates.*

March 31, 1829.

YORK ;—Published by H. BELLERBY, 13, Stonegate.



861.49

A  
FULL AND AUTHENTIC REPORT  
OF THE  
TRIAL  
OF  
JONATHAN MARTIN;  
*At the Castle of York, on Tuesday, March 31, 1829,*  
FOR SETTING FIRE TO YORK MINSTER;  
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE  
LIFE OF THE LUNATIC;  
THE  
DESTRUCTION OF THE CHOIR OF YORK CATHEDRAL,  
*On the Second of February, 1829;*  
THE FLIGHT AND APPREHENSION OF THE  
INCENDIARY;  
HIS  
EXAMINATION AND COMMITMENT TO YORK CITY GAOL;  
THE  
PROCEEDINGS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD AT YORK,  
*In Consequence of the Fire, &c. &c.*

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EMBELLISHED WITH  
A STRIKING LIKENESS OF MARTIN,  
AND A  
GROUND PLAN OF THE MINSTER.

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YORK:

PUBLISHED BY H. BELLERBY, AT HIS PUBLIC LIBRARY, 13, STONE-  
GATE; AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

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1829.

*Price One Shilling.*



TRUE AND AUTHENTIC REPORT

OF THE

TRIAL

OF JONATHAN MARTIN;

at the Court of Sessions, New York, on Tuesday, March 21, 1833.

FOR SEIZING FIRE TO YORK MINSTER.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE

LIFE OF THE LUNATIC;

THE

RECEPTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE CATHEDRAL

On the evening of Wednesday, 1833.

THE FLIGHT AND APPREHENSION OF THE  
LEGENDARY

THE

RECEPTION AND COMMITMENT TO YORK CITY GAOL

THE

PROCEEDINGS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD AT YORK

In consequence of the Fire, &c.

ENLARGED WITH

A STRIKING LIKENESS OF MARTIN,

AND A

GROUND PLAN OF THE MINSTER.

YORK:

PRINTED BY H. B. LEECH, AT HIS PRINTING OFFICE, 13, STONE  
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1833.

Price One Shilling.



## THE LIFE, &c.

OF

## JONATHAN MARTIN.

THE materials for the Life of this man,—(who, if he had not, like another Eratosthenes, acquired for himself an infamous notoriety, by setting fire to the Temple of the Divinity, would have sunk into his grave almost unknown, and unregarded,)—are chiefly to be found in the eccentric production which he compiled himself; and which certainly presents as singular a picture of the aberrations of the human mind, as we have met with, since the celebrated Brothers published his wild and mystical prophecies. It is difficult to decide in what class we are to rank the author,—whether in that of the sincere but fanatical enthusiast, or the knavish impostor: certainly his work bears every trait of the production of a man, driven mad by the peculiar notions he had imbibed: though his conduct frequently presented instances of shrewdness and calculation, which would bespeak a sane and rational mind.

Jonathan Martin, according to his own account, was born at Hexham, in Northumberland, in 1782, of poor, but honest parents, by whom, at a proper age, he was put apprentice to a tanner. He appears to have served his apprenticeship with steadiness and regularity; and, on its expiration, when he was in his 22d year, he removed to London, his mind being intent on travelling to foreign countries. Soon after his arrival in the metropolis, as he was one day viewing the Monument, a man accosted him, and inquired if he wanted a situation: Martin told him he wished to go abroad; on which the man replied, that he could suit him exactly, as a gentleman of his acquaintance had a son on board a frigate on the Indian station, who wanted a person of Martin's description, and would give him 32s. per month, besides his chance of prize-money. Martin eagerly accepted this offer; but soon found that he had fallen into the hands of a press-gang: and he was sent to the Nore, where he was placed on board the *Hercules*, 74, which formed a part of the expedition against Copenhagen, in 1804, under Lord Nelson. After the surrender of the Danish fleet, he was drafted into one of the prizes, an 84-gun ship, and with a squadron of seven other vessels, proceeded to Lisbon, to



blockade the Russian fleet in the Tagus, in order to prevent its falling into the hands of the French. These ships were taken by the British, and were brought to England.

The next affair Martin mentions as being engaged in, was in assisting to bring off the troops from Corunna, in January, 1809. He says, setting sail from Vigo Bay,

"We reached Corunna in one day, and then approached the shore; the numerous carcasses of dead horses all floating in the Bay, shewed us the toil our army had suffered. We could plainly see the French and English camps from our ships, each occupying a hill very near the other: we made every exertion to get close in, to cover the embarkation of our troops, who were sadly annoyed by the fire from the French artillery on the heights. Our ships replied to the French, as well as the heavy sea then setting would allow. By great exertion, the whole embarkation was completed. They then directed their batteries against our transports, who had to slip their cables, and stand out of the reach of their guns. During this scene of confusion and terror, several boats were sunk by the fire from the enemy, and some by the violence of the sea. Our vessels presented an awful spectacle from the number and condition of the wounded, who occupied our cockpit, cable tier, and every spare place on board; and whose misery was rendered greater by the tempest which arose, and prevented that attention being paid to them which their situation required—a great number perished solely on this account. During the gale five transports were lost, from which only few lives could be saved, owing to the state of the weather and the rocky nature of the coast."

Having landed the wounded men in England, the ship on board of which Martin was, sailed for Lisbon, and subsequently was ordered off Cadiz. About this time, he says—

"I began to see my lost and ruined state as a sinner, and to cry to God for mercy and salvation, hoping he would spare me to return to my native land, when I would join myself to the people of God. But alas! my vows often repeated were as often broken. Notwithstanding, the Lord heard my prayers, and restored me to my parents as safe and well as when I left them. My deliverance from on board a man of war was extraordinary, but the Lord having given me favour in the sight of the whole crew, when all hands were piped to breakfast, a boat appointed for the purpose was brought under our bows, and the soldiers formed a circle on the forecastle of the ship, to prevent the sentry seeing what was going forward; I dropped into the boat and got ashore, and remained in safety at the waterman's house, until our ship sailed. I entered on board a transport going to Egypt for corn for our troops then lying at Messina. When I arrived in Egypt, I was filled with delight on beholding the place where our blessed Lord took refuge from the rage of Herod; and where the wisdom of Joseph, (directed by Almighty God,) saved



the land of Egypt, and his own father's house from the effects of the seven years famine, of which I had so often read. A wide range of buildings was pointed out to me by the Turks, and which they said formerly held the corn preserved by Joseph. Reflecting on these things, led me to review my mis-spent life, and to see how often God had preserved me in many dangers, and how ill I had requited him; so that my thoughts troubled me sore, and I resolved anew to amend my life. I began to be comforted by reflecting, that he preserved me for wise purposes, and that I should live to praise him. Blessed be the name of the Lord, I was not disappointed."

Martin here relates several "occasions in which the Lord, in an especial manner, shewed, that he was under his care." The following is a specimen of this part of his narrative.

"At another time, being on our main yard, and losing my balance, I found myself falling; there seemed nothing to save me from being dashed to pieces, the loose end of the tracing line about an inch thick was hanging near me; I got it round my left hand, and grasping it with my right, the swing of the rope, together with my weight, threw me overboard; and I remained suspended by my arm, within a few feet of the sea, until my shipmates came to my assistance; and I praised God that I received no material injury, (except my arm being a little wrenched by my weight.) Again, falling by accident out of a gun port, my shipmates succeeded in rescuing me when not able to help myself. And being on the top gallant yard, the topping-lift broke, and the end I was on went down like the end of a beam; in my fall I grappled with the backstay, and brought myself up, and landed on the cross trees; thus the Almighty preserved me from death, when there was no other hope, the height from the deck being about 80 feet."

There is nothing extraordinary in this: those who go down to the deep in ships, are daily witnesses of preservations equally, or more remarkable: that they do not make the impression they ought upon the giddy thoughtless seamen, affords no reason for Martin's thinking that he was under the particular care of the Most High, who intended him for some great work; which seems to have been the impression on his mind: at any rate, it is that he wished to convey to his readers.

Martin does not tell us how long he remained in the transport service; but when he was paid off, he proceeded to Newcastle to visit his parents; and then went to work with Mr. Page, of Norton, in the county of Durham, at his employment as a tanner; and here he observes, "commenced that series of trials, which almost obliterated the remembrance of his former difficulties; and which, were they not well-known to many now living, might appear to border on romance." In reading his life, however, we can find no traces of "trials," which were not brought upon himself; and there is very little of the "romantic" about them. A few months after his residence at Norton, he married; and shortly



subsequent to the birth of a son, his parents died. Not long after, he dreamed that his mother came to see him, and told him, he would be hanged—which dream made a strong impression on his mind.

He began now to be troubled with doubts as to his spiritual state, and with remorse for not having kept a vow, made before he left the sea, to join himself with God's people. He was visited with dreams, which tormented him both sleeping and waking: his shopmates were also a great cross to him, as they used to assail him with profane talk and licentious songs;—and he began to visit the church and the Methodist chapel alternately, and to think seriously of the Sacrament. He soon after attended a love-feast, for the first time, at Yarm; and appears to have joined the Methodist Connexion, though he did not all at once forsake the Church. But having obtained, what he terms, "perfect liberty," at one of the love-feasts, the lukewarm state of the Established Church began to grieve him; and he felt powerfully impelled to warn the people of their danger.

"I knew," he says, "that the Clergy were in the habit of going to balls, plays, races, card parties, and other sources of amusement; and instead of warning their flocks to flee from the wrath to come, were setting them a most pernicious example. I knew also that I was not authorized by law to interfere with the Establishment. I betook myself to fasting and prayer, earnestly seeking direction of the Lord, how I should proceed in this matter. I dreamed on Friday night, that a man held out to me a piece of honeycomb, of which I did eat, and felt refreshed, and concluded this a gift divine, I felt greatly encouraged. On Saturday, I gave away most of my working clothes among my shop-mates, having fully resolved to confess my Lord and Saviour, the next day, before the congregation; not doubting but the step I was about to take would lead me into trouble. I spent that night chiefly in prayer, for strength to perform the task I had undertaken, of warning the people of their dangerous state by their carnal security, the necessity of repentance, and regeneration, by the operation of the Spirit; and finally, of their having the witness of the Holy Ghost, that their sins were blotted out, through faith in a crucified Saviour."

He accordingly entered the Church with the clerk early in the morning; and whilst the latter went to ring the bell, Martin took possession of the pulpit, and having folded down the 4th chapter of St. Mark, verses 21, 22, and 23, he remained till the prayers were over; when he began to preach, but of course was soon ejected from the pulpit, though he was suffered to remain in the church.—Amongst other visions which he relates, as being favoured with at this time, was the following:

"I dreamed that I was called to the city gates of London, and beheld the inhabitants tearing each other's flesh in the most horrible manner, and I heard a voice speak to me, 'In one day this city shall be burnt to the ground.' And I was taken by the



Spirit to the banks of a river, and I commenced digging the earth, and cast up several sharp-edged weapons, in particular a large axe, stained with human blood. I took hold of it, and that instant there appeared, as I thought, St. James, and I struck off his head at one blow, and awoke out of my sleep. This strange concern opprest me in the spirit, and I said, 'this is no other than popery and persecution are intending to come forward amongst true Christians. O! England, beware of popery.'

Martin now began to write letters to the Clergy, and other members of the Church, "entreating them, as they valued their souls, to amend their lives, and flee to the blood of sprinkling for mercy and pardon." His conduct seems to have been so improper, so marked by a "zeal not according to knowledge," that he was expelled the Methodist Society; and he complains, that his religious friends were afraid to own him—he was left alone in the world; and to add to his troubles, he lost his employment. He then went to Whitby, and worked for a few weeks, but soon returned to Norton, and from thence went to Bishop Auckland, where he obtained employment; and determined once more to attempt exhorting the people in the church; he was, however, taken out by a constable; and then he began that practice, which he appears never afterwards to have abandoned, of posting papers on the church doors, as a warning to the Clergy and congregations. The following are copies of two of these singular productions.

"O hear the word of the Lord, oh ye lost and benighted dark clergymen, you, who are building on a form of duties, and your good works that is like the man that built his house upon the sands, that when the wind blows and the mighty thunder storms of God's heavy vengeance rush upon your house, away goes your sandy foundations, and you to the hot bottomless pit of hell, dragging thousands upon tens of thousands after you; the great and mighty will have to curse the day that ever they sat under your blind doctrine, for you will not have the Lord Jesus to reign over you, for you will go to heaven in your silver slippers, and on a sun shining day with your balls, and plays, and card tables, and all other worldly pleasures in one hand, and your blind religion in the other; stop, O! lost and blind souls, and think before you drop into hell; think not that I am your enemy, but it is for the love I have for your souls, that are hanging over the gaping pit of hell, gaping wide to receive you, when your brittle thread of life is cut. Now oh repent, repent, the sword of Justice is at hand.

JONATHAN MARTIN."

"Oh! hear the word of the Lord, you clergymen, for the mighty sword is expanded over your guilty heads, now shall you come to a complete dissolution, now shall your candlesticks be completely overthrown; now shall your blindness come to the light, and your shame before all the people, for the Lord will not suffer you to deceive the work of his hands any longer; oh! pre-



pare yourselves to meet your God, you double hearted sinners; cry aloud for mercy, and now shall my God make bare his arm and conquer the devil your great master, for the monster of hell shall be completely overthrown, and you and him shall not deceive the nations any longer, for now shall God be worshipped in spirit and truth, now you shall and must throw away your little books you carry into the pulpit to deceive the people with; you now preach for wine and gluttonous living, and not for precious souls, will you not get your portion with the rich man in hell, if you do not repent and find mercy.

JONATHAN MARTIN,

Your sincere Friend."

Martin still continued his singular and highly improper conduct, in disturbing the public worship of the church. He says,

"My soul was filled with pity and zeal for the church at Bishop Auckland. At one time I went to South Church, and heard the Minister say in his discourse, 'that he never knew or heard tell of any learned man or philosopher, who knew his sins were forgiven, and that he did believe himself, that such a change could not take place until they changed worlds.' The bitterness of my soul constrained me to cry out, 'Thou hast no business in that pulpit, thou whitened sepulchre, thou deceiver of the people, how canst thou escape the damnation of hell.' I was determined to address the people on the following Sunday, and tell them the state they must be in under such a ministry, and of the justness of that God, who will judge the world in righteousness. John Bunyan admonished his hearers to an upright and strict life, being assured if they were neglected, they were void of religion, and popery would again spread through England. Like poor John Bunyan I was pulled out of the place as soon as I began to speak. The Clergyman employed an attorney to write against me, and I was apprehended as a vagabond; and they wanted my master to swear that I was deranged. My master objected thereto, stating that I had been with him seven months, and had been a faithful servant. He inquired of my master and several neighbours at Norton, if they were not afraid of me, but was answered in the negative."

Martin mentions here, that his wife had become a great enemy to him since he joined the Methodists; that she wanted him to leave them, and vowed to God, that, unless he deserted them, she would disown him as a husband; and "from that period, to the day of her death, (8 years,) she kept her word; but his firmness was not shaken."

"About this time the Bishop, (I think of Lincoln,) was to hold a Confirmation at Stockton, for the Bishop of Durham. I had heard that he was a good man, and that numbers attended his Visitation. I was glad to hear so good a report of him, and con-



cluded, that if he were really so good a man, and so eminent a Christian, he would not fear death; and resolved to try his faith by pretending to shoot him. I had been in Newcastle, to see my brother, and recollecting he had an old pistol, I asked and obtained it, and brought it home with me. On my arrival, my wife observing the pistol, inquired what I wanted with it, I replied with a smile, that I got it to shoot the Bishop; I laid it down carelessly, determined if she should remove it, and I should receive no encouragement by a dream, I would proceed no further in the matter. When I got up in the morning, the pistol was not to be found, and there as I thought, the matter dropped: but some officious person hearing of it, told the Clergyman of Norton, and he laid a complaint before the magistrate against me, a vestry meeting was then called, to which I was summoned. My previous interference with the church was urged against me, and so much was I tormented with questions on the subject, before I went to the vestry, and while there, that I was considerably agitated, and off my guard. However, the Reverend Gentleman was little better tempered than myself, and shewed a degree of rancour, that I did not expect. I was asked if I had a pistol to shoot the Bishop with; to which I replied, 'that I did not mean 'to injure the man, although I considered they all deserved shooting, being blind leaders of the blind, consequently both must fall 'into the ditch.' I was then suffered to depart, but was next day taken into custody, and brought before the meeting of Justices, at Stockton, and examined very harshly; they asked me if I had found the pistol, would I really have shot the Bishop? I replied, 'it depended upon circumstances, I would ask him some questions out of the Creed, and if he did not answer me satisfactorily, 'as to his conversion, and the evidence of the Spirit, he must be 'branded as a deceiver of the people.' For this I was sentenced to be confined in a mad-house for life, but glory be to God, they could not keep me an hour longer than my Lord and Saviour thought fit. I felt as happy under this trial, in the assurance of Jesus' love, as if I had been going to a palace."

He was at first confined at West Auckland, but afterwards removed to Gateshead; where he remained for a considerable period. He however, made his escape, through the roof, having got rid of some of his fetters, by rubbing off the rivets with free-stone, which he managed to secret in his room. He celebrates his escape in the following doggrel verses.

"Again the devil thought to shut me in,  
But with a sandy stone, I cut my iron chain.  
With locks, and bolts, and bars of every kind,  
Fain would the devil had me all my life confin'd;  
But by the help of God, by faith and prayer,  
The devil loosed his hold, and I did break his snare.  
Through the lofty garret I thrust and tore my way,  
Through dust, and laths, and tiles, into the open day.



But yet more dangers still, beset me round,  
 Till by God's help, I landed on the ground;  
 Then, with a thankful heart, I praised the God I found,  
 And cried, 'sleep on ye sleepers sleep both safe and sound,  
 'Till I escape from your enchanted ground.'  
 These three long years, now almost gone and past,  
 My God has saved me from your hands at last;  
 Therefore to him will I give all the praise,  
 And thank and bless his holy name always."

With great difficulty Martin reached a friend's house, whom he calls Mr. K., and who freed him from the remains of his fetters—"the degrading emblem of slavery," as Jonathan terms them. Mr. K. was a distant relation to Martin by his mother's side; and he remained there a fortnight, till his strength was recruited—when he left him, designing to proceed to an uncle's, a distance of 16 miles, to assist him in his hay harvest. However, before he reached his uncle's house, he was met by his cousin, who told him the keeper of the Asylum, with a constable, had been there in search of him; he therefore directed his steps to Glasgow, where another uncle resided, which place he reached in safety. From Glasgow he went to Edinburgh; and was in that city at the rejoicings on account of the coronation of George the Fourth. Martin stopped at Edinburgh only one day, being anxious to see his wife; and on returning to Norton, he found his wife was still alive, but reduced to a bare subsistence. After remaining three weeks with his friend Mr. K., he determined to go to London to be near his brothers,—one of whom is the celebrated painter;—and his friend having furnished him with money for that purpose, he left Darlington for the metropolis on the 1st of August, 1820. He went, however, no further than Boroughbridge—where, on the 8th of September, he received a letter informing him of his wife's death; and of his having been robbed of money and goods to the amount of £24.—From Boroughbridge he went to Hull, and from Hull to Norton, where his old master Mr. Page, employed him with the consent of the Magistrates; he soon after removed to Darlington, where he also worked as a tanner, and spent his evenings in preaching and praying to those who would hear him. He boasts that, through his labours, in seven weeks "two hundred precious souls were set at liberty."—He remained at Darlington, apparently, several years; and here he pretends to have had some remarkable visions.

"I should inform my readers how I was taken to the seaside in a vision, and beheld a countless army of men arising from the waves, as I stood gazing thereon, a man advanced towards me, and I said, 'Where shall we find bread for so great a multitude?' he quickly answered, 'Where they can.' They then advanced with great fury, and covered as it were the whole earth, and I thought England fled before them. This dream made great impression on my mind after I came to Darlington, and I deter-



mined to make known the things that will befall England, unless we all turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart, for I dreamed of a great battle between Newcastle and Sunderland, and again that the son of Buonaparte came and conversed with me, and having a musket, said he would shoot through the door of an Englishman; he tried three times, and the third was successful.

"I then left him and was soon overtaken by some baggage waggons, all the French fired their muskets in the air. I was taken prisoner, and they shut me up with the word of God, and a Wesley Hymn Book in my hand, in the prison the sun shone upon me in all its splendour, and I rejoiced to see the mercy of God towards me."

He then bursts out into the following denunciation against clergymen:

"Deceive not yourselves, oh, you Clergymen, for my dream has been doubled, for you will have to fly to the mountains to hide yourselves from your enemies, for the son of Buonaparte has a second time appeared to me; the first time he stood before me, he stood with a firelock in his hand, and said to me, I will shoot through the door of an Englishman: the first time he tried to present, but he was too weak, but willing to avenge the death of his father, though but a child; the second time he levelled the firelock, but could not stand the force of powder; the third time he levelled, and fired and hit his mark, and said I will shoot through the door of an Englishman.—The second dream was like unto the first, he broke through the door, and demolished the house before me with great dexterity and art. The youth appeared before me with a beautiful countenance, with a light complexion, and light curled hair, and as he passed before me through the door, I held out my hand, and he shook hands with me, I have the honour of shaking hands with the son of Buonaparte, though I have not seen his father, and he vanished out of my sight. He came from Denmark to reside in England. Oh! England prepare for war, and to meet a hot reception; for as you surprised the Danes at Copenhagen, so will the son of Buonaparte surprise you and reign in England, and come off victoriously; the thing is certain, and will come to pass, you must not think the time long, for the youth will soon be ready to act the part of his father, and do valiantly; for he shall be a scourge to the wicked Clergymen of England."

Jonathan thus concludes his extraordinary book.

"I came to Lincoln on one Saturday in September, 1827, and on the following Sunday, went to view the Cathedral as I was a stranger in the town. I heard the voice of singing close by the Cathedral, I drew near, and as I stood listening, a young man, a Methodist, opened a door and invited me in. Three violent young men (for piety) Sunday School Teachers, pressed me hard to join them to assist them in instructing the rising generation, and pray that God would give a blessing to their labours. I told them I



would as well as God would teach me. We had not been long together before the Lord put it in our minds to hold a short prayer meeting, that God would own our feeble efforts, and bless the children. Whilst I was at prayer it was impressed on my mind to pray that the Lord would fill the large Cathedral full of converted Clergymen, and that he would distribute them amongst all the Churches in Great Britain, that blind guides and the devil might not deceive the people any longer. I was fervent in prayer, and that prayer disturbed the devil out of his den. A public house being next door, the Landlady and her company came into the room, whilst I was on my knees, the Landlady afraid of losing her company, and as it were Hell broke loose upon me.—The Devil fiercely attacked me but I stood to my arms; the powers of the bottomless pit could not make me rise from my knees until I had prayed for my enemies; then I arose and gave out a hymn to conclude the meeting. When the landlady could not turn us out then she engaged her wicked company to attack me. They surrounded me and flew upon me like fiery serpents from hell, gnashing their teeth, and crying out, ‘out with him head first—‘break his neck over the stones,’ but I alighted on my feet; and the Devil was conquered, glory be to God through my Redeemer for ever, who gave me the victory.”

At Lincoln Martin compiled and printed the account of his life—two editions of which were soon disposed of; and he printed a third edition last year of five thousand copies. By hawking these about the country, and by quartering occasionally in the houses of those who were willing to extend to him their hospitality, on account of his gifts of prayer, &c., he contrived to make a decent living. He frequented the Methodist Chapel at Lincoln, where, a few months before he came to York, he got acquainted with a woman, about 20 years younger than himself, whom he married,—and who afterwards travelled with him.—They came to York, the day after Christmas-Day, 1828, and obtained lodgings at the house of Stephen Lawn, a shoemaker, No 60, Aldwark. During his stay in York, he employed himself in vending his books, and was well-known in the city, from wearing a glazed broad-brimmed low-crowned hat, and a singular black leather cape, which came down to his elbows, and a square piece of fur sown on the back, extending from one corner to the other.

Very soon after his arrival in York, Martin resorted to his usual practice of affixing denunciatory letters upon the church doors; and on the 6th of January, the following letter was found tied to one of the iron gates of the Minster choir; it was fastened with a shoemaker’s waxed thread, but was not directed. One of the Vergers, however, took it down, and gave it to one of the Clergymen, who deemed it too absurd for notice. The following is a verbatim copy of it:—

“York, Janrey the 5—1829.

“Hear the word of Lord, Oh you Dark and Lost Clargmen  
you desevers of the People———



"Repent and cry For marcey for know is the day of vangens and your Cumplet Destruction is at Hand for the Lord will not sufer you and the Deveal and your blind Hellish Docktren to dseve the works of His Hands no longer

"Oh, you Desevears will not milleons of the mightty and Rich men of the Earth have to Curs the Day that ever they gat under your blind Docktren know to be a shamd of your selvz and wepe for your Bottls of Wine and your downey Beds will be taken away from you I warn you to repent in the name of Jesuse and believe he is able on Earth to forgeve Sines, for there is no repenting in the greave Oh you blind Gydes are you not like the man that bilt his Hous upon the Sands when the Thunder starmes of Gods Heavey vangens lites upon your Gildrys Heads a way gos your sandey Foundaytons and you to the deepest pet of Hell re Seve the Curses of millions that your blind Docktrems has Decevd and to reseve Gods Heve Curs and the Ward pronounst Depart you Carsit blind Gides in to the Hotist plase of Hell to be tormented with the Deveal and all his Eanguls for Ever and Ever

Jona. Martin, a frind of the Sun of Boneypart Must Conclude By warning you again Oh, Repent repent He will soon be able to act

"the part of his Father

"Derect for Jonathan Martin

Aldwark No. 60"

Another epistle was also found, on Wednesday, the 21st of January, by a sailor from Hull, who being at York, visited the Cathedral in company with his wife. When walking along the Western Aisle he saw on the ground near a pillar, a small packet which he supposed contained vermin, or something offensive, and had been placed there by some frolicsome boys. After passing it, however, two or three times, he kicked it with his foot, and, as it felt hard, he had the curiosity to open it. It was tied with a shoemaker's waxed thread, covered with old matting, and contained a stone, round which was wrapped a pamphlet, entitled "The Life of Jonathan Martin." He also found, in the parcel, a letter, sealed with cobbler's wax, and addressed to the Clergy of York. He read and exhibited both the letter and pamphlet at the house where he was stopping, but they were thought of no consequence. Fortunately, unimportant as they were considered, he did not destroy them. The annexed is a literal copy of the letter.

"*A Just Warning far all the Clargy in York.*

"York, Janery the 16th, 1829.

"Hear the word of the Lord, Oh you Blind Hipacrits, you Saarpents and Vipears of Hell, you wine Bibears and Beffe Yeaters, whose Eyes stand out with Fatness and still caing out mor mor wine, mor plum Puding, and Rost Beffe, and saying to



your Souls Yeet and Drink Saule and be meary, For though Has much wine and rost Beff and Plum puding to Sarve the money years yet. Oh you Fools and Greedy wolves your time is short and the Judgments of God is Hanging over your Giltey Heades to burst upon you, to send you to the Depest pit of Hell to get your parshin with the rich man; what dow I say the Rich man, I bag leve to draw back my word, your torments will be ten thousent Fauld mor you Deserves, how can you Escape the hottest plase of Hell; will not the Greet, the mitey, the Rich men of the Earrrth have to Call to the rocks and the hills to cover them From a Just and a Angry Frauning God For your blind Doctren. Belve me your time short, and For your wicketness God is about to cum out of his place to take vangins on you, and all those that obay your Blind Halish Doctren, for it Cums from the black reagens of the Damd. Oh the millians of Souls that you have Deseivd those many years with what Searching vanum will they fly to sting your Departed Souls when your Frickil thred of life is Cut. Oh Repent you Blind Hippecrites, your wolves Drest in Sheips Cloting, you Whitent Sea-pulkers but Full of ded mens Bons with in. Oh Repent, for the Sourd of Justic's is at haand.

"J M our Sincerest Frind."

The last word comes to the very bottom of the second page, and the letters "J. M." appeared to be signed on the left hand because there was no room for them in the proper place. In the margin, on the edge of the paper is—"Aldwark No. 60."

In other MSS. dropped in or near the Minster, and bearing the signature of M. the following expressions were found—"your great Churches & Minsters will fall down on your guilty heads;" but no sort of suspicion was entertained that any one was wicked or mad enough to cherish the determination of destroying one of the finest existing specimens of the munificence and piety of our ancestors; therefore no precautionary measures were taken.

On the 27th of January, Martin left York with his wife, stating that they were going to Leeds to reside, and his luggage was sent off accordingly to that place. They arrived in Leeds on the 28th, and Martin remained there till the Saturday following. They lodged at the house of John Quin, No. 6, Brick Street. His conduct is described as having been most orderly and decorous. He attended worship at a chapel of the Primitive Methodists one evening;—his conversation was cheerful and perfectly rational; he appeared to be kind and affectionate to his wife; and spent the time while he was in the house chiefly in singing hymns, reading the scriptures, and conversing on sacred subjects. The principal part of Thursday and Friday, he was engaged in vending his pamphlet; when he left Quin's house on Saturday morning, between nine and ten o'clock, he seemed perfectly tranquil, and said he was going to fulfil an appointment



that he had in the neighbourhood of Tadcaster, and that he should return to his wife at Leeds on Monday by dinner time. Instead of stopping at Tadcaster, he came back to York; and went to his old lodgings in Aldwark. He told Mr. and Mrs. Lawn, that he and his wife had been no further than Tadcaster: and that he was going to stop in that neighbourhood for the purpose of hawking books. He asked if he could sleep there that night; and on being answered in the affirmative, he took possession of the room he had before occupied. In the afternoon he went out, and we are informed, he was observed perambulating the Minster Yard, and taking particular note of the building. His attention appeared particularly directed to the western towers. He returned to Mr. Lawn's in the evening, and remained till eleven o'clock, Sunday morning, when he went out—and returned no more.

This wretched incendiary had then, no doubt, laid all his plans for the destruction of the Minster; a project, which, to judge from his subsequent communications to Mr. Wilson, a local preacher in the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion at Hexham, he seems to have entertained for some time. The motives which prompted him first to imbibe the idea of burning this beautiful and holy house, were the fanatical antipathy he entertained towards the Clergy of the Establishment, whom he condemned as "blind guides;" to whom, however, he said, he felt no ill-will, malice, or personal hostility, but he was sorry for them, as he believed they were leading the higher ranks in society astray; and the destruction of the Minster, he was of opinion, "was for the glory of God, the good of the people of England generally, and for the good of the inhabitants of York in particular, as when the cathedral was destroyed, they would be compelled to disperse themselves to other places of worship, where they would hear the gospel preached." When he had fully made up his mind on the subject, he began to apprehend opposition from his wife; and he told Mr. Wilson, that he adopted the following extraordinary mode of neutralizing her. "He took the ring from her finger while she slept, and though she manifested much concern at the loss of her ring, he allowed her to vent her feelings in unavailing regrets, until he thought her sufficiently moulded to his purpose. He then exacted a vow from her that she was to keep his secret, and he would restore her ring. This being agreed to, he told her his intention; on which she seemed greatly disturbed, and they went to Leeds." Mrs. Martin contradicts this statement; and denies all knowledge of Martin's plans.

After Martin left his lodgings on Sunday morning, it has been ascertained, that he went to the Minster, and heard the sermon. In the afternoon, he repaired there again, and entered the south transept as soon as the doors were open. He walked about till after the service began; and the sexton (Job Knowles) noticed him passing several times, as he was ringing the bell for prayers.



Before he entered the Minster in the afternoon, he had provided himself with a "razor, with a white haft, the back of which he used instead of a steel, a flint, tinder, matches, and a penny candle cut in two."—This, however, soon burnt out; and he replaced it with one of the wax candles which had been used in the Minster, the previous evening.\* During service, he concealed himself behind a tomb,—we should imagine Archbishop Grinfield's, in the north transept; where he remained till all the people had left. He then quitted his place of concealment, and walked about, looking in what place was the best to set fire to. The ringers were in the belfrey in the evening; and he watched them out from behind a column; and here we may remark, that very important consequences often result from what are considered, humanly speaking, as accidents. If the ringers had locked the door of the belfrey after them, in all probability he could not have made his escape from the Minster,—but would have been compelled to remain till

\* **CANDLEMAS-DAY AT YORK.**—It was on the morning of the Festival which the Church of England calls "the Purification of St. Mary the Virgin," that York Minster was wilfully set on fire. It is more usually called Candlemas-Day, and has been observed by the Church of Rome for more than 13 centuries. It takes its name of Candlemas, from the *blessing* of wax candles, and the distribution of them to all the faithful, as well laity as clergy. The priest prays that the Almighty, who by the labour of bees has brought this liquor to the perfection of wax, will, by the intercession of the blessed Mary, ever a Virgin, whose festival we this day celebrate, and by the prayers of all the saints, vouchsafe to bless † and sanctify † these candles; and hear the prayers of the people, who desire to carry them in their hands with reverence.—The priest having crossed the candles, sprinkled them with holy water, and fumed them with incense, distributes them to the people, (one to each person,) who receive them kneeling, first kissing the candle, and then the hand of the priest. During the distribution of the candles, is sung "A light to lighten the Gentiles;" and the whole ceremony is in allusion to those words of Simeon, when he took the child Jesus in his arms, on his presentation in the temple. At mass all the candles are held lighted, and there is also a grand procession.

There is no doubt that this was a grand festival in the Church of York; for though the ceremonies, as to the candles, were abolished at the Reformation, yet the following traces of the respect paid to the festival still remain. Until the change of the style in the last century, a great fair was held at York on this day, called Candlemas fair, and which is still held on Candlemas-Day, old style. This festival ranks in the Church of York along with Christmas-Day, Easter-Day, and Whit-Sunday, as one of the four grand festivals of the Church.

On no other Sundays or Church festivals, except these four, is the Dean appointed to preach; or the bells accustomed to be rung. And in our younger days, there was a splendid cushion, with hangings of crimson and gold, with which the pulpit was adorned upon these four days, and on no other days in the year.

Now we neither consider the burning of the Minster as a judgment on the superstitious use of wax candles, for so many centuries in the choir of this Cathedral, nor as a judgment on the profaneness of the Protestants, who ever since then have had possession of the Minster, but have omitted to bless the candles. But we mention it as a curious coincidence, that on the morning of Candlemas-Day, "one of the wax candles belonging to the Minster" is stated by Martin to have been used by him for setting it on fire.



the doors were opened in the morning ; when, mingling with the crowd, in the hurry and confusion, he might not have been noticed, and the calamity would always have been ascribed to the effect of accident.

After the ringers left, Martin went into the belfrey, and struck a light. A gentleman who was passing the Minster about half-past eight o'clock, saw a light in the belfrey at that time ; but as the ringers had been there, he thought they were about ringing again ; and took no notice of the circumstance. Two persons who were confined in Peter prison also saw a light in the belfrey after nine o'clock. At this time, the incendiary was busy preparing his means of escape. He cut about ninety feet off the rope attached to the prayer-bell, which passed through a hole in the floor of the belfrey, into the aisle below, and having pulled it up, he formed it into a ladder by doubling it, and tying knots at stated distances. After he had worked some time, he put out his light, and finished his ladder in the dark ! When this was completed, he left the belfrey, and having climbed over the iron gates which separate the nave from the north-east aisle, he used the rope ladder to get over the gate leading from that aisle into the choir, which is usually kept fast. He then struck a light the second time, and with the razor cut "three yards of gold fringe, two gold tassels, &c., from the pulpit ; and the crimson velvet curtains from the Dean's and Precentor's seats at the bottom of the choir ; and those from the Archbishop's throne. He also took a small Bible, and as he expected to be taken and imprisoned, he says he brought away the Bible that it might be a comfort to him in his confinement. He then piled the cushions and prayer-books in two heaps, on each side near to the carved work, and set them on fire by introducing matches to each." Having done this, he set about making his escape. He had brought with him a pair of shoe-maker's pincers, which Mr. Lawn had left in the room where he slept on Saturday night, and having tied one end of his rope to the machine used for cleaning the Minster, he dragged it under the window in the west aisle of the north transept, which he broke with the pincers ; and having seen that one of the piles (that by the Archbishop's throne) to which he had set fire, was burning very briskly, he descended, and left the cathedral a little after three o'clock in the morning of the 2d of February ; taking with him the articles before mentioned, and also some purple silk—a part of one of the Clergymen's robes.—During the time he was in the Minster, he says, he felt no fear ; but was, "on the contrary, quite happy ; sometimes he prayed, and sometimes he praised God, because, as he said, he had strengthened him to do so good a work !" And when he left the sacred edifice, doubtless, after proceeding a few miles, he would halt on some rising ground, and turn round to see how matters proceeded. Like Abrahàm, he "looked towards the City of the Plain, and beheld, and lo, the smoke went up as the smoke of a furnace."



## ACCOUNT OF THE FIRE AT THE MINSTER.

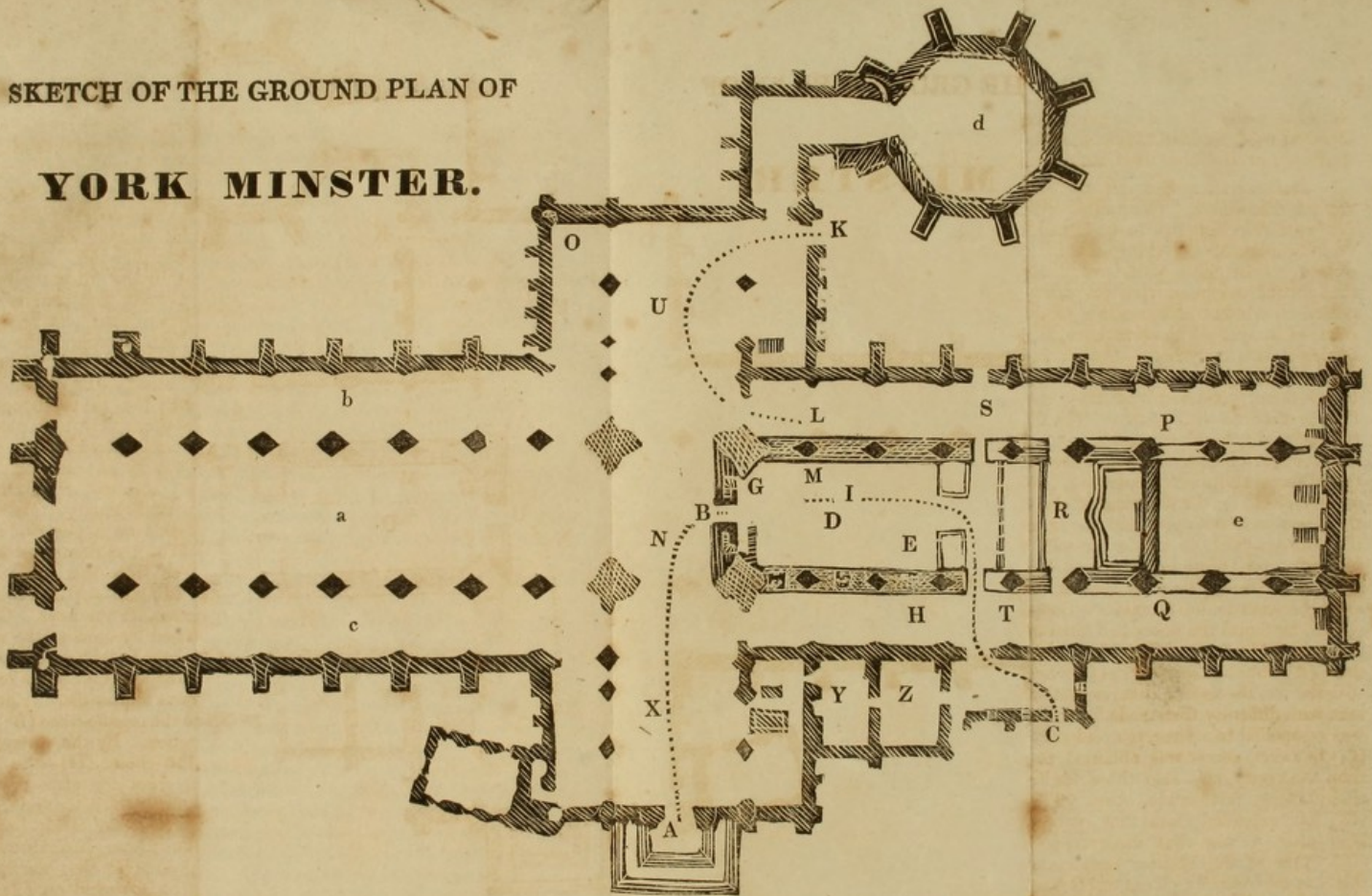
The incendiary had left the Minster several hours, before the fire was discovered. The patrol left the Minster-yard about half-past two o'clock, before he had made his escape; and they saw no indications of any thing unusual when they left. About four o'clock, a man going past, saw a light in the Minster; but he thought the workmen were preparing a vault, and unfortunately passed on without endeavouring to ascertain what was really the cause of so unusual an occurrence, as a light burning in the sacred edifice at that early hour.—About five o'clock, a series of reports, resembling repeated explosions, were heard,—the parties who heard them, wondered what they meant; but never thought of tracing them to their source. The discovery at last took place, in the following singular manner. A lad named Swinbank, one of the younger choristers, whose duty it was to go and practice at the Minster early every morning, went, as usual, a little before seven o'clock, on the morning of the 2d of February. He found the doors were not open, and began to slide on a piece of ice in the Minster-yard, to amuse himself. Whilst so doing, he fell on his back, and before he recovered himself from that position, he saw smoke issuing from the roof of the Minster.—Alarmed at the sight, he went to Job Knowles's, the sexton, for the keys. On his return, he found the doors had been opened by some of the workmen; and Mr. Scott, the builder, entered the building, at the south door, (A)\* but had scarcely got in, when he was compelled to retreat, so dense was the smoke, that respiration was impossible. A gentleman with difficulty then made his way to the organ screen (B;) but was compelled to retreat, to avoid suffocation. By the vestry door (C,) however, access was obtained to the choir, (D)—the gates from the vestry, and also those leading from the aisle into the choir, being fortunately open. The fire which originated at (E,) had extended from that spot to (F;) and about half-an-hour after it was first discovered, the flames had spread to (G.) One of the Minster engines was kept in the vestry, and this was immediately placed at (H,) where it played on (E,) the place where the communion plate was kept, and around which the flames were raging with great intenseness; the tabernacle screen was in this spot burnt to the ground, and the place was melted into one mass. As soon as this engine was got to work, several individuals succeeded in carrying out the whole of the cushions and books from the north-side of the choir; the cushions and part of the hangings of the cathedral were also saved, as was the communion-table, and the curious old chair, which stood within the rails of the altar. The next effort was to remove the brass eagle, placed at (I;) which was effected with great difficulty, owing to its weight, and the few persons who had the courage to brave the

\* See the accompanying Ground-Plan.



# SKETCH OF THE GROUND PLAN OF

## YORK MINSTER.



### EXPLANATION OF THE REFERENCES.

A.—South Entrance.

B.—Organ Screen.

C.—Vestry Door.

D.—Chancel.

E.—Place where Martin deposited one of the heaps of books and cushions, to which he set fire before he left the Minster.

F.—The Fire had extended from E. to F. when it was discovered.

G.—To this point the flames had reached in the first half hour after the doors were opened.

H.—Place where the first engine was placed.

I.—The place where the Brass Eagle stood.

K.—North-east entrance.

L.—Place where a second engine was placed.

M.—The direction in which this engine was played.

N.—The place where this engine was removed to when the roof began to fall.

O.—Window where the knotted rope was discovered.

P.—Q.—Altar screen

R.—Chancel.

S.—North-east Aisle.

T.—South-east ditto

U.—North Transept.

X.—South ditto.

Y.—Z.—Vestries.

a.—Nave.

b.—North-west Aisle.

c.—South-west ditto.

d.—Clapter House.

e.—Lady Chapel.







suffocating effects of the smoke.—They were driven back three times, before they succeeded in carrying off the upper part of the eagle, which was taken into the vestry; the other portion was afterwards carried out at a door on the Chapter-house side. All this was the work of a few minutes; not taking so long to execute as we have been in describing it; and at this time, (perhaps about a quarter after seven,) the organ screen, the north-side of the choir, and the roof, were to all appearance, untouched by the fire. At this period, if a few fire-men had been present who understood their business, this part of the church might have been saved. Shortly after, however, the flames spread round the south-west corner of the choir, and reached the organ: and when this noble instrument caught fire, an appalling noise—occasioned by the action of the air in the pipes, &c. upon the flames, reverberated through the building, and struck with awe all who heard it.

We must observe, that there is a difference of opinion as to the extent to which the fire had reached when the doors were first opened, some persons conceiving, that the organ was then on fire. But these details have been communicated to us by a gentleman who was one of the first to enter the Minster; and we believe them to be correct.

Whilst this was passing in the interior of the building, the alarm had been spread through the city, by the ringing of the bells of St. Michael-le-Belfrey; and the Yorkshire Insurance Company's engine was soon on the spot. It was placed at the south door; and the pipes were carried into the Minster, and directed over the organ, upon the fire which was then raging in the choir. The city engines arrived soon after, and were stationed at different parts of the building. An express was sent to the barracks; and the barrack engine arrived about eight o'clock. Major Clark and several other Officers accompanied it, with a file of the 7th Dragoon Guards, who were of great use in facilitating the operations of the persons employed in extinguishing the flames. A plentiful supply of water was obtained for all the engines, by the activity of the persons employed at the water-works, to whom every credit is due for their exertions. The barrack engine was unfortunately soon put *hors de combat*: for although in excellent condition, it was supplied with water from a plug in the Minster-yard, which was mixed with straw, and other foul materials, by which the pipes were completely clogged up, and could not be cleansed so as to be rendered serviceable.

About ten minutes before eight o'clock, a second engine was brought into the Minster by the route K L, and stationed at the latter point; the pipes being carried over the tabernacle work at M, and directed to G, on which spot it continued playing for perhaps half an hour. But the roof having caught fire from the organ,—the flames from the latter igniting some of the centre-knots of the arches, which were of maple-wood,—the melted lead and pieces of burning timber began to fall so rapidly, that the



men were compelled to abandon their stations ; and the engine was stationed at N, from whence it continued to play over the screen upon the burning ruins in the choir, for several hours. This engine, whilst stationed in the north-east aisle, was supplied with water from a plug in Chapter-House-street. A little previous to the removal of this engine, an attempt was made, by two or three gentlemen, to cut down the great gates leading from the choir into the north-east aisle, with a view to cut off the communication with the altar : the molten lead and burning rafters, however, fell about them so rapidly, that they were obliged to desist. The Minster-yard was now filled with spectators ; on all whose countenances the most anxious distress was depicted.

By eight o'clock or a little later, the organ,—unequalled we believe, for tone and power by any instrument in the world,—was totally consumed : together with the valuable collection of music which was deposited in the organ loft : and much of which, being in manuscript, cannot be replaced.

By the exertions of Mr. Plows, stone-mason, a number of men were about this time got upon the roof of the side aisles ; by means of ropes, buckets and the pipe of an engine were hoisted up ; and from this elevation a torrent of water was discharged upon the flames beneath. A number of men were also employed in cutting away the roof towards the east window ; who continued their exertions as long as they were practicable. About a quarter past eight o'clock, the flames burst through the roof, near the lantern tower, and the spectacle from the exterior was awful and impressive in the extreme ; whilst the effect of the scene in the interior was such, that those who witnessed it, will remember it to the last day of their existence. Immediately in front of the screen which divides the nave from the choir, the engine already alluded to, was playing directly upon the fire, but with little effect, owing to the magnitude of the space over which the flames had spread themselves. From the screen to the altar, the vast area had the appearance of an ignited furnace : and the men who were employed in working the engines, and in various other ways endeavouring to stop the progress of the flames, resembled beings of another world, rather than inhabitants of this material globe. Their voices, as they shouted to their comrades, for “water,” or for more assistance, fell in harsh and discordant tones on the ear ; they seemed enveloped in an atmosphere so dense, that it was scarcely possible to breathe in it : whilst it was partially illuminated by the flames, which were vividly reflected from the painted windows ; aided by the rays of the sun, they produced an effect indescribably beautiful and grand ; though the circumstances which accompanied it were of so distressing a nature, as not to allow any one to dwell upon the splendour of this part of the scene. A number of bats, and other birds, burnt out of their quiet retreats, were now seen flitting about, unable to find an outlet ; and many perished in the flames.



About half-past eight o'clock, an express was sent by Archdeacon Markham, to the Mayor of Leeds, informing him that the Minster was on fire, and requesting that two of the largest engines belonging to that town, might be sent off immediately. This was shortly followed by another express from Mr. Newman, the Actuary of the Yorkshire Fire Office, requesting that two more engines might be immediately forwarded to York.—At this period, serious fears were entertained, that the fire would extend over the whole of this immense fabric; the flames were rapidly gaining ground in the east end, and the engines had not the least effect in allaying their progress. The lantern tower, and the whole of the roof of the nave, appeared to be saturated with smoke, which also poured out of the windows of the western towers. The knotted rope having been discovered, by which Martin made his escape, and not satisfactorily accounted for,—and its being rumoured, that a bunch of matches had also been found, which had been lighted at both ends—the opinion that the fire was not caused by the gas, or by candles being left in the organ loft, or in the Clergymen's robing-room, which had at first been entertained, began to give way to the idea, that it was the work of an incendiary; and when the smoke was seen issuing from the places we have mentioned, it was at once said, that a train had been laid, and that it was breaking out in different places. This, providentially, was not the case; the smoke penetrating the roof, &c., was merely occasioned by the denseness of the volume of vapour collected in the church before the doors were opened, and which at last found vent in that manner; and the fire never extended beyond the lantern tower.

At ten minutes past nine, a portion of the burning roof fell in with a tremendous crash. For an instant, the whole area was illuminated: and the next moment a volume of smoke and ashes was sent forth, which involved for a short time, every thing in darkness and obscurity. From that time till half-past ten, portions of the roof kept falling in, till, from the lantern tower to the east window, the blue vault of heaven was the only canopy.—The molten lead from the roof, during this period, poured down in torrents; and it is a remarkable circumstance, that some of the metal fell upon one of the tombs in the Lady Chapel, and took the impression off the letters of the inscription.

Soon after ten o'clock, an engine arrived from Escrick Park, near York, the seat of Paul Beilby Thompson, Esq. M. P. That no time might be lost, that gentleman's beautiful grey carriage horses were yoked to his engine, and it was driven into the city with the utmost promptitude. About half-past ten, another engine arrived from Tadcaster, and was immediately got to work. One of these engines was brought to the east end, and played into the choir through an aperture made in the lower department of the window: another also played for a short time through the farthest window at the north-east end.



As great alarm was felt lest the east end of the Minster should fall, a part of the staff of the second West York was placed to prevent the public from passing in that direction: the inmates of the opposite houses had previously removed their families. Providentially, however, this alarm turned out to be unfounded: this fine window,—the largest, we believe, in England, if not in the world, is only very partially injured: and we have not to mourn the loss of a work of art, which could not now be replaced. Indeed, the windows generally have received very little damage.

At this period, (a little before eleven o'clock,) a man who had ascended the lower roof by the staircase, on the north-east side of the Minster, was placed in rather a perilous situation; when about to descend, he found thick volumes of smoke rising out of the staircase, so that all communication seemed cut off; in this predicament, he called to the people below to throw him a rope, but that was utterly impracticable on account of the immense height; at length it was suggested to him, to get over the battlement and descend by the water-spout, which he actually did, to the astonishment of many hundred persons, who were anxiously watching him.

About eleven o'clock an alarm was given that the roofs of the side aisles of the choir, which were several yards below the main roof, were on fire: but it was soon extinguished; there would have been no danger to the interior from this circumstance had the fire extended, as, though the exterior roofs of these aisles are composed of wood and lead—the interior is formed of groined arches of solid stonework. However, as some of the monuments at the east end had been much injured by the falling of the roof, some well-meaning, but injudicious persons, under the dread that the roof of the side-aisles would also fall, began to dismantle the monuments in the North-east aisle; and the bust, &c. from Rear-Admiral Medley's monument were taken into the Residentiary. Fortunately this work of devastation was put a stop to, before the dismemberment of any more of these "storied urns and monumental busts" was effected: and a sentry was placed over them, with strict orders not to suffer them to be touched.

The heat, a short period before, had been so intense in these aisles, that it was impossible to remain in them many minutes. The floor of the choir and chancel was strewn with fierce-burning timbers, and resembled a liquid lake of fire; it was heated completely through, and the vaults below glowed with a radiance, that occasioned a general cry from those who could get near, of "the vaults are on fire." But the heat now began sensibly to abate,—owing, partly to the quantity of water poured upon the burning timbers, which covered the floor of the choir, chancel, and the Lady's Chapel, as it is termed, behind the altar screen; and partly to the removal of the burning rubbish from the bases of the pillars; which latter being of limestone, were very much injured by the action of the fire. The rafters of the roof, and



other immense pieces of timber, were converted literally into charcoal, and were removed to the nave, and into the Minster Yard.

About noon the fears of the fire spreading any further were removed; but the engines continued to play for hours after upon the mass of fire and flame on the floor of the church. Great efforts were also made to save the beautiful screen which divides the nave from the choir,—the tracery work of which is so much admired: and we are happy to say this was effected; for that elegant ornament of the Minster is only very slightly injured.

About two o'clock, the engine of the Norwich Union Company, with the requisite number of men, arrived from Leeds. They had been barely two hours on the road, and, in less than three minutes after the engine stopped in the Minster-yard, it was at work. Two other engines arrived from Leeds shortly after. A wheel came off one of them on the bridge, which occasioned some little delay; but it was soon replaced, and the engine proceeded on. A fourth arrived about four o'clock, when another accident occurred. As the drivers were making their turn into the Minster-yard, the engine was thrown over; one of the horses fell and was severely lacerated, and a man who was attending it was also slightly injured.

When the fire was so far got under, that no fears were apprehended of its extending beyond the choir and chancel, several parties were admitted into the nave to view the spectacle. Some ladies were amongst them; one of whom was heard to exclaim, on viewing the awfully splendid, yet horrid scene,—“What a subject for Martin!” Alluding to the celebrated historical painter,—whose genius revels in the sublime, and delights in depicting the extraordinary and terrific effects produced by the convulsions of nature,—or the “moving accidents of fire and water;” little did she then think, that Martin’s brother had occasioned this terrible conflagration.

The crowds of people who flocked to the scene of this calamity continued to increase all the afternoon; and it was found necessary to place constables at the Minster doors, to prevent the influx of persons desirous of seeing the state of the edifice; many arrived from a considerable distance: and it is quite impossible that more intense feelings of anxiety and distress could have been evinced, than were displayed, not only by the inhabitants of York who, from their infant days, had been accustomed to consider the Minster as their boast and glory,—but by the stranger and the traveller—who, although not connected to the sacred edifice by those ties of association which endeared it to the citizens—yet looked upon our Cathedral as the finest monument of Gothic architecture existing in England, probably in the world:—and therefore lamented its partial destruction, as that of one of the most interesting relics of antiquity which was left to us.—There was a gloom on every countenance;—and in the early part of the day, a sort of stupor appeared to pervade all ranks; people were



overcome by the greatness of the unexpected calamity,—and seemed scarcely to know whether to consider as real the events which were passing around them,—or whether they were only to be regarded as the fevered excitations of a dream!

During the whole of the afternoon the workmen and others were busily employed in removing the fallen rafters and other rubbish from the Choir and Chancel. Most of these were carried out into the Minster-yard, which presented a melancholy spectacle, being thickly strewn, from the South door to the Vestry, with the fragments of the roof, blackened in the fire, and reduced to the consistency of charcoal. Within side, a detachment of the dragoon guards was drawn up in the nave, to prevent all improper intrusion in that quarter, and a guard of the Staff of the Second West York was mounted for the same purpose, as well as to secure the ornamental portions of that part of the structure from damage. The floor of the nave was strewn with fragments of the roof, which had been brought from the choir; and against one of the pillars laid the remains of the organ, consisting of some fragments of the gilt pipes, and a portion of the iron work. A dense mass of smoke still rose from the embers; on which several of the engines continued to play during the night. The fire was not totally extinguished when the shades of evening drew on; for occasionally a fitful flash of lambent flame was seen struggling with the gloom, which, however, was quickly extinguished by the water from the engines being directed to the spot, from whence these indications of smothered fire were seen to arise.

After five o'clock no one was admitted to the Minster, except those whose presence was indispensable: and thirty of the 7th Dragoons, assisted by six who had volunteered from the Staff of the 2d West York Militia, mounted guard for the night. Thirty special constables were sworn in to assist in keeping watch.

During the evening, the silence which reigned around, only broken at intervals by the tread of the sentinels, or the occasional remarks of a passenger, formed a striking contrast to the bustle and confusion which had prevailed during the day. About ten o'clock, men were observed, with lanterns, visiting every part of the roof, to see that all was safe; and the night was passed without any further alarm.

There were twelve engines, and some of the most powerful construction, employed in extinguishing the flames, they were—that of the Yorkshire Fire Office; the two City engines, (supported by the Corporation, the County, and other fire offices;) the Barrack engine; the two Minster engines; Beilby Thompson's, Esq.; the Leeds Insurance, the Norwich Union, the Sun, and a fourth from Leeds; and the Tadcaster engine. Major Yarrow handsomely offered his fire engine, but it was found that all the smaller engines were perfectly useless.—Of the York engines, that belonging to the Yorkshire Fire Office was the most efficient. The pipes of the others were in very bad condition, and were



frequently bursting. The engine at the Water-works produces 252 ale gallons per minute, 15120 gallons per hour, allowing for injection and waste, so that during the period of 23 hours no less than 7245 hogsheads were sent for the use of the Cathedral. Two wells in the Minster-yard, were also exhausted of their water.

The exertions of the individuals who assisted in extinguishing the fire is beyond praise. Never did we see such alacrity and despatch on any former occasion.—The 7th dragoon guards, under the command of Major Clark, and the staff of the 2d West York Militia, deserve the highest praise for their prompt and effective services.—Very great credit is due to the Leeds Firemen for their activity, and steady conduct: they left York about noon on Tuesday. The exertions of the men at the Water-works were also highly praiseworthy.

Several hundred men were paid 3s. and 5s. each for their exertions. Those employed by the Yorkshire Fire Office were on duty from about half-past 7 o'clock on Monday to the same hour on Tuesday morning.—On Monday, Major Yarrow, with his characteristic liberality, gave £5. to procure refreshments for the men, many of whom were quite faint for want of some support.

On Tuesday the Minster was kept closed, except to persons admitted by order from the Archdeacon; and many distinguished parties availed themselves of his permission to inspect the ruins. Workmen were employed to clear away the rubbish; and steps were taken to repair those monuments which were injured on the preceding day. During the week, workmen were thus employed; and the public were only admitted into the nave, the iron gates leading from that part of the Minster to the choir being kept closed; and no one admitted without an order from the authorities.

### EXTENT OF THE DEVASTATION.

By a reference to the ground plan, our readers will be enabled to ascertain the extent of injury which the sacred fane has sustained. The roof of the centre aisle, which was of exquisite workmanship, is entirely destroyed, from the lantern tower to the Eastern window; this roof occupied a space of 131 feet in length, by 45 in breadth; and was 99 in height, from the floor of the choir. In the interior, from the organ screen, to the altar screen, all the beautiful tabernacle work which adorned the Prayer House, the stalls, galleries, cathedra, pulpit, altar rails, &c. are entirely consumed. The plate-glass in the altar-screen is nearly all broken, from the effects of the extreme heat: and the screen itself is so much injured that it will have to be taken down. Of the monuments the following have been damaged, either from the effect of the fire, or the falling of the timbers of the roof.



## IN THE SOUTH TRANSEPT.

The Earl of Strafford's elegant white marble monument and Archbishops' Dolbeine and Hutton's monuments, are slightly injured; but the damage is not considerable, and may be easily repaired.

## IN THE SOUTH-EAST AISLE.

The sarcophagus of the monument of the Finch family, which is attached to the last pillar in the aisle, is considerably shattered.

## EAST END.

The fine marble figure of Archbishop Sharp is cracked in several places, apparently from the heat.

Archbishop Matthew's monument,—the figure is deprived of the fingers and toes, and otherwise mutilated. The inscription stone is cracked from top to bottom.

A table tomb to the memory of Frances Cecil, Countess of Cumberland, is laid prostrate, and totally destroyed.

Archbishop Scroope's gothic monument is very considerably damaged by the fire, and the marble cracked.

Archbishop Frewin's monument, which stands 20 feet high, is partially injured and the pediment destroyed.

Archbishop Rotherham's solid gothic table tomb totally destroyed, and the table part, 6 inches thick, much broken.

Archbishop Sterne's monument is also considerably injured.

Archbishop Bowett's admirable sepulchral shrine, which was repaired only a few years back, is a complete ruin.

Archbishop Sewall's monument—totally destroyed.

The monuments set in this part of the church, were more seriously injured than those in the aisles, they being less protected; and the timbers from the roof falling upon them, and dashing them to pieces.

## NORTH SIDE AISLE.

The Rev. Richard Thompson's monument, of Kirk Deighton, a beautiful one of white marble, slightly injured.

Dr. Swinburne's—partly gothic and partly modern monument—partially injured.

Admiral Medley's monument of white veined marble, is very seriously damaged.

A monument to the memory of the Hon. Dorothy Langley, of very recent erection, has escaped in a great measure, being very slightly injured.

A monument to the memory of Lionel Ingram, the pediment destroyed, and the other parts slightly injured.

Sir George Savile's monument of beautiful white marble, is but little injured.

Two large monuments, on the right of the iron gates, are totally destroyed.

The side aisles are not materially injured; the clustered co-



lunns of the choir, which are twelve in number, are considerably defaced. The shafts of the clustering cylinders are burnt, flawed, or otherwise destroyed; the piers are little the worse; and the capitals of all are preserved, with the exception of those two near the lantern tower, which are destroyed. There are six clustered columns in the Lady Chapel, which are slightly injured; but that only to the height of 10 or 12 feet. The arches between the columns are not materially injured; and the windows above have sustained very little damage; the thickness of the walls protecting them. The firmness and strength of the walls were proved by the fact, that though the massy timbers of the roof, as the middle was destroyed, kept falling into the choir, thus acting as levers, the walls were not in the slightest degree injured. The lantern tower is perfect; and the great piers supporting it are only slightly damaged.

All the curiosities, which have long been kept and exhibited in one of the vestries, were preserved.—The large Horn of Ulphus, a canopy of State, and coronets of silver, three silver chalices and several rings, a wooden head found near the graves of Archbishops Rotherham and Scroope, a pastoral staff of silver, the cordwainer's bowl, the coronation chair, an iron helmet, some ancient spurs, &c. After these had been removed, some persons began the work of demolition in this vestry, by pulling down the wainscot, &c., under the idea that the fire would consume them. They were, however, stopped, before they had proceeded far; but the outer vestry was stripped of the cupboards which were arranged round the sides, which with the antique boxes that were placed there—formerly the depositories of the splendid robes of the members of the cathedral, were placed in Mr. Moss's yard.

This is the extent of the injury: and, while we must deeply regret the lamentable event, still, in the words of our venerable and excellent Archbishop, our thanks are due to the Almighty, that the calamity is not greater; and that it is not of a nature to be absolutely irreparable.—That respected Prelate, on the same occasion, (the anniversary meeting of the Society for Propagating the Gospel, which was held on the 5th of February, in the Library, instead of the Minster Vestry,) observed, that though he could not expect, at his advanced age, to see the sacred edifice restored to its former state, nothing should be wanted on his part, no exertion, nor sacrifice spared, to effect this desirable object.

We may remark, that the ruins present the most melancholy and affecting spectacle in the world, of fallen grandeur. Few ladies behold them without weeping.—Many aged persons who have long been confined to their rooms, leave them for the last time, to gratify a feeling of melancholy interest: others cannot be persuaded by any intreaty to go to the spot, to witness so dreadful a spectacle. They avoid it, as they would do the sight of a corpse. Some who have seen it declare that the awful scene haunts their imaginations, and they regret they ever went. They still, how-



ever, continue the object of interest. Hundreds of visitors have arrived to view the Minster's desolated state:—a state presenting so strong a contrast to that which it offered to the eye of the spectator, when the noble and the great—the beautiful and the young—crowded its “vaulted aisles,” to listen to the strains of heavenly harmony. But the glory is not departed for ever from its walls: and it is beautiful even in desolation.

It is impossible to close this part of our subject, without alluding to the remarkable circumstance, that one of the lessons appointed to be read on the Sunday after this calamity, at the evening church service, was the 64th chapter of Isaiah, being the church's prayer to God. It was wonderfully applicable to the calamitous fire, which so fatally destroyed the “House of Prayer” in our noble Cathedral. One verse we cannot help extracting: *“Our holy and our beautiful House, where our Fathers praised Thee, is burned with fire: and all our pleasant things are laid waste.”*

The Minster has been several times destroyed by fire. The last time was during the episcopacy of Archbishop Thornton, on the 4th of June, in the year 1137. On that day, a casual fire began in the city, which burnt down the Cathedral again, and along with it, St. Mary's Abbey and 39 Parish Churches. We find an indulgence granted soon after by Joceline Bishop of Sarum, setting forth, that “Whereas the Metropolitan Church of York was consumed by a new fire, and almost subverted, destroyed, and miserably spoiled of its ornaments, therefore to such as bountifully contribute towards the re-edification of it, he released to them forty days of penance enjoined.” In 1171 Archbishop Rogers began to rebuild the choir: but this erection was pulled down after the completion of the other portions of the Cathedral: and the present structure was commenced in 1361, by Archbishop Thoresby; and was finished about 1406.

The Minster was preserved from fire nearly sixty years ago, by the Rev. Wm. Cayley, canon residentiary, and rector of Agnes Burton, in the East Riding. He was returning home from an evening party on foot, and observing a flame issuing from the roof of the Cathedral, he lost no time in giving the necessary alarm; it was found that the fire which had made its way to a considerable extent under the roof, had originated from the plumber's carelessness, in having allowed a large portion of boiling lead to flow amongst the scantlings under the roof, which must have fallen in, had it not been for this timely discovery.

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#### EXAMINATION INTO THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

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We have already noticed the various reports relative to the origin of the fire; some ascribing it to the gas, others to candles left in the organ loft, or the Clergymen's robing-room, and others to an incendiary: the latter being confirmed in their belief, by the knotted rope which had



been left by Martin, and was discovered early in the morning. This rope was at first said to have been placed at the window by the plumber's men, to gain egress to the Minster: that, however, was soon ascertained not to be the fact. Indeed the story was highly improbable, for it could not have been placed there from the outside without a ladder; and with a ladder there would have been no necessity for a rope.

On Monday evening, a committee of inquiry was formed, consisting of the following clergymen and gentlemen. The Venerable Archdeacon Markham, the Rev. W. V. Vernon, the Rev. D. R. Currer, and H. J. Dickens, Esq., magistrates; Mr. Mills and Son, (the Dean and Chapter's Agents,) and Mr. Newstead, the Clerk of the Peace for the Liberty of St. Peter, Jona. Gray, Esq., Robt. Davies, Esq., Town Clerk, and Mr. Camidge and Dr. Camidge, the Organists of the Cathedral. They met at the Residence; and the Vergers, workmen, and other individuals connected with the Minster, underwent a rigorous examination. The investigation was continued on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the strictest secrecy was observed in the proceedings; in the course of which, it was ascertained, that the rope was cut from the one which is attached to the prayer bell; and that, not with a knife, but by being chafed with a sharp stone. It was also ascertained, that the window was opened from the interior; and a bunch of matches, burnt at both ends, was found among the rubbish, and afterwards a pair of shoe-maker's pincers. The matches were found under the rubbish of the burnt organ; the pincers on the stool of the window, out of which the knotted rope was suspended. The fact was also proved, that several anonymous letters had been sent to the vergers: and also, that the parcel, with the letter and pamphlet before alluded to, had been found in the Minster by a person from Hull. A gentleman was despatched to Hull, to obtain possession of these documents: but, in the mean time, they had fallen into the hands of Mr. Isaac Wilson, of that place; who with great promptitude immediately came to York, and laid them before the Committee.

Mr. Pardoe, the active police officer of York, was employed to ascertain to whom the shoemaker's pincers belonged; and they were owned by Mr. Lawn, at whose house Martin had lodged. Other circumstances formed a chain of evidence so complete and conclusive, as to leave no doubt that Jonathan Martin was the incendiary, and hand-bills were issued on Thursday, offering a reward for his apprehension. Pardoe had been despatched to Leeds in pursuit, the previous day, with a warrant, from Archdeacon Markham, which, on his arrival, was instantly backed by the Mayor of the borough, R. Markland, Esq. For the rest of the day, and during the night, Pardoe, and the whole force of the police, were employed in endeavouring to find a clue to the retreat of the incendiary. They were not successful; but on Thursday morning, his wife was taken into custody, while vending the "History of his Life." When discovered by the officers, she expressed her surprise at the charge against her husband, and, after admitting that he left that town on Saturday morning, said, that she understood, on his departure, he was going into the neighbourhood of Tadcaster; that she had not heard of him since; and that she had experienced great uneasiness at his long absence. She added, that his place of concealment, or any thing farther connected with the affair, was totally unknown to her. She was kept in custody at Leeds, in her own house, in the charge of two constables, who obtained possession of all Martin's books and papers.

On Thursday morning, information was received, which caused an



express to be sent off to the neighbourhood of Pontefract, where an active and diligent search was commenced. A clue was obtained, which led to the belief that the incendiary had passed through Pontefract on the road to Wakefield. The Mayor of Pontefract ordered the police of that town to afford every assistance to the gentlemen in pursuit; and he was traced to Polston toll-gate: from the information there obtained, it was supposed he had taken the direction to Heath; and the pursuit was immediately followed up in that direction, and continued through the most of Friday.—It was reported, in the evening, about seven o'clock, that Martin had been captured about five miles from Bedale; and would be brought into York by the Carlisle Express Coach. The coach was half an hour beyond its time; and the streets were filled with crowds of anxious spectators—who waited in the expectation that the incendiary would arrive by it. Many persons went out of Micklegate bar, and ran alongside of the coach till it stopped in Coney-street. It was then found, that the report was an erroneous one,—for Martin was not there; nor was it true that he had been captured.

On Saturday morning, it was ascertained that the police had been on a wrong scent, as Martin had proceeded to the north, instead of to the west; and about half-past nine o'clock that morning, an express was received, stating that he was arrested the previous evening near Hexham. The following are particulars of his

### FLIGHT AND CAPTURE.

Martin left the Minster, as has been stated, a little after three o'clock in the morning. He proceeded to Easingwold, and got a pint of ale; from thence to Thirsk, at which place he arrived at eleven o'clock: from Thirsk he went to Northallerton, where he arrived about three o'clock in the afternoon, in a state of apparent fatigue. He remained till evening with a brother-in-law, who resides there, and expressed great anxiety to get on to Hexham, to see a friend. At nine that evening he left Northallerton in a coal cart, in which he travelled all night till he arrived at Jost-hill pit, near West-Auckland, on the Watling-street road. The next morning he proceeded to Alensford, on the Derwent, where he slept on the Tuesday evening; he left Alensford about eight o'clock on the Wednesday morning; and stopped at the Riding Mill, where he had a pint of ale: from thence he proceeded to Corbridge, where he arrived about twelve o'clock, and had half a pint of ale; and then went to Codlaw Hill to his friend Mr. Kell, where he arrived about two the same afternoon, being the same place, we feel convinced, where he sought refuge, when he escaped from the Asylum at Gateshead. Martin remained here till eleven o'clock on Friday morning; and during his stay, he expressed a great anxiety to see newspapers.

The hand-bills giving a description of Martin's person, and offering a reward for his apprehension, were circulated in all parts of the north; and one of them fell into the hands of Mr. Stainforth, a sheriff's officer of Newcastle, who knew him. Mr. S., on Friday, the 6th, having to go to Corbridge, heard of his being returned home, but did not, at that time, know that there was any charge against him. On his return to Hexham, where he keeps a public house, however, he found the hand-bill laid on the table; and he immediately saddled his pony and set off to Mr. Kell's, where he felt satisfied he should find him. The house, called Codlaw Hill, is situated between Stagshaw Bank and Hexham, on



the north side of the Tyne. It is a house situated by itself, and had Martin not been well known in the neighbourhood, it might have afforded concealment for some time. On alighting, he inquired of a young woman who was standing at the door, if Jonathan Martin had got home; the family, it would seem, were not aware of the crime he had committed, as the bailiff was readily answered in the affirmative. On receiving this information, he bolted in, and found Mr. Kell and Martin sitting together, the latter engaged in reading a hymn-book. They both rose on his entrance, and he accosting Martin, asked, "is not your name Jonathan Martin?" He immediately replied, "yes, it is." On which Mr. Stainthorpe said, you are my prisoner. Martin displayed very little emotion, nor did he even ask why he was made a prisoner. Mr. Kell was greatly surprised, and asked Mr. Stainthorpe what Martin was charged with? Who replied, he was not then at liberty to tell him; but that he should require his assistance to convey the prisoner to Hexham, on reaching which place, he would give him every information necessary. Mr. Kell readily agreed, and the prisoner as readily seemed disposed to take the road. The first question he asked Mr. Stainthorpe was, "do you belong to York?" Mr. Stainthorpe replied in the negative, and cautioned him not to say any thing that might criminate himself. On their coming in sight of Hexham, from which Codlaw Hill is distant nearly four miles, Martin, pointing to Highside House,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles from Hexham, said, yonder is the house in which I was born; and seeing the church of Hexham, he exclaimed, "that is a fine old church—did the Catholics build that too?" On the way Martin asked, if any York papers came to Hexham? And also he said to Mr. Stainthorpe, "am I advertised in the Newcastle papers?" On being told he was, and also that he was charged with burning York Cathedral, he readily said *he had done it*; and he added, "as soon as I knew I was advertised, I intended to tell every thing." On reaching the house of correction, Martin's bundle was opened, when it was found to contain part of the valuable crimson fringe, &c., which he said he had cut away from the pulpit, or some part of the Minster, a small Bible which he had brought away at the same time, and a piece or two of the painted glass of the Minster. An old razor was found in his pocket, with which he said he cut the crimson fringe, &c., and with which also he struck the fatal light, by which he was able to fire the Minster. There were found also seven copies of his life but only one penny of money. He appeared up to the moment of his apprehension to have been profoundly ignorant of the extent of the injury he had occasioned; but on a gentleman telling him he had totally destroyed the Cathedral, his countenance brightened, and the sound seemed to exhilarate him; he exclaimed, seemingly pleased, "have I!" After he was lodged in the House of Correction, an express was sent off to York with the intelligence.

It was whilst he was in the House of Correction at Hexham, that Mr. Wilson (of whom mention has been made in page 15) visited him, in company with Mr. Stainforth. Mr. Wilson asked him, whether his desire to see the newspapers at Codlaw Hill, arose from an anxiety for self-preservation. "He replied, none whatever; but as he was ignorant what effects had been produced by the fires he had kindled, he was anxious to know." On which Mr. Stainthorpe said, the damage was estimated at 100,000*l*. He coolly said, "they plundered my house and would not give me a farthing for it, and they have got paid home I think." Mr. Wilson asked him, "if he felt sorrow on account of the damage being so great?" He said, "no! not if it were for the glory



of God; if that could be promoted, £200,000 would not have been too much, and that in his opinion it would just have been as well if all the Minster had gone together, as the worship carried on in it was so idolatrous and superstitious." He declared, that he was quite happy and fully resigned to his situation, and would give himself up into the hands of the Lord. "He again declared that many of the clergy were lax in their morals, and heterodox in their opinions, manifesting the former by attending balls and playhouses, and the latter by not preaching the doctrines of the Gospel, and by not insisting on regeneration, the pardon of sin, and the witness of the spirit, &c." When Mr. Wilson and Mr. Stainforth left him, he shook hands with all present; and on the former's holding out his hand to him, he took it, and, looking him in the face and smiling, said, "Pray for me."

C. J. Newstead, Esq., accompanied by Mr. Pardoe, left York on Saturday morning, for Hexham, which place they left the next day with their prisoner. When they stopped at Durham, about five o'clock in the afternoon, there was a great concourse of persons collected at the Waterloo inn, to get a glimpse, if possible, of the offender. Martin appeared quite unmoved.

#### MARTIN'S ARRIVAL IN YORK, EXAMINATION, &c.

Such had been the demonstration of popular feeling shewn by the persons collected at different times to wait the coaches coming in, when Martin was expected, that the magistrates very prudently arranged, that he should arrive in York early on Monday morning, and that the examination should take place immediately on his arrival. It was as near as possible half-past three o'clock when Mr. Newstead and Pardoe arrived with their prisoner in a post-chaise, at the Session's-house in the Minster-yard.—He was taken into the room occupied by Harrison, the keeper of Peter prison, where he seated himself on a chair, with his hands clasped, his feet elevated on the fender, and his eyes closed. Mr. Pardoe asked him, if his feet were cold, to which he replied "yes;" and this was the only word he spoke till the examination commenced. He was dressed in a blue coat and trowsers, with a drab great coat: he had by no means the appearance of a "stout man," as described in the bill—but the person where he lodged, said he had fallen away very much in that short period. His "red bushy whiskers," were not at all prominent; indeed it was at first thought he had shaved them off, but we are informed this was not the case.—Messengers were immediately despatched for the magistrates and the witnesses; Mr. Archdeacon MARKHAM, the Rev. W. V. VERNON, Capt. MARKHAM, and JONA. GRAY, Esq. arrived in a very short period; and the prisoner was sent for; but on his appearance, he seemed to be labouring under indisposition; and Mr. Pardoe having stated, that he had been unwell on the road, the Archdeacon humanely ordered, that he should be taken down stairs again, and have some refreshment. When he got into the low room he resumed his seat by the fire; and sat for some time with his eyes closed, as if he was asleep.

It was half-past four o'clock when every thing was arranged for the examination. The magistrates who took their seats on the bench were H. J. DICKENS, Esq., Chairman, and the Rev. D. R. CURRER; Mr. Archdeacon MARKHAM, the Rev. W. V. VERNON, Capt. MARKHAM, Rev. H. MARKHAM, C. J. NEWSTEAD, Esq. Clerk of the Peace for the Liberty of St. Peter; G. BULMER, Esq. Chief Bailiff; R. DAVIES, Town Clerk for



the City; and JONA. GRAY, Esq. were the only persons present, except the witnesses, the Editor of the *Yorkshire Gazette*, and the printer of the *York Courant*.

Martin was then placed at the bar; the warrant under which he was apprehended was read over to him, and Mr. Dickens asked him if his name was Jonathan Martin? he replied "Yes."

Mr. DICKENS.—Jonathan Martin, you have heard the nature of the charge made against you: you will now hear the depositions of the witnesses, and have an opportunity of asking them any questions you think proper.

The depositions of the following witnesses were then read; and each person was sworn to their truth.

*Robert Swinbank*.—I was in the Minster-yard, on the morning of the 2d of February, about seven o'clock.—I began to slide upon a piece of ice, and fell on my back. I then saw a great smoke issuing out of the Western Tower. I sent two boys to Job Knowles's for the key, but they returned without it. I went into Stonegate, and got the key. I opened the wicket, and put one foot in, but was out again directly.

*Mr. Henry Bellerby*.—I was alarmed about ten minutes after 7, by the report that the Minster was on fire. I went directly to the South entrance, and saw Scott, the builder there. I went in, but was obliged to come out directly. I then went to the vestry door, and found Mr. Dewse in the vestry. The vestry door, and the door leading to the choir were open. The fire had spread to the West of the Archbishop's throne, there was none to the Eastward of it. Part of the tabernacle work was broke down near the throne. To the best of my belief the roof was not then on fire.

*John Cole*, one of the workmen belonging to the Minster,—I went to the back of the Minster with William Harrison, on Monday morning last, a few minutes after 7 o'clock. I saw a knotted rope hanging from the window of the North Transept. The window was broke, and pieces of the glass laid without side.

The rope was produced; and the witness said it was the same which he had seen hanging from the window.

*William Harrison*, one of the masons employed at the Minster.—I was in company with Cole on Monday morning last. Saw the rope about ten minutes after seven o'clock, hanging from the window of the West aisle of the North Transept. John Cole saw it first, and remarked it to me. I said "Yes; and there is a window broken too."

*Joseph Richmond*, watch-maker.—It is my duty to wind up, and regulate the Minster clock. On the morning of the fire, about half-past eight o'clock, I observed a rope hanging from the window of the North Transept. I thought it was the rope belonging to the Prayer Bell. I went to the bell-chamber, and found that rope was cut off about 90 feet in length. I cut off a piece of the rope, and compared it with the one hanging at the window, and found it was the same. I have not the piece with me, but have no doubt this is the rope.

*John Scott*, one of the masons employed at the Cathedral.—I was the first man in the Minster on Monday morning. The key was given me by Swinbank, and I opened the door about five minutes after seven o'clock. Had heard, about ten minutes before, that the Minster was on fire. I got in a few feet, and was forced to go back. I went in again, and saw the South side of the choir was on fire. The whole choir seemed to be on fire—but most on the South side. I saw the rope hanging from the window west of the Five Sisters window in the North



transept. It was fastened to the *fleet*,—the machine for cleaning the Minster.

*Job Knowles*.—I was the last man in the Minster, on Sunday, the 1st of February, as I then believed. The bells had been rung, and I let the ringers out between six and seven o'clock. There was no rope then gone from the belfrey. The rope now produced is the Prayer-bell rope. It hung single from the bell-chamber into the nave, and was not knotted. I missed it when I went up into the bell-chamber on Monday morning, about nine o'clock. (He looked at the prisoner.) I know that man, and have seen him about the Minster several times. I have seen him come past me frequently when I was ringing the bell for service. The last time I saw him was on Sunday afternoon, the 1st of February. He was walking in the South transept before service.

*Mrs. Lawn*, wife of William Lawn.—I live at No. 60, Aldwark; and take in lodgers. On the 26th of December Jonathan Martin and his wife came to my house to lodge, and they stopped till the 27th of January. They then left. Martin said, they were going to Leeds, and should stop a day or two at Tadcaster. He came back about nine o'clock on Saturday, the 31st of January, and said he was going to hawk his books in the neighbourhood of Tadcaster. He went out the next Sunday between 10 and 11 o'clock, and I have not seen him since till this day.

*Henry Bewlay*.—I am a glazier, and work with Thomas Noton. I went with my master to the North side of the Minster, about eight o'clock on Monday morning the 2d of February, to take some glass out of the broken window in the North transept. After taking the glass out I got in at the window. There was plenty of room for a man to get in before the glass was taken away. When I got in I saw a pair of pincers lying on the window. The rope now produced was tied to the *fleet*, and hung through the window to the ground. I cannot say whether the lead was bent inwards or outwards. I delivered the pincers to Wm. Pardoe on Tuesday morning last: they had not been out of my possession before.

*Mr. Pardoe* produced the pincers; which Bewlay identified as those he had taken from the window,

*Wm. Pardoe*.—On Tuesday I received a pair of shoemaker's pincers from Henry Bewlay, and have had them in my possession ever since. On the same day I shewed them to William Lawn, shoemaker, who immediately said they belonged to him.

*Wm. Lawn*.—The pincers now produced are the same which I have made use of in the course of trade during the last three years. Saturday week was the last day I saw them. I left them that morning in the room where Jonathan Martin slept, and did not see them afterwards till I was shewn them by Mr. Pardoe. I should have known them any where.

*Wm. Stainthorpe*, of Hexham, a sheriff's officer.—I know Jonathan Martin, who is now present. On Friday I apprehended him at a Farm-House, called Codlaw Hill, 3 or 4 miles north of Hexham. He left the farm-house with me, taking with him a bundle tied up in two silk handkerchiefs, which was opened and examined at Hexham. The bundle is now in the same condition in which it was then; nothing has been taken from it, or added to it, except two gold tassels which were taken from one of his pockets, and are now in the bundle.

The bundle was opened, and found to contain four large pieces of crimson velvet, lined with crimson silk; a piece of gold fringe, two gold tassels, and a small Bible.—*Job Knowles*, the sexton of the Minster, and



his wife, were examined at some length as to where the hangings of the pulpit and cathedra were kept,—and as to whether they were able to identify the pieces of velvet as belonging to the Minster. It appeared, that the hangings were kept in a box in the pulpit loft; but that the curtains of the cathedra were up on Sunday: and left up,—and the cushion was left in the pulpit. They could not, however, positively identify any of the things found in Martin's possession, as belonging to the Minster—though they had little doubt but they did.

*Mr. Beal*, the Upholsterer, in Coney-street, and his journeyman, *William Steele* were then sent for. The latter's deposition was taken to the following effect.

I am journeyman to *Mr. Beal*, upholsterer. I have no doubt but two of the pieces of velvet produced belonged to the Archbishop's throne; the other two were the curtains which hung against the Dean and Precentor's seats, at the entrance of the choir. I know them from having frequently taken them down, and hung them up. I hung them up last after the mourning for the Queen of Wirtemberg.

*Job Knowles* re-called.—The curtains at the Dean's and Precentor's seats were in their usual place on Sunday evening; so were the pulpit cloths. When I went next morning they were all gone.

*Joseph Booth*—I am a labourer, and used to light the gas in the Minster, and put it out. I put out all the lights myself, on Sunday, the 1st of February. I frequently rung the Prayer-bell, for my brother-in-law, *Job Knowles*; and I believe the rope now produced to be the Prayer-bell rope. I know it because, of a little knot at the end, which I tied.

*Mr. DICKENS*, then addressing the prisoner, said;—

You have heard the accusation against you, and the evidence which we think proper to bring forward at present. It is our duty to commit you to prison for trial, on the charge for which you have been arrested: but if you wish to say any thing, you must say it now.

The prisoner, in a very collected manner, and firm tone of voice, then made the following confession.

"The reason that I set fire to the Cathedral, was on account of two particular dreams. In the first dream, I dreamed that a man stood by me, with a bow, and a sheath of arrows. He shot an arrow, and the arrow stuck in the Minster door. I then wished to shoot, and the man presented me the bow, and I took an arrow from the sheath, and shot; and it struck on a stone, and I lost it.—In the second dream, I dreamed that a cloud came down on the Cathedral,—and came over to the house where I slept, and it made the whole house tremble. Then I woke; and I thought it was the hand of God pointed out that I was to set fire to the Cathedral. And those things which were found on me, I took lest any one should be blamed wrongfully. I took them to bear witness against myself. I cut the hangings from the throne, or cathedra, or whatever you call it; and tore down the curtains."

Here he stopped rather abruptly; and being asked, whether he had any thing more to say, he replied, "No."

During the whole of these proceedings *Martin* appeared perfectly calm; and stood with his eyes closed nearly the whole of the time, his head inclining over the right shoulder.—When his confession was read over to him, he exclaimed at one place, "That's wrong." On being asked what it should be? he repeated the words; and it was altered. He then said "that's right."

His committal was then made out, and signed by *Mr. Dickens* and



the Rev. D. R. Currey; and at half-past six o'clock, a coach having been procured from Mr. Moss's, he was immediately removed to the City Jail, and given into the custody of Mr. Kilby: to remain till the Assizes.

## PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS IN YORK CONNECTED WITH THE FIRE.

### *Address of the Lord Mayor and Corporation to the Dean and Chapter.*

On Tuesday, the 3rd of February, the Corporation agreed to the following address to the Dean and Chapter, on the late melancholy event.

"The Lord Mayor is directed by the Corporation of York in Common Hall assembled, to convey to the Dean and Chapter of York, the sincere condolence of every member of the Corporation on the destruction by fire of the choir of their Cathedral.

"That magnificent structure, the beauty and preservation of which reflect so much honour upon the munificence and taste of its venerable guardians, has for many ages formed the chief ornament of the City of York, and has been a source of just pride, and of the purest enjoyment, to all its inhabitants.

"The destruction of any part of this sacred edifice, and especially of that which has fallen by the late dreadful conflagration, and which was endeared to all by the holiest feelings and associations, must be lamented by every one as an individual and personal bereavement, and may, indeed, be almost regarded as a national calamity.

"The members of the Corporation, partaking of the sorrow which is expressed by all classes of their fellow citizens on this deplorable occasion, most respectfully offer to the Dean and Chapter this assurance of their sympathy and condolence.

"JOHN DALES, Mayor."

"Mansion House, York, February 3, 1829.

"To the Venerable Dean and Chapter of York."

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by several other members of the Corporation, repaired to the Residence, on Thursday, at twelve o'clock; where they were received in the absence of the Dean, (who was in Devonshire,) by the Venerable Archdeacon Markham, and the Clergy. The Lord Mayor addressed them in a very appropriate manner; and the address was read by the Town Clerk.

The ARCHDEACON expressed, in reply, the deep sense which he felt, and which he well knew the Dean and Chapter would feel, of the kindness of the Corporation, in thus sympathizing in the heavy loss which the Church of York had sustained. That loss, however, overwhelming as it was, would not, he hoped, prove to be irreparable; and his hopes were founded upon the general prevalence throughout the county, of sentiments similar to those which the Lord Mayor had so obligingly conveyed. There was but one feeling, he believed, of deep regret for the woful calamity which had occurred, and of universal anxiety to see it speedily repaired; and by the operation of that feeling there was every reason to trust, that the beautiful choir of the Minster would, before long, be restored.—In the absence of the Dean, he could not say more upon this subject, than that the Lord Mayor and Corporation might be



assured, no effort should be wanting on the part of the Dean and Chapter to reinstate (if possible) in its former perfection, a fabrick of which the city were so justly proud; and that he entertained not the slightest doubt of the spirit in which their efforts would be seconded through the whole of Yorkshire.

The Archdeacon delivered his reply in a tone of deep feeling.

#### DEAN AND CHAPTER.

On Tuesday, the 10th of February, a Chapter was holden at the Minster Vestry, when a resolution was passed, conveying the thanks of that body to the Lord Mayor, Corporation, and Inhabitants of York, for their prompt assistance during the late fire; which resolution was communicated by the Dean to the Lord Mayor.

#### THE VICARS CHORAL.

On Tuesday, the Vicars Choral agreed to an address of condolence to the Dean and Chapter, which was presented on Wednesday.

#### MEETING OF THE INHABITANTS OF YORK.

On Wednesday, the 11th of February, a most numerous and highly respectable meeting of the inhabitants, (including almost every leading Gentleman of every party and sect in the city,) was held in the Guildhall, for the purpose of presenting an Address of Condolence to the Dean and Chapter, on the late melancholy event.

On the motion of Dr. WAKE, seconded by the Rev. D. R. CURRER, the Right Hon. JOHN DALES, Lord Mayor, was called to the chair.

The LORD MAYOR opened the business of the meeting, by speaking nearly as follows:—"Gentlemen; in compliance with a requisition, which I lately received, signed with very many truly respectable names, I have convened this meeting, for the purpose of preparing an Address of Condolence to the Dean and Chapter, on the late lamentable occurrence. My feelings are so well known on this occasion, that I have no need to take up your time by expressing them. I only hope, that there will be but one expression of sympathy in this meeting."

The requisition was then read by the TOWN CLERK.

The LORD MAYOR then said,—"Gentlemen before I take the expression of your sympathy on this occasion, I beg to read you a resolution, which the Dean has this morning put into my hands."—(His Lordship here read the resolution of the Dean and Chapter. His Lordship then continued)—"Gentlemen, I also hold in my hand a book, which has been given to me this morning, in which I see the following subscriptions. I may observe, that this meeting is not called for the purpose of entering into a subscription, at the present moment; yet it is right they should know what has been done; and hereafter they will be informed, where subscriptions may be received." His lordship then read the following subscriptions.

His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of YORK, the COMMUNION

PLATE, and .....	£2000
The very Reverend the DEAN of YORK .....	300
Residentiary EYRE .....	250
Residentiary CROFT .....	250
Residentiary MARKHAM .....	250
Residentiary VERNON .....	250
Mr. Sheriff HORNBY .....	100



Dr. WAKE moved the first resolution, expressing the opinion of the meeting, that an Address of Condolence should be presented to the Dean and Chapter. The resolution was seconded by the Rev. DANSON RICHARDSON CURREN, and carried unanimously.

EUSTACHIUS STRICKLAND, Esq., said—"My Lord Mayor, I am appointed to move the second resolution, that a committee of seven gentlemen be appointed to draw up the Address. I think that every one who hears me, has previously formed his opinion, on the perfect propriety of the present proceeding. I cannot hesitate in saying, that every one who is born a citizen of York,—as I have had that honour,—must feel that he has sustained a most calamitous misfortune; and it is our duty not only to feel this, but to give expression to this feeling; and to follow up that expression, at a future time, by the proof, that we really do feel as we say we do. A noble example has been set us; and it is my firm conviction, that not only the inhabitants of York, but those of the whole county, are ready to come forward (hear) to the utmost extent of their means. Indeed, that man is unworthy the name of a citizen of York, or an inhabitant of this great county, who refuses to do so. In calling upon you to contribute to this great work, I do not wish any man to deprive himself of his comforts, or to go beyond his means: let him weigh well the circumstances; and let him give only what he can call his own, and I think the thing will be done without going out of the county for a single subscription. I know the feeling which has been already shewn in the most opulent part of the county, the West-Riding; it is such a feeling as was never shewn before in the history of the county. Let it be properly followed up here; and I call upon every individual, rich and poor, whether he can contribute one shilling, one pound, or one thousand pounds, to do so; and the Minster will be restored."—(Hear.)

The Rev. C. WELLBELOVED said, "My Lord Mayor, it may excite some surprise, that I who am a dissenter, and therefore under the suspicion of encouraging feelings hostile to the church"—(loud cries of "No, no!")—"it may excite some surprise, I say, that I should come forward, and take any part in this public business. I beg, however, to assure you, that I do it willingly, at the request of my friend Dr. Wake, to shew, that dissent, in this country, is not in alliance with a bigotted, fanatical spirit; that it does not destroy the charities of our nature; and that no party feelings mix up with the consideration of this subject, which has excited the sympathy not only of this city and county, but of the nation at large.—In infancy I was baptized into the communion of the established church; in boyhood I was instructed by one of her ministers; in my maturer years, I have thought it my duty to withdraw from her pale: but if dissent taught me bigotry, and not to sympathise in a great calamity, because it befell the church, I would not be long in the ranks of the dissenters. (Hear.) With few exceptions, we are opposed to religious establishments of all kinds; but we wish to live in peace,—we wish to live, if we may be allowed, in friendship,—with the ministers and members of the established church. The day on which this calamitous event happened, completed the 37th year of my residence in York, and during that time, I have almost daily frequented, and have unceasingly admired, that beautiful fabric the Minster. Familiarity only confirmed the feeling which novelty had excited; and from my contemplation of this elegant structure, I formed a love for English ecclesiastical architecture, which has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life. I feel, therefore, that I have individually suffered a loss: but what must be the feelings of those to whose care this beauteous fabric has been committed,—and who have



shown that they so well deserved their trust, by the care they have taken to preserve it; and by that sound taste, which has led them to repair those beauties which the hand of time was hastening imperceptibly to destroy: and thus have upheld, in its original purity, a fabric, which was a monument of their taste to the nation at large. Let those who remember what the Minster was thirty-five years ago, compare it with its state, only a few short days back, and then, if they can, withhold their meed of praise from those who have so admirably and so judiciously fulfilled their important trust.—Although from principle attached to a simpler form of worship, yet I know there are many, who have worshipped there in sincerity and in truth, to whom the solemn pomp, the pealing anthem, the responsive chant, were inexpressibly dear. With their feelings I truly sympathise, when they contemplate their beautiful, their holy house, so different from what it was.—There is one satisfaction, that the wretched author of all this mischief is known, and has been secured: and I rejoice at this circumstance, principally on the ground, that the evil and uncharitable surmises, which were so industriously circulated by those who ought to have known better, are proved to have no foundation: and the character of a large and most respectable body of the citizens, is rescued from the imputation, which was attempted to be cast upon it. (Applause). I beg to apologize for the length of time I have detained the meeting; but in the peculiar situation in which I stand, I felt these few observations were necessary.”—(Hear.)

The resolutions were carried unanimously.

The Rev. MONTAGUE WYNDYARD, jun., proposed the names of seven gentlemen to form a Committee to prepare this address. The resolution was seconded by Wm. GRAY, Esq., and carried unanimously. The gentlemen appointed, retired for a few minutes, and then returned with the following admirable Address, which was read to the Meeting by the Rev. D. R. CURRER:—

#### TO THE VENERABLE THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF YORK.

“Impressed with the deepest feelings of regret, when we contemplate the recent severe calamity which has befallen your Cathedral; we, inhabitants of the City of York and its vicinity, cannot deny ourselves the melancholy satisfaction, of thus publicly addressing to you our heartfelt sentiments of condolence upon this most awful and lamentable event. The loss which has been sustained is not to be regarded as exclusively your own; it is a loss in which every one may be said to participate; a loss affecting the young and the old, the poor and the rich, the citizen and the stranger.

“From our earliest infancy we have been accustomed to view with admiration and delight, this stately, sacred edifice, the unrivalled glory, and boast of our nation.

“Whatever was beautiful, whatever was holy, whatever was sublime, seemed here to be concentrated. How different, alas, is its present forlorn state! The faithful monitor of time continues mournfully to proclaim the fleeting hours; but instead of the voice of prayer and praise, instead of the deep and solemn tones of the organ, a death-like silence now prevails; and where the eye was wont to dwell with rapture, on the associated beauties of architectural order and symmetry, it now weeps over a melancholy spectacle of desolated grandeur.

“We are ready to exclaim with the Prophet—‘Our holy and our beautiful House, where our Fathers praised thee, is burned up with Fire; and all our pleasant things are laid waste.’—Isaiah, chap. 64, v. 11.



"While we lament the effects of this direful conflagration, there is at the same time ample cause for thankfulness, that so much still remains; that the devouring element was cut short in its career of destruction, and that amidst the perilous exertions of those, who were so zealously engaged in arresting the progress of the flames, there was no sacrifice of human life.

"Under the persuasion that our united assurances of sympathy will be duly appreciated by yourselves, we beg leave most respectfully to present this testimony of our condolence.

"Guildhall, February 11, 1829."

Mr. CURRER having concluded, on the motion of THOMAS PRICE, Esq., Seconded by DAVID RUSSELL, Esq. The address was adopted by the meeting.

JAMES ATKINSON, Esq. after a few pertinent observations, moved, that the Lord Mayor be requested to sign the address on behalf of the meeting; and in company with Dr. Wake, and the Rev. D. R. Currer, present it to the Dean. H. HEWGILL, Esq., seconded the motion. It was carried unanimously.

The LORD MAYOR said, he would willingly comply with the request of the meeting.

On the motion of ROBERT CATTLE, Esq. seconded by JONA. GRAY, Esq. it was resolved, that the proceedings of the day should be advertised in the four York papers.

The Rev. JOHN GRAHAM, after a brief but highly appropriate address, moved the thanks of the meeting to the Lord Mayor, for his conduct in the chair.

Dr. GOLDIE said—"My Lord Mayor, I beg leave to second the resolution; and I should have done so without saying one word, but for the circumstances to which allusion has been made. There is one thing I beg to name first. I read a letter lately, in a London paper, purporting to have been written from York, and giving an account of the fire. In this letter it was stated, that, while the high and middle classes were actively employed, and shewed great sympathy, the lower orders looked on with apathy. Now I do say, this is a libel on the citizens of York. The fact was quite the reverse. There was but one feeling evinced; there was no distinction of high and low (cries of "none, none.")—All were eager to do their best; and I am well convinced, that a much more substantial proof will yet be given, to shew that all are interested in this event. (Cries of "all, all.")—There is another subject which I did not expect would be touched upon at all,—but which was introduced with much propriety and feeling by the rev. gent. who spoke second; and which was also alluded to by my friend Mr. Atkinson. The belief that the class to which I belong had any hand in the destruction of that noble pile, could only have been entertained by the most ignorant. Certainly no one possessing the slightest historical knowledge, could credit it. For if there is one class of people more than another who ought to be proud of such an edifice,—and who are more unlikely than any other to sanction or promote, or applaud, such a deed as that we are met to deplore,—it is that class to whose ancestors we are indebted for those magnificent piles; and who originally worshipped in their sacred aisles. And as I repudiate, reject, and scorn, the imputation attempted to be cast on my own communion,—so do I abhor the attempt to fix it on any denomination of Christians. It is said in one of the York papers (The Chronicle) that this man is a Wesleyan Methodist: it may be so. But the act is not the act of a sect; and it is most unjust to brand a whole denomination with the crime of this wicked,—though God grant that he may not turn out



wicked, but mad,—individual. I have great pleasure in seconding the motion of Mr. Graham."

This resolution was carried by acclamation.

The Lord Mayor said "Gentlemen, allow me to say, that I properly appreciate the honour done to me: it will be impressed on my mind, and I shall remember it with all the gratitude I am capable of feeling as long as I live."

The meeting then dispersed.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS TO THE DEAN.

The Lord Mayor, attended by the Town Clerk, (both in their robes of office) and accompanied by Dr. Wake, and the Rev. D. R. CUPPER, the mover and seconder of the Address, proceeded immediately to the Deanery. They were received by the Dean, Archdeacon EYRE, Archdeacon MARKHAM, and the Rev. W. V. VERNON.

The Lord Mayor said—"Reverend Sir, I appear before you with great concern to present an Address of Condolence, on the late calamitous event, which was prepared and unanimously adopted by a numerous assemblage of the most respectable inhabitants of this city and vicinity. I believe, Sir, there is but one opinion on this alarming misfortune, and that is, that it is a national loss, and therefore we zealously pray and confidently hope, that it will meet with national support—and that his Grace the Archbishop, the Very Rev. the Dean, the Rev. Archdeacon Markham, and all the Clergy of the Church, may live to see it restored to its ancient magnificence as nearly as modern talent can accomplish."

The Town Clerk having read the Address, the Very Reverend the Dean, replied as follows:—

"My Lord Mayor and Gentlemen.—I return you many thanks for your kind address.

"You will readily believe that the late awful and unexpected calamity has overwhelmed me and the other members of the Chapter with severe sorrow.

"But the best alleviation which we have found for that sorrow, has been in the kind and generous sympathy of the worthy inhabitants of this ancient city. They gathered round us in the hour of danger, and manfully and readily shared the danger, and subdued it. They come now in the day of mourning and diminish our grief by their condolence, and by their soothing and flattering expressions—nay more, they have offered in numerous instances entirely to repair our loss, and with their assistance and the assistance of this great county, no doubt our loss will quickly be repaired.

"God grant that all of you, Gentlemen, may live to see that venerable edifice restored to its pristine glory.

"You have shared the note of lamentation poured on the smoking ruins. May you all live to share the shout of transport and thanksgiving which shall attend the *re-opening of the Temple*.

"From myself and the other members of the Chapter, accept, Gentlemen, the acknowledgment of our grateful hearts."



## RESTORATION OF YORK MINSTER.

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Meeting in the Festival Concert Room, for receiving the Report of Mr. SMIRKE, on the injury done to York Minster, by the late Fire; and to adopt a plan for the restoration of the Choir.

This meeting was held in the Festival Concert Room on Thursday the 5th of March; and was attended by a number of gentlemen from different parts of the county: and all the principal gentlemen of the city and its neighbourhood.

There were a number of ladies in the gallery.

About half-past one o'clock the Chair was taken by the Earl of HAREWOOD, amidst the applause of the gentlemen assembled. The noble Earl addressed the meeting, in substance, as follows:—

Gentlemen,—I have the honour of being placed this day in the chair of this meeting, assembled for the purpose of laying before you a plan for the restoration of a building, the destruction of which is one of the greatest calamities that has befallen this county for a length of time. On this subject, I shall do no more, at the present moment, than allude to the fact,—a fact which all must deplore, and which I trust all here present are come for the purpose of remedying. When I speak of this calamity as affecting the county of York in particular, I say it will redound to the honour and credit of this great county, to produce sufficient funds to restore the Minster to its original state. (Hear.) I am extremely anxious, that the restoration of this national monument should be effected by the county itself; but if the sum raised should be found inadequate to restore the ruined choir, then as a national monument, we may have recourse to other sources. But in the first instance, I hope and trust, that the county will come forward so liberally as to render an application elsewhere unnecessary. (Applause.) Gentlemen, there are many other topics connected with this subject, which will be propounded to you by others, who are more conversant with them than I can be expected to be. You will consider this a matter of high importance, when the dreadful calamity and the amount of damage are considered: and as I trust that we are all assembled here for one common object,—which is, as far as lies in our power, to contribute to the restoration of this great monument, and to determine the way in which that restoration is to be effected, I deem it quite superfluous to enlarge further on the subject.—(Applause.)

The Rev. W. V. VERNON then spoke as follows:—

My Lord,—I have been desired by the Archbishop to express his deep concern, that he is prevented by his duties in London from attending a meeting, the deliberations of which, he trusts, will have the most beneficial effect in promoting an object, which no one has more warmly at heart than himself.

I have also to communicate to the meeting, letters from the Lords Lieutenant of the North and East Ridings, conveying their sympathy in the feelings which pervade the county, their cordial concurrence in the object of the meeting, their intention of subscribing, and their anxiety to witness the restoration of the Minster to its former beauty and splendour. The same sentiments are expressed in communications which I have received from the Members of the County and of the City, stating the regret which they feel, that they are prevented by the sitting of parliament from attending the meeting. (Hear.)



It devolves upon me, my Lords, as the Canon in Residence, to give, in the absence of the Dean, all the information on the part of the church which may assist the deliberations of this meeting; and I should wish, in the first place, to make some explanatory statements of the course which we have hitherto pursued.

I know that our proceedings have been variously animadverted upon; and I place these animadversions to no other account than that of the intense interest and eager anxiety which the public feel upon this subject. The only reason for which I allude to them is, to vindicate the character of the Church of York in one respect. I would not have it supposed, that the warm and generous sympathy of the public has been stifled by our inertness.

There were two descriptions of feeling to be dealt with in this case: the first was that prompt and open-hearted liberality, which, in the case of a citizen of this place, (his name is Hornby, and it deserves to be recorded as long as the Minster stands)—[Applause]—sent a hundred pounds towards the reparation of the damage, before the fire was well extinguished,—a liberality which before an estimate has been delivered, or an account produced, has already raised the amount of the subscriptions to £15,000. Of this feeling, it would have ill become us to have taken any undue advantage; nor, on the other hand, would it have been proper to repel it. The measure which we took with respect to it, was immediately to request the municipal officers, and clergy, with the bankers, in all the principal towns of the county, to receive subscriptions.

The other feeling to which I allude, was that of a deliberate desire and intention to contribute to the restoration of the Minster, as soon as the estimated expense of it, and the manner in which it was to be executed, should be known; a feeling not the less deep and lasting for being considerate and reflective; and a feeling on which, after all, the principal reliance was to be placed. To meet these very natural and rational inquiries, the Dean and Chapter made immediate application to an Architect of the highest and most established reputation, to survey the injury, to consider in what manner it ought to be repaired, to form a correct estimate of the expense, and to draw up a report of the whole. The present, I would add, is the earliest moment at which it was possible by any exertion for such a report to have been produced. (Hear.)

I will now lay this interesting document, which I only received two nights ago, before the meeting, at the same time apprising them, that Mr. Smirke is himself present to explain it, should any explanation be required.

## REPORT UPON THE STATE OF YORK MINSTER,

FEBRUARY 1829.

In compliance with the desire of the Dean and Chapter, I have examined the building, in order to ascertain the extent of the injury done by the recent fire in it, and to report the means and the probable expense of repairing it.

After making a careful survey, I find that no injury has been done to any other part of the building than the choir; the external walls of the choir and the principal part of the side aisles are also uninjured, but within the choir every thing has been destroyed.

Nothing remains of the highly enriched ancient wood-work with which the choir was fitted up: and the whole of the vaulted ceiling and the roof over it, have been entirely consumed.



The stone screen at the altar has also suffered so much injury, that it must be taken down in order to be restored and refixed; and the greater part of the pavement of the choir and the lady's chapel is destroyed.

The stone clustered pillars, round several of the great piers of the arches next the side aisles of the choir, are destroyed; or remain in so very shattered a condition, that they must be taken down and replaced: but the interior and solid part of these piers, so far as it is essential to the support of the superstructure, is not materially weakened, and the whole may therefore be rendered perfectly substantial.

The great east window has suffered very little injury, nor have any of the other windows round the choir sustained damage that may not easily be repaired.

With regard to the measures proper to be taken for repairing and restoring the building, it appears to me on every account most desirable, that the work should be reconstructed in every part with materials of the same durable quality, as those employed in the original construction of the fabric; and that the same design, in all the ancient ornamental work, should be strictly adhered to, as far as it can be ascertained.

With these views, I would recommend, that the new roof should be made wholly of oak, or of teak, and be covered with lead;—that the ribs of the vaulted ceiling should be constructed also, as they were, of oak, moulded and enriched in the same manner; and that the same material should be employed for all the carved work of the prebendal stalls, and every other part of the interior fittings.

Concerning these fittings it may be satisfactory to know, that drawings and memoranda are preserved of many parts of them, by the assistance of which I think the whole may be restored in a correct manner.

Although it would be scarcely possible to submit a statement, shewing the precise expense to be incurred, in the necessary reparation of the several parts of the building, I have endeavoured to prepare, according to the best of my judgment, an estimate of the expense, and in many of the most important parts of the work, I may assure myself that it will not be found erroneous.

I am of opinion, that the expense of the works, executed in the manner I have recommended, cannot be estimated at less than the sum of £60,000. It is proper to state, that I have not attempted to include in my calculations, the expense of an organ, (except a suitable case for one,) nor of the books or articles of furniture, that have been destroyed; but I have omitted nothing that is necessary for the complete restoration of the fabric: and if the direction and superintendence of the works be entrusted to me, I may confidently state, that the expense will not exceed that sum.

In carrying the works into execution, the first operations would have for their object, the immediate security and preservation of the building: and for this purpose, the new roof should be made, and the parapets, and other parts of the walls connected with the roof, rebuilt: repairing at the same time all those parts of the internal masonry, which contribute in any degree towards the strength of the fabric.

These works might be completed in the course of the present year: and with them, arrangements would also be made, for the satisfactory progress and execution of other parts of the work.

I am of opinion that the restoration of every part of the building, may be completed, before the end of the year 1831.

(Signed) ROBT. SMIRKE.

I apprehend (Mr. Vernon continued) that about £5000. should be added to the estimate which has now been stated, to replace the damage



sustained in the destruction of the organ, the music, the books and furniture of the church. Upon the Report, I have only to remark, that the Dean and Chapter entirely concur in the principles of absolute and perfect restoration, which Mr. Smirke has recommended; and that should the means of finishing the work immediately on these principles be withheld from them, they would even prefer protracting its completion to abandoning them in any respect; they will not depart from a model, more excellent and beautiful than any thing which they can substitute in its place; they will not, in their reparation of this noble and venerable inheritance from past ages, pay less attention to grandeur of effect, and durability of material, than was bestowed on these great objects in its original construction. (Hear.)

Having stated to the meeting the views which the Dean and Chapter entertain respecting the proper mode of conducting the repairs, and the sums at which those repairs are estimated, I have now to give such information in regard to the funds of the Church, as may shew in what degree they are competent, or otherwise, to meet the present emergency. I am bound, indeed, by a solemn obligation, to keep the secrets of the Chapter, but with the consent of that body, and under its direction, I shall be perfectly unreserved and explicit on this subject. (Applause.)

The funds of the Church have been long appropriated to three distinct objects:—first, to the general maintenance of its establishment,—that is to say, to the expenses of the Choir, the payments to its salaried officers and stewards, and a variety of incidental charges;—secondly, to the reparation of the fabric;—and, thirdly, to the improvement of the Minster Yard and the area surrounding the Cathedral. The last of these objects is one on which some explanation may be satisfactory to the meeting.

So far back as the reign of Charles the First, the Dean and Chapter had a royal Mandate on this subject, a copy of which is still preserved.—The good taste of that Monarch had been offended by observing the contiguity to so magnificent a structure of mean and unsightly buildings, by which it was so surrounded and choaked up that its beauty could scarcely be seen; and he gave a peremptory order to the Dean and Chapter, to pull down the houses which were immediately in contact with the Cathedral, and to let the leases of the others expire for the purpose of their being removed.

In order to effect a similar object in a legal manner, an act of parliament was obtained in the present century, in the year 1814, which empowered the Dean and Chapter to purchase certain houses and ground near the Cathedral, for the purpose of improving the Minster Yard, and which authorised them to apply the funds of the Church in this manner. Under that act and a subsequent one, by which its powers were extended, several houses have been pulled down, and improvements have been made of no less importance to the appearance of the fabric than those which have been bestowed upon the reparation of the building itself. Among the houses included in the act, and among those which it was the most proper to condemn, was the present Deanery; and the spirit of the act has been adhered to in substituting for it a house of more appropriate character, in a different situation, by an equitable exchange, not only of the premises, but of the adjoining property of the Dean.

The expenses which have been incurred in conducting these operations of improvement have been often great. In the time of the late Dean a considerable debt was contracted, and afterwards paid off; and there is at present a debt on the personal security of the Members of the Church to the amount of £6000.



\* In the mean while, the reparation of the fabric has been continued without interruption; in restoring the decays of time, there has been expended, for a long period, about a thousand pounds a year; the East Window has just been completed, but there still remains so much to be done as would employ the same sum for a longer period than I can undertake to determine.

The total funds of the Church, independent of remote contingencies, are about £3000. a year; the necessary expenses of the general establishment of the Cathedral are about £1000; and the annual incumbrances incurred by the debt before-mentioned, and by the other arrangements connected with the improvements in the Minster Yard being added, about half of the funds of the Church are thus engaged; the other half, amounting to about £1500 a year, remains disposable; and but for the late calamity, would have been applied to the progressive repairs of the Minster, and the improvements in the Minster Yard.

These repairs and improvements are now, however, all suspended until better days. I will not detain the meeting by referring to the inconvenience which results from the interruption of the Plans of the Chapter for placing the new School on part of the premises of the Deanery; but I must remark, that from the sum which I have mentioned as disposable, something must be deducted for such repairs of the Minster as may be absolutely unavoidable.

It will be obvious to the meeting, from the statement which has now been made, that the funds of the Church are altogether inadequate, even if they were mortgaged, to meet such an estimate as that which has been laid before you; and no one who takes any pride or interest in York Minster would ever wish to see those funds mortgaged, which are necessary to carry on the renovating of the architectural beauties which time has impaired, and to preserve the fabric from decay.

In all that I have said, and in all that I have to say, I have not alluded, and I shall not allude, to any other method of meeting the difficulties in which we are placed, than the method of voluntary subscription. It is to this method that the whole feeling of the county, as I know from the numerous communications which I have received from every part,—it is to this method that the whole feeling of the county, in every class and denomination of persons, I had almost said in every individual inhabitant, spontaneously turns: and this is a feeling, my Lord, from which I trust the Church will never turn away.

It is no new thing for the county of York to contribute its voluntary aid to the reparation of its Minster. I find, that at so remote a time as the year 1352, contributions were raised by brief, throughout the Diocese, for the “consummation of this fabric, begun of so noble a stonework, and laudable structure:” and soon afterwards for the rebuilding this very choir. And in the last century, I think in the year 1732, several thousand pounds were subscribed, for the purpose of giving to the Cathedral that pavement, of which a great part is now destroyed. A far greater sum, indeed, is at present in question, but since the period to which I advert, an immense increase of wealth has flowed into the county, and with it, I trust, a proportionable increase of public spirit. It is not my part, however, to press this point; no solicitations are required, and therefore, none are becoming, from us. We have only to say to the meeting, that if it seems good to this great county, to restore the choir of York Minster, we pledge ourselves to conduct the restoration, upon the principles which have been stated to-day. We feel, that as the proper guardians of the church, the charge of carrying these principles into execution, must neces-



sarily rest with us, but it would be satisfactory to our feelings, though it might not be required by the meeting, that Trustees unconnected with our body, should be appointed, to certify to the county, that its subscriptions have been duly applied to the purpose for which they were given.—With this view, I am authorised in the first place, to state, that we undertake to keep an account of the expenses attending the restoration of the choir, distinct from the other charges of the church, and in the second place, to propose, that the subscription which have been, or may be made for this restoration, be placed to the credit of trustees, who shall advance it for the purposes of the restoration, as the progress of the work may require, and who shall audit the accounts of the expenditure.

The Rev. WILLIAM HENRY DIXON said—My Lord, as Chairman of the Committee for preparing the preliminary arrangements for this meeting, I have received several letters from different gentlemen, regretting that they cannot be present to-day; and expressing generally, the sentiments contained in the letters of the Lords Lieutenant. I shall not take up much of the time of the meeting by reading them.

The Rev. Gentleman then read the several letters to which he alluded, of which the following is the substance.

The first is from Lord GRANTHAM, and requests that his name may be put down for 200*l*.—Lord WHARNCLIFFE has also written, to say that his being present at the meeting on the 5th is out of the question; but that he shall, when he sees what is done by the meeting, put down his name as a subscriber.—Lord TYRCONNEL wrote to regret his unavoidable absence, and subscribed 50*l*.—Mr. BETHELL, of Rise, wrote to express his disappointment at a circumstance which would prevent his being present. He suggested, that the object of the meeting would be promoted by publishing Mr. Smirke's report, and by the holding of local meetings.—If this plan were not adopted, he wished his name to be put down for 200*l*. He added, that as this misfortune was a national loss, he should not consider it improper to implore the aid of the public purse, but he should be gratified if it could be done in the county.—Sir EDWARD VAVASOUR, (the inheritor of the honours and the fortunes of Sir Robert le Vavasour, who in the 13th century, furnished the stone with which the choir was built as stated by Mr. Vernon) after naming his pecuniary subscription, offered the use of his quarry, if the stone would be in any way useful in the repairs.—The Hon. EDWARD PETRE subscribes 200*l*.—Mrs. FREEMAN, who is a native of Yorkshire, but who resides at Ambleside, Cumberland, (and who the Rev. Gentleman said, he looked upon as the representative of a very numerous class, the non-resident natives of the county) "took the liberty" of inclosing a 100*l*. Bank of England note, towards the repairs of the Minster; her servant, also a Yorkshire woman, begged to enclose her mite of 10*s*. A letter from the Vicar of Otley, announced, that a subscription had been opened in that town, which at present amounted to 115*l*. 5*s*.—The Rev. E. KILVINGTON, wrote to enclose 100*l*.; and said he would very willingly have given double or treble that sum, had he not expended from 12,000*l*. to 13,000*l*. upon his own church at Ripon.—Mr. COATES, of Ripon, wrote to say, that seeing from the Yorkshire Gazette, that the subscriptions were rather languid, he wished his mite to be increased from ten pounds to twenty guineas; adding, "guineas tell better than pounds."

I have, said the Rev. Gentleman, received several smaller sums; which will make the total amount upwards of £16,000.

The announcement of the several sums was received with applause.

Lord HOWDEN then said—My Lord, I have the honour to move the



following resolution, which I doubt not will have the full approbation of this meeting. His lordship read the first resolution, approving of the report of Mr. Smirke.

Colonel TEMPEST.—I beg leave to second the resolution, and I may add, that it will give universal satisfaction, when it is known, that this magnificent pile, which has been for so many centuries, the pride of the county, will be restored to its former state.

The CHAIRMAN.—(Having read the resolution) said—Those who are of opinion that this resolution should pass, will say “Aye.” There was a general response of “Aye,” from all parts of the room.

The CHAIRMAN.—Those who are of a contrary opinion, will say “No.” (No answer.) It is carried *nemine contradicente*.

J. B. S. MORRITT, Esq. read the second resolution; which was expressive of a confident hope, from the interest expressed throughout the county, that the sum required would be raised by public subscription. He then said—It is, I am sure, with very great pleasure, that we all have heard the intention of the Dean and Chapter, who have called us together this day, to adopt a plan for the restoration of the sacred edifice; and that the restoration is to be upon the same scale, the same magnificence, the same durability, for which we always admired that beautiful building. I confess, if any other plan had been determined upon, I should not have viewed it with the same pleasure. I should be sorry, if, for the more speedy completion of the object in view, any thing which can contribute to its magnificence, should be neglected. (Applause.) I always think, in such cases as these, if the subscription be not at first adequate to the object, still it is best to go on. In repairing a monument like York Minster, so durable and so majestic, time is the least consideration. It is better to do it slowly, and to do it well; and it would be highly improper to do any thing likely to hazard the security of the building. Having heard the estimate, I can say I am glad it is no worse. I certainly did not anticipate, that the beautiful ornamental work which the choir contained, could have been restored for so small a sum. I have no doubt but the country would assist us; but I trust the inhabitants of Yorkshire feel such an interest in the cause, as will induce them to take a pride in restoring their Minster themselves. The edifice was built principally by Yorkshiremen; and I hope Yorkshiremen will always be found to keep it in repair. It is quite unnecessary, where all are animated by the same sentiment, for me to detain you any longer.

The LORD MAYOR of York, in seconding the resolution, said—My Lord, I am extremely happy to find, that the confidence is so strong, of the means being found in this county to restore the Minster; I ardently hope that that confidence will not be disappointed: and I trust, that you will set this day, in this hall, an example to the whole county, which will be instantly followed; and that gentlemen will come forward without delay, to subscribe the required sum. I know the general feeling of the gentlemen on this subject; and when I look at that gallery, and behold the ladies, who are animated by feelings which they share in common with hundreds and thousands of their sex; (applause)—and when I know the generosity which they always evince, I am sure that, with their aid, the sum will be raised. (Great applause.)

The resolution was put from the Chair, and declared to be carried *nemine contradicente*.

The third resolution for appointing a central Committee, which was to be instructed to take measures for the establishment of local Committees, was moved by C. BECKETT, Esq., and seconded by the MAYOR of DONCASTER.



The CHAIRMAN said—Before putting this question to the vote, I beg to say one word on the subject. There are a great many gentlemen present from various parts of Yorkshire; and if they would take the trouble, now they are here, to attend the central committee, and make arrangements for forming branch committees, it would save much time, and much correspondence; and they could immediately, on their returning home, set to work.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

G. L. Fox, Esq. moved the 4th resolution; appointing the members of the provincial Committees, and Subscribers of £25. and upward, members of the central Committee, which was seconded by Sir Wm. Foulis.

Sir J. V. B. JOHNSTONE moved the 5th resolution for vesting the monies raised, in the hands of four Trustees.

Mr. Alderman WILSON seconded it. The worthy Alderman said—This is called as a meeting of the county; but I hope, as an old citizen of York, that I may call upon my fellow citizens to join heartily in the good work. All know what improvements have been made by the Dean and Chapter; and no improvement can be made by them, that does not redound to the honour of the city of York. I have no doubt, but by the exertions of the city and the county, the sum we have heard named will be raised; and that the Dean and Chapter will be left in possession of their annual fund for improvements, and the completion of those repairs, which they have commenced from time to time.

This resolution was carried unanimously.

RICHARD YORKE, Esq., moved the appointment of the four members for the county as Trustees.

This resolution was seconded by HENRY PRESTON, Esq., and carried as the former ones had been.

MARTIN STAPYLTON, Esq. moved the 7th resolution, authorising the central committee to call for the subscriptions, and pay them to the credit of the trustees. He said—My Lord, I feel gratified by the honour which the provisional committee has conferred upon me, by intrusting this resolution in my hands,—because, if that had not been the case, I should have had to apologize for addressing you. After the large subscription which has been already raised, when we consider the shortness of the time, and the few efforts which have comparatively been made, to those which will now be made in this county, I am well aware, that it will be scarcely necessary for me to answer an attempt made by one Editor, to stop the current of the public feeling, in this instance,—and which another Editor has insidiously termed a paragraph,—though it was not contained in a common paragraph, but in the leading article of the paper. It is only necessary to shew the tone of this article, to mention, that the Editor compares the damage done to this Cathedral, with the loss which a private gentleman might sustain by the destruction of his house. (After a few more remarks on this point, Mr. S. proceeded)—The resolution handed to me, empowers the Central Committee to call in the subscriptions. We have no doubt but that the subscriptions will be promptly forthcoming; and that the appointment of the four members of the county, as trustees, must be acceptable to all sects and parties. There is scarcely an Englishman but will take an interest in the restoration of York Minster; it will, however, be disgraceful to Yorkshire, if there is not a sufficient sum raised in the county, to effect the restoration. I would not confine the subscriptions to residents; but in the first instance I would appeal to our fellow freemen, (for I boast, and always shall boast, of being a freeman of York), and to our fellow-



freeholders ;—and by their liberality, there cannot be a doubt of effecting the restoration of an edifice, the loss of which we so feelingly deplore.—The next question is, are we to confine it to Yorkshire, or are we not ? I would say let us expect, let us accept, contributions from all persons who have taste to admire such buildings ; but let us not be disgraced, as I say we shall be, if the small sum which has been named, is not raised amongst ourselves. I will not mention the name of the Editor of the paper to which I alluded. I have hardly ever deigned to answer slanders against myself, though I thought it right to repel the assertions of this person. I will not however hand down his name to the execrations of posterity, which I must do if I mention it here. He refused to put my letter in reply into his paper, but I will not mention his name. I have to apologize for the smallness of my own subscription. But I have been engaged in several expensive public undertakings, one in particular in this county, in which I expended the whole sum with which I headed the subscription, 1000*l.* ; though every other subscriber had his money returned. I have also a large family of younger children to provide for ; and must therefore limit my subscription to 100*l.* (Applause.)

NORCLIFFE NORCLIFFE, Esq. seconded the resolution.

W. L. F. SCOTT, Esq. moved a resolution for entering into an immediate subscription.

The Rev. D. R. CURRER said,—My Lord, I beg to second that resolution ; and I have not the least doubt, when we consider there has been already received no less a sum than 16,000*l.*, nearly one-fourth of the sum required for the completion of the work, but that we may date from this day the commencement of a subscription, by which, in the course of the year, at all events, the sum required may be raised. Mr. Smirke's estimate is 60,000*l.* ; to which Mr. Vernon says 5000*l.* must be added, for the expense of an organ, music, and other things. When it is considered, that a rate of fourpence in the pound in this county will raise 100,000*l.*, there can be little doubt of this sum being raised ; and I hope all here will live to see the building restored to its original splendour.

The CHAIRMAN here intimated, that any person desirous of subscribing would find books open at the doors.

This resolution, was declared like all the preceding ones, to be carried *nemine contradicente* ; and Mr. Archdeacon MARKHAM had risen to move the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman, when

C. B. BROADLEY, Esq., of Dowthorpe Hall, rose and said,—My Lord, Although through the scenes of my childhood and my youth, it has often been my fortune (and I speak it with gratitude) to be present at meetings where I have been instructed by the experience of the gifted sage, and delighted by the sallies which flow unpremeditated from the vivid imagination of youth, never before was it my lot to be present upon an occasion so truly calamitous—never before did I see so great an anxiety expressed at any meeting—never before did I so much lament my ignorance—never did I deplore so deeply my want of eloquence, as I do at this moment. For I feel that the best arguments I can adduce will be weak ; and the language in which they are about to be submitted to your consideration, totally inadequate to the dignity of the occasion. But the overwhelming importance of the cause forbids me to be silent. It is not for me to weary you with the oft-told tale of the disaster which forms the subject of our misfortune : the painful story has already resounded through every palace and cottage in the Kingdom. And after—long—long after every one who hears me shall have been laid low in the grave, the same dismal tale shall be handed down to posterity till it make the ears of your children's children tingle.



Here a considerable bustle pervaded the room, as of gentlemen leaving, &c., which completely drowned the speaker's remarks; and the CHAIRMAN reminded him, that there was no business before the meeting; and he considered it rather irregular that gentlemen should rise after all the propositions to be submitted had been discussed, and gone through with. If that were permitted, there was no saying when the business would end.

Mr. BROADLEY.—Is it your lordship's wish that I should sit down?

The CHAIRMAN.—I express no wish on the subject. I only suggest that there is no question before the meeting. I have no wish to interrupt any person.

Here there were loud calls of "Chair, chair:" and Mr. Broadley stood for some moments as if undetermined whether to recede or go on.

The CHAIRMAN.—I beg not to be supposed to interrupt any gentleman in speaking. But it seems to me irregular, after all the resolutions have been disposed of, for gentlemen to get up and speak. But if any person has any other proposition to submit to the meeting, now is the time to do so. (Calls of "Chair," from all parts of the room.)

Mr. Archdeacon MARKHAM, addressing Lord Howden, said,—My Lord Howden, and Gentlemen, I beg to move the thanks of the meeting to my Lord Harewood for taking the Chair this day, and for his conduct therein.

Lord HOWDEN.—I beg leave to second that motion.

Mr. Archdeacon MARKHAM.—As many as are of that opinion, say "Aye."

The call was answered by acclamation; and the loud "Ayes" of the Company expressed their approbation of the Chairman's conduct.

Mr. Alderman WILSON then said—Gentlemen, my Lord Harewood having informed us, that subscription papers are in the room, and as accounts of what is passing will be diffused throughout the county, I think it will have a good effect, if gentlemen, before they leave, will enter their names. I wish for one to do it.

A number of Gentlemen took the hint given by the worthy Alderman, and upwards of Two Thousand Pounds were subscribed in the room.

After the meeting held at York on the 5th of March, district committees were formed in several towns to forward the views of the central committee. Halifax led the way;—and was followed by Leeds, Wakefield, Beverley, Bridlington, &c.: Subscriptions were also raised at Ripon, Otley, Doncaster, Bradford, Wheldrake, &c.; and, on the 19th of March, a meeting was held at the Thatched house Tavern, St. James's Street, London, the Earl Fitzwilliam in the Chair, at which upwards of 7000*l.* were subscribed,—the venerable Earl himself contributing no less a sum than 3000*l.*

Up to the 31st of March about £40,000 had been subscribed.

#### MARTIN'S BEHAVIOUR IN PRISON.

After Martin was committed to the custody of Mr. Kilby, on the morning of the 9th of February, he breakfasted, and went to bed; his sleep was sound and tranquil, and he awoke much refreshed,—appearing in better spirits than might have been expected, considering the awful situation in which he stood. Strangers were not admitted to see him. The next day, he appeared greatly depressed, and was very anxious to avoid public observation. He attended prayers in the Chapel in the



morning, where his demeanour was marked with great propriety. The next day, however, he refused to attend the Chapel; subsequently he was visited by the Rev. G. Coopland, the Chaplain, in his day-room; who found that so deeply rooted was his aversion to the Liturgy of the Church of England, and to pre-composed forms of prayer in general, as to leave him no reason to doubt that a forced attendance upon the chapel service would be much more likely to prove injurious than beneficial, to his own mind. Besides, he thought it not at all improbable, that were he compelled to attend, he might consider it his duty to interrupt the service, and publicly to protest against a mode of worship which he deemed formal and unscriptural. Under these circumstances, his attendance at Chapel was not enforced. He frequently prayed, and sung hymns, and when the order was relaxed, by which strangers were prohibited from seeing him, he entered very freely into conversation with them. He still pretended to be favoured with extraordinary visions. On one occasion, he said he dreamed that two angels appeared to him in prison; one of whom told him to apply his lips to the tip of his wings; which he did, when he was immediately conveyed beyond the walls of his prison.

His brother arrived in York about ten days before the Assizes commenced, to make preparations for his defence; the arranging of which was intrusted to Mr. R. H. Anderson, Solicitor. The defence intended to be set up was insanity; and a number of witnesses were collected with a view to support this plea. Dr. Wake, at the request of his brother, visited him on Friday, the 20th. Up to this period, his conduct had been extremely mild, and his feelings composed: but a little change had been observed for a day or two previous: and that night, about twelve o'clock, he attempted to make his escape.—He slept in what was called the Hospital Room;—a room in which there were two beds, a person who was appointed as his guard, sleeping in one of them, and Martin in the other. The guard fell asleep about half-past eleven o'clock;—and was soon after awoken by a knocking apparently without the room. Not apprehending any thing he went to sleep again; and Martin, having torn his bed-rug into lengths, tied them together, and formed a rope about nine yards long. He fastened this round his ancles, and, having on only his shirt and his drawers, he ascended the chimney. An iron grate which was fixed in near the top prevented him, however, from getting to the outside of the prison, and he was obliged to descend again. He then placed his sooty shirt under the bed, swept the soot into the same place, and put on his flannel dress, and retired to bed. The attendant, on awaking about two o'clock, found him up, but he soon laid down again; and both rose at half-past six o'clock.—Almost as soon as the door of the room was opened, Martin bolted out, and went into the yard. His attendant, alarmed, followed him, and found him washing himself. The state of the room, and of his person, together with two bricks being laid in the fire-place, proved the fact, that an escape had been attempted. Indeed when charged with it, he did not deny it. He said, if he had been a less person, he should have effected his escape; but that it was the "will of God" he should make the attempt, and be frustrated.

Of course, after this attempt, a closer watch was kept upon the actions of the prisoner.



## GUILDHALL, YORK.

MONDAY, MARCH 23.

Before Mr. Justice BAYLEY; the Right Hon. JOHN DALES, Lord Mayor; Aldermen WILSON, PEACOCK, SMITH, HEARON, DUNSLAY, OLDFIELD, COOPER, and CHAMPNEY.

The doors of the Court were opened this morning at eight o'clock, when a most tremendous rush took place,—the anxiety to see Jonathan Martin, inducing an immense number of people to repair to the Hall, many well dressed women were amongst them, who seemed to take their share of the pushing and struggling in good part.—During the time that the names of the Magistrates and Coroners were called over—whilst the oath was administering to the Grand Jury, and even during the Judge's Charge, there was an incessant tumult in the Court, occasioned by the continued arrival of spectators, and the struggle to gain places. Jonathan Martin had been brought down soon after seven o'clock; and previous to the arrival of his Lordship, he stood up in the dock; and seemed to be perfectly unconcerned at the situation in which he was placed. His countenance was perfectly placid: it wore no traces of terror, and certainly none of guilt. On the contrary, a smile played occasionally round his lips, and as it passed over his countenance, gave it rather an interesting appearance. Undoubtedly there was no *trait* of insanity, either in his manner or in his features.

After the usual preliminaries, the following Gentlemen were sworn on the Grand Jury.

Robert Cattle,  
Thomas Price,  
John Tweedy,  
Adam Fyfe,  
Pearman Johnson, and  
John Barstow, Esquires.  
James Meek,  
Thomas Wood Wilson,  
Adam Dale,  
James Barber,  
John Simpson,  
Wm. Tyler,

John Wolstenholme,  
Samuel Henwood,  
Geo. Hudson,  
John Bulmer,  
Edward Stead,  
John Walker,  
C. J. Hanson,  
J. F. Brown,  
F. W. Storry,  
John Slater, and  
John Hotham, Gentlemen

The oath having been administered, and the usual proclamation read, the learned Judge addressed the Grand Inquest. The following is that part of the Charge which refers to Jonathan Martin:—

“Gentlemen of the Grand Jury—Though no one can lament more than I do, the occasion which gave rise to one of the cases in the Calendar—this is not the proper place to do more than put that case in a state of investigation, in order that, if it should appear necessary, it may be properly brought before us; and if the party be really criminal that he may be put on his trial before his country. Gentlemen, there are cases of apparent derangement of intellect which make it improper for the Grand Jury to find a bill against the person charged; but these must be cases of a plain, clear, and unquestionable nature; and in any case which requires careful consideration, it is right for the Grand Jury to find the bill, that it may be put in a train of proper investigation, before a petit jury;—there the question can be more elaborately discussed, and more carefully investigated, than before a Grand Jury. Therefore, if you find that the person in charge is the person by whose hand the mischief was effected, you will find the bill, and let the question, whether he was in a proper state of mind to answer for his crime, be put in a state of investigation.”

The Court now adjourned to the Mansion-House, to breakfast with the Lord Mayor. During their absence, Jonathan Martin placed himself in the front of the dock, and looked around him with an air of the most perfect unconcern. He engaged in conversation with the parties near him, and laughed at their observations with the most perfect *sang froid*. The following are some of the observations which were made by him.

*A Lady*.—“Do you not feel sorry for what you have done?”

*Martin*.—“Oh, no! not at all.”



*The Lady.*—"But in destroying that beautiful pile of buildings, you inflicted no punishment upon its Ministers."

*Martin.* (Laughing).—"Oh! it may make them stand, and consider their ways. All those who are really converted, will think I have done right *enuff*."

The trumpets soon after sounded,—heralding the approach of the Judge. The prisoner said—"Hark, how the watchman cries. Oh! attend to the sound." The crowd was so dense in the Hall, that it was with difficulty a passage could be made for his Lordship. Martin laughed, and observed to Mr. Kilby, "They'll have t'ould man down." A Gentleman asked him, if he was not afraid? He said, "No, not at all."

The populace entirely filled the Hall, and part of the yard; and Jonathan turned his face towards them, frequently laughing, and talking to those with whom he came more immediately in contact. He said, he "believed he was the most righteous man in Court;" adding, "I have made as much noise as Buonaparte ever did. I think this is a very throng day." He then turned round to the Counsel and Reporters, and said, "I keep them very busy: I have given them all a job. I'll put their hands in by and by." When the Judge returned, he said, "Here's t'ould man coming again." He seemed quite pleased at being the object of such universal interest; and repeatedly laughed at the attempts of the people to get a sight of him.

In the course of the morning, Mr. Richard Martin, brother to the prisoner Jonathan, entered the Court, having been sent for by Mr. ANDERSON, the solicitor for the defence. When Mr. R. M. approached the table, his brother got a view of him, and appeared very much pleased at seeing him: it was evidently his brother's wish to avoid a recognition.

The Judge noticing the prisoner standing up, ordered him to be put down in the dock. His Lordship had before ordered him to stand down: he said this public exhibition was very improper. He would not have had the man brought down, if he could have foreseen it.

About half-past eleven o'clock, the Grand Jury returned into Court, and the Foreman said,—Here are two bills against the same person; we are not certain whether it is necessary to go through both.

*The Court.*—Have you found one bill?

*The Foreman.*—Yes, my Lord.

This bill was handed up to the bench; it was a true bill against Jonathan Martin, for Arson.

The prisoner was then placed at the bar; and

Mr. Serjeant JONES said,—My Lord, on the part of the prisoner, I move, that the trial be removed to York Castle.

*The Judge.*—You have authority from him to make the application?

Mr. Serjeant JONES.—I have authority from those who act for him. I cannot say, under all the circumstances, that I have authority from him.

*The Judge.*—Prisoner, this is an application made on your behalf, to have the trial removed to York Castle.

*Prisoner.*—To the Castle.

*The Judge.*—Yes, do you wish that to be done?

*Prisoner.*—I do not care where I am tried, Sir.

*The Judge.*—This is a motion made by your counsel, in your behalf.

*Prisoner.*—The Lord's will be done.

*The Judge.*—You have no objection.

*Prisoner.*—I have no objection.

*The Clerk of Arraignment.*—Are you willing to enter into recognizances to pay the extra costs, which will be incurred by removing the trial to the Castle?

*Prisoner.*—I's only a poor man. I's no money.

*The Clerk.*—It is not likely that you will be called upon to pay any thing,—it is a mere matter of form.

*Prisoner.*—Well, Sir, I's a poor man.

Some discussion here took place between the Court and the Counsel, as to whether it was necessary for the prisoner himself to enter into recognizances. The Judge said, this was expressly required by act of parliament, and he could not deviate from it. He recommended that a new bill should be preferred in the county at large.



Mr. Serjeant Jones then went and spoke to Martin, and advised him to enter into the recognizances,—and he said, "I's willing." The recognizances were then read over to him.

The Solicitor for the prosecution, JONATHAN GRAY, Esq. said, no evidence would be offered upon the second bill, which was one for feloniously stealing; the Grand Jury were therefore dismissed, and the Court adjourned.

On Thursday morning, two bills were preferred before the Grand Jury for the County, against Martin; one for arson, the other for feloniously stealing. They found both bills.

# MONDAY, MARCH 30.

## CASTLE OF YORK, CROWN COURT,

### BEFORE MR. BARON HULLOCK,

The announcement that the trial of Martin would take place this morning occasioned as much interest as any case we ever recollect. The delay of a week had by no means allayed public curiosity, on the contrary, it was rather increased; and it being ascertained, in the course of Sunday, that tickets would be issued by the Under Sheriff for admission to the galleries—that gentleman's house was literally besieged with applicants. On Monday morning, we saw parties wending their way to the Castle as early as seven o'clock. The doors were opened for the admission of parties by ticket at eight o'clock—and the galleries were soon filled. When the doors were opened for the public there was a tremendous crush. The crowd, to the amount of some thousands, had previously accumulated in the Castle-yard, forming so dense a mass in the immediate vicinity of the court, that it was scarcely possible for an officer to make his way through.

At half-past eight o'clock Martin, (who had been removed from the City Jail about a quarter before six o'clock, being taken across the ferry,) with several other prisoners, was placed in the dock. He tripped down the steps with an air of the most perfect indifference.—On Sunday evening an application had been made to Mr. BARON HULLOCK at his chambers, by Mr. BROUGHAM, and Mr. SERJEANT JONES, for a postponement of the trial, on the ground that three most material witnesses for the defence had not arrived. The learned Baron declined acceding to the application at that period, and said it must be made the next morning in open Court, as he could not attend to any *ex parte* statement.

About nine o'clock the learned BARON took his seat on the bench, the public were then admitted into the body of the court, and the most intense confusion ensued for a few minutes. The hum of voices,—the cries of "silence," "hats off," from the officers; and the struggle which was making for places on the platform opposite the bench, converted the court for a few minutes into the perfect resemblance of a bear garden. When silence was in some degree restored, Mr. BROUGHAM addressed the bench, and moved that the trial should be postponed, on the grounds stated in the affidavit of the prisoner's attorney, Mr. R. H. Anderson, which was handed to his lordship. The following is a copy of the affidavit:

THE KING, ON THE PROSECUTION OF THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF YORK, AGAINST JONATHAN MARTIN, FOR ARSON.

Robert Henry Anderson, of the City of York, gentleman, maketh oath and saith, that he is attorney for the defence of the above-named prisoner; and this deponent further saith, that at the hour of ten o'clock in the evening of



yesterday, he had a consultation with his counsel: that three material witnesses on behalf of the said prisoner's defence, that is to say, Margaret Orton, of Gateshead Fell, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, widow; Paul Glenton, of the same place, surgeon; and George Middleton, of Darlington, in the county of Durham, tanner, had not then arrived, and did not arrive in York, until near eleven o'clock last night: that the counsel of this defendant advised the depositions of those witnesses to be taken by this deponent, as the attorney for the said prisoner, and laid before them before the trial; that this deponent afterwards took their depositions, which occupied this deponent until past two o'clock this morning; that the said depositions have been since copied, and were not delivered to the counsel for the said prisoner till the hour of eight o'clock this morning; that the said witnesses had not previously been examined by this deponent, but by a friend of the said prisoner; and that the reason of the said witnesses not having been before examined by this deponent, was in consequence of the great distance at which they resided from this deponent, and the great expense which would have attended a journey for that purpose.

R. HEN. ANDERSON.

*Sworn at the Castle of York, in the County of  
York, this 30th day of March, 1829.*

This affidavit was sworn to in Court: and Mr. ALDERSON, for the prosecution, not making any opposition, the learned Judge granted the application; but directed the prisoner to be arraigned. He was accordingly placed at the bar; and the Clerk of Arraignment read over the first indictment, charging him with having, on the morning of the 2nd of February, feloniously set fire to the Cathedral church of St. Peter of York. Jonathan listened very attentively; whilst the indictment was reading, and on being asked the usual question,—“what say you Jonathan Martin—are you guilty or not guilty?”

Martin, throwing himself into a theatrical attitude, said, “It was not me, my Lord, but my God did it. It is quite common for him to punish to the third and fourth generation, and to shew mercy to them that fear him, and keep his commandments.”

A plea of “Not Guilty” was entered.

The second indictment was then read over to him, charging him with feloniously stealing a quantity of crimson velvet and gold fringe, and two gold tassels, the property of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral and metropolitan church of York. He was asked whether he was Guilty or Not Guilty. Throwing out his left hand, he replied,—

“My God gave me that for my hire. The Lord gave me the silk to make a robe, like David the King; and the velvet to make a cap; and the tassels I took from the pulpit to hang down over my right and left ear.”

THE CLERK OF INDICTMENTS.—“Are you Guilty or Not Guilty?”

Martin.—“I had it given me for my hire.”

This was taken as a plea of “Not Guilty;” and Mr. Baron HULLOCK, addressing him, said—“You will be tried to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.” He bowed, and said—“Very well, my Lord;” and was removed from the bar.

The CRIER of the COURT then announced, at the desire of the JUDGE, that the trial of Jonathan Martin would not take place till Tuesday morning at nine o'clock.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 31.

The interest excited this morning was as great as that which existed on Monday. Tickets were again issued by the Under-Sheriff, George Bulmer, Esq.; and the applications for them were as numerous as on the



former occasion. We must do justice to that gentleman's desire to accommodate all parties as far as the limited room of the Court will allow: and for his attention on this, and on all former occasions, to accommodate those gentlemen who attend for the public press, he certainly deserves the warmest acknowledgments.

The Grand Jury box was reserved for ladies sent by the High Sheriff: the small gallery was also reserved for ladies. The large gallery was filled with well dressed ladies and gentlemen; and the body of the Court was crowded to excess, after the doors were opened.

The Grand Jury room was appropriated for the reception of the witnesses on both sides, who were very numerous.

At half-past eight, Jonathan was again brought in, and placed in the dock. His appearance was not in the least altered; and he appeared as unconcerned as any person in court. He was decently dressed in a blue coat and trowsers, and black silk waistcoat. He carried his great coat over his arm—which he laid down by his side.

At 9 o'clock Mr. Baron HULLOCK arrived: and on the doors being opened the bustle and confusion of Monday was renewed: and Jonathan jumped up in the dock with great eagerness, to see the crowd. He was immediately ordered down; when he folded his arms, and paced the dock with great rapidity,—laughing, and apparently enjoying the confusion.

A few minutes after he was placed at the bar; and the indictment having been again read over to him, the following gentlemen were sworn on the jury:—

John North, Drypool, Merchant's Clerk, <i>Foreman</i>	Benjamin Haworth, Rowliston, Gent.
James Carr, Drypool, Seedsman	Matthew Jefferson, Startforth, Miller
John Dinsley, Harrogate, Gentleman	John Kearton, Muker, Yeoman
William Earle, Uckerby, Farmer	John Knaggs, Sherburn, Innkeeper
Richard Foss, Huddersfield, Spirit Merchant	Edward Squire, Romanby, Gentleman
	Joseph Taylor, Cottingham, Gentleman
	Christopher Ward, Northowram, Maltster

Mr. STRICKLAND said, gentlemen of the jury, the prisoner is charged with having unlawfully, maliciously, (*Martin*,—"not maliciously, my Lord,") and wilfully set fire to the Cathedral Church of York; and you are to try, whether he is guilty or not guilty of that offence.

Mr. ALDERSON addressed the Jury nearly as follows:—You have heard already, from the indictment and opening of my learned friend, the nature of the charge which is now made against the unfortunate prisoner at the bar—that of having, by his own hand, set fire to the Cathedral of this city, and reduced that splendid pile to a mass of ruins. The second point you will have to consider, and the most important, will be, whether if the prisoner is the individual who committed the offence, what state of mind he was in at the time of the transaction. With respect to one part of this inquiry, it will be necessary to enter into some details. That you may understand it the better, I will state what I consider the law laid down upon the question of insanity, so as to affect the prisoner with the consequences of guilt. I apprehend, that in order to make him dispunishable by law, for a criminal offence, you must be satisfied, that at the time the offence was committed he was incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong. However he may have, on former occasions, been afflicted even with insanity, still, if at the time the offence was committed, he was capable of making the distinction I have mentioned, of knowing the consequences,—of knowing he was doing a wrong act, he is accountable for his conduct.

[Here, owing to the pressure in the body of the court, great confusion arose, and the learned Counsel was unable to proceed. Some time elapsed before order and silence could be restored.]

Mr. ALDERSON continued—I was stating what I conceived to be the law upon this subject, and the important question which will be submitted to your



consideration—that is, the law applicable to the state of mind of the prisoner at the time the act was committed, to which period of time, and to that period of time alone, it will be important for you to attend. That you will take into the fullest consideration; at the same time, I am most anxious that you should also notice all antecedent facts, tending to elucidate the state of mind in which the prisoner had been. After considering these facts, however, the point of time to which your attention must be chiefly directed, will be the state of mind in which the prisoner was at the time the act was done. Lord Hale lays the rule down thus;—and I would much rather quote the words than state the substance. He says—

“The best measure I can think of is this;—such a person as, labouring under melancholy distempers, hath yet ordinarily as great understanding as ordinarily a child of fourteen years hath, is such a person as may be guilty of treason or felony.”

A great number of cases have been decided upon this subject, to which I will call your attention. Earl Ferrers was indicted for the murder of his steward, and a defence of insanity was set up. It was proved, that occasionally he was insane, incapable of knowing what he did, or of judging of the consequences of actions; but the murder was a deliberate one, and it appeared to have been committed with capacity sufficient to form a design and to know the consequences. It was urged by the prosecution, that if the party had such a possession of reason as to enable him to understand the nature of his actions, and discriminate between moral good and evil, he was responsible. The result was, as you are no doubt aware, that his Lordship was convicted and executed. The next case which I shall mention, is that of Arnall, for shooting at Lord Onslow. This man was, to a certain extent, deranged, and had exceedingly misconceived the conduct of Lord Onslow.

Mr. BROUGHAM raised some objection, which we could not distinctly hear, but believe it was to the result of the cases being stated to the Jury.

Mr. Baron HULLOCK.—State the facts of the cases, but not the verdicts. I suppose they are from books to which every body has access.

Mr. ALDERSON.—The very case and citation I am making, were quoted by Lord Chief Justice Gibbs in stating a case, and also by Lord Redesdale.

Some discussion here ensued, after which,

Mr. BARON HULLOCK said, it will be as well for the Jury to be *a priori*, in possession of the law upon which this case is to be tried, for their minds ought to be prepared, in order to try it,—but don't state the results of each case. Your object, I suppose, is the principle upon which the cases were decided and turned.

Mr. ALDERSON continued—In Arnall's case, it appeared he was to a certain extent deranged, and had misconceived the conduct of Lord Onslow. It also appeared he had formed a regular design, and prepared proper means for carrying it into effect. On that occasion it was laid down,

“Where a person has committed a great offence, the exemption of insanity must be very clearly made out before it is allowed: it is not every kind of idle and frantic humour of a man, or something unaccountable in his actions, which will show him to be such a madman as is to be exempted from punishment; but where a man is totally deprived of his understanding and memory, and does not know what he is doing, any more than an infant, a brute, or a wild beast, he will properly be exempted from justice or the punishment of the law.”

The next case was that of Bowler, for the murder of William Burrows. The defence was insanity, occasioned by epileptic fits; and it was shewn, that after the prisoner had been attacked by a fit of this description, he rose at nine in the morning, ate his meat raw, lay down on the grass, and that his spirits were extremely dejected. On that occasion, Dr. Warburton deposed, that it was a characteristic of insanity, occasioned by epilepsy, for the person to imbibe antipathies against particular individuals, and yet the patient might be rational and collected on every other subject. He had no doubt of the insanity of the prisoner. A commission of lunacy was produced, from which it appeared, that,



after an inquisition, the prisoner had been found insane. The offence was committed on the 19th June, the commission was dated on the 17th; and it was found that the prisoner had been insane from the 30th of March. Mr. Justice Le Blanc observed,

"It was for the Jury to determine whether the prisoner, when he committed the offence with which he stood charged, was incapable of distinguishing right from wrong, or under the influence of any illusion in respect of the prosecutor, which rendered his mind at the moment insensible of the nature of the act he was about to commit; since in that case he would not be legally responsible for his conduct. On the other hand, provided they should be of opinion that when he committed the offence he was capable of distinguishing right from wrong, and not under the influence of such an illusion as disabled him from discerning that he was doing a wrong act, he would be amenable to the justice of his country, and guilty in the eye of the law."

The case of Bellingham was the last he should allude to. In order to support a plea of insanity, it could be proved, beyond all doubt, that at the time the offence was committed, he thought murder was not a crime against the laws of God and nature; but it was held, that, however indicative this might be of one species of insanity, so long as the prisoner was capable of distinguishing between good and evil, he was answerable for his conduct. He had already alluded to the case of Lord Ferrers, in the course of which it was observed by Mr. Yorke, afterwards Lord Chancellor, that

"It is clear that idle and frantic humours, actions occasionally unaccountable and extraordinary, mere dejection of spirits, or even such insanity as will sustain a commission of lunacy, will not be sufficient to exempt a person from punishment, who has committed a criminal act. And it seems, that though if there be a total permanent want of reason, or if there be a total temporary want of it, when the offence was committed, the prisoner will be entitled to an acquittal; yet, if there be a partial degree of reason, a competent use of it, sufficient to have restrained those passions which produced the crime, if there be thought and design, a faculty to distinguish the nature of actions, to discern the difference between moral, good, and evil; then, upon the fact of the offence proved, the judgment of the law must take place."

These are the authorities of the law, to which I propose to call your attention. I shall now state the circumstances of the case, and it will be for you to say, whether these circumstances, independent of other evidence, do not show thought, contrivance, and a capacity of distinguishing between good and evil.—[Mr. A. here entered into a history of the circumstances connected with the burning of the Minster, the flight of Martin, and his subsequent apprehension.] These, (continued Mr. A.), are the facts of the case. With respect to the state of mind the prisoner was in, at and about the time the offence was committed, he should proceed to state the evidence. There was no question the prisoner had been in a lunatic asylum twice—first near Bishop Auckland, upon a charge of making an attempt upon the life of the late Bishop of Durham, for which he was put into safe custody, where he remained several years. He made his escape, was retaken, and placed in another asylum. These circumstances, however, occurred several years ago. In October last, he was married at Boston, and the persons who were present will be called before you. I shall also call before you, a person who, in November, gave him class tickets for the Methodist Society, and will tell you his state of mind. I shall also call witnesses who can speak to his state of mind in December, and on the Friday evening before the offence was committed. These will be the facts of the case I shall lay before you. But there is another fact, which is most important to the prisoner, and which I should be the last to conceal, and the first to declare. It is a most remarkable circumstance. The prisoner came to York on the 26th December, and on the 27th, upon one of the gates of the choir, a letter was found which I will read, and to which unfortunately no attention was paid. It is in the prisoner's own hand-writing, as I shall prove. (Here the learned Counsel read the letter, for which see p. 12.) There were other papers to the same effect, and in the same hand-writing.



*Martin.*—I sent five letters, sir.

*Mr. ALDERSON.*—We have one in possession, in the hand-writing of the prisoner at the bar, but I am unable to prove how it came into our hands. I will, however, if my learned friends are agreeable—(Mr. Brougham nodded assent)—lay before you that letter which was found in the Minster at a subsequent period. These will leave no doubt upon your minds as to the first issue. With respect to the second, if you have any real or sincere doubt, as to whether the prisoner was so far insane as to be incapable of distinguishing right from wrong. I am sure I, and the persons I represent, the amiable and excellent individuals connected with the Minster, will be most happy that your verdict should be in favour of the prisoner.

During the time Mr. Alderson was speaking, the prisoner leant forward, and listened with great attention.

*Job Knowles, by Mr. ARCHBOLD.*—I am sexton of York Minster, and was so on the 1st. of February. I believe I was the last person who left the Minster that day. The ringers left about half-past six o'clock, and I came out after them. I saw no person there at that time, and locked the door. There was a rope belonging to the Prayer Bell; which on Sermon-days and Sundays was rung from the Belfrey; on other days from below. I saw Jonathan Martin in the Minster that afternoon, about half-past three. There were velvet hangings to the pulpit; a curtain below the pulpit, by the ladies' pew; and another to the Archbishop's throne. These were all safe on Sunday night. On Monday morning, I went to the Minster about a quarter after seven o'clock. The Minster was on fire; but it had not reached the pulpit. The hangings were taken from the pulpit. I found them, as I supposed, at the bottom, but afterwards found, that the gold fringe and tassels were gone. The curtain by the ladies' pews was cut away. There were two wax candles used the evening before.

*John Scott, by Mr. STRICKLAND.*—I am one of the workmen belonging to the Minster. I was the first person in the Minster on the 2nd of February. I found the whole of the tabernacle work destroyed, from the Archbishop's throne, nearly to the altar screen. (He produced the rope) I found this in the small window of the north transept, next the five sisters. It was fastened to a running scaffold that we have for cleaning the interior of the church. There was a hole in the window through which the rope was hung. It was large enough for a man to get through. It touched the ground without side.

*Wm. Ruddock, by Mr. ALDERSON.*—I am one of the ringers; and was in the belfrey on Sunday night. The prayer bell rope was then perfect. It was coiled up, to prevent it from going down through the hole. It would be about 70 or 80 feet from the belfrey to the nave, where it was usually rung. I left the belfrey open.

*Joseph Richmond, by Mr. ALDERSON.*—I am a clock maker. I went up into the belfrey on Monday afternoon, and found the prayer bell rope cut off. I have got a piece of it, which I have compared with the other, and they are the same.

*Henry Bewlay, by Mr. ARCHBOLD.*—I am a plumber and glazier at York, and work with Mr. Noton, I went on Monday morning, the 2nd of February, with my master's son, to the north side of the Minster, about 8 o'clock, to take some glass out of a window which had been broken. I got in at the hole. I found a pair of shoemaker's pincers on the ledge, near the hole. The rope, knotted as it is, was there: it was fastened to a machine commonly called the fleet, which was drawn close to the window. It hung down on the outside of the window. The machine was so near



the window, that a man could get out of the window by getting on the machine. I gave the pincers to Pardoe.

*Mr. Pardoe*, examined by *Mr. ARCHBOLD*, produced the pincers, which he said, he shewed to *Wm. Lawn*.

*Wm. Lawn*, by *Mr. ALDERSON*. I am a shoemaker at York, and live at No. 60, Aldwark. (The prisoner called out that he lived at No. 60.) I know the prisoner who lodged with me a month. (*Pris.* Five weeks, Sir.) He came the day after Christmas day. His wife came with him. He went away on the 27th of January. I saw him every day, more or less. In the day-time he was out selling books: they were his own life. I thought him to be a very religious man. When he had a bit of vacant time, he was always either reading his Bible or his hymn-book. He used to go to the Methodist meeting—(*Pris.* Sometimes the Ranters, Sir.) And commonly on Sunday nights, he used to go to the Minster. His wife went with him on the 27th of January.—He came back alone, on Saturday, the last day of January. (By the *JUDGE*.—What time did he come.—*Pris.* About nine o'clock at night, Sir.) My wife told me he was come, but I did not see him till next morning. Never saw him after half-past ten on Sunday. I had a pair of pincers belonging to me, (they were shewn him) I had them on Saturday, about a quarter past three o'clock; and I never saw them any more till the Tuesday after, in *Pardoe's* hands. They were kept in the chamber, where the prisoner lodged. (*Pris.* Yes in the room where I slept.)

By *Mr. BROUGHAM*.—He was a man entirely under the influence of his dreams, he said his dreams always came true.—*Mr. BROUGHAM*.—And was influenced by them?—*Pris.* Yes, my Lord, yes.—*The witness*.—He seemed to be influenced by them. When I heard the Minster was on fire, my son told me of the rope ladder; and I said, "surely it was not *Jon. Martin* that did it"—I knew some weeks before of his sending threatening letters.

By *Mr. ALDERSON*.—When I heard of the rope ladder, I thought it was *Jonathan Martin*, because he had been at sea, and was the likeliest man to make such a thing. I have heard him talk about dreaming of *Buonaparte* ruling here; but nothing else that I remember.

*Mrs. Lawn*, by *Mr. ALDERSON*.—I am wife of the last witness, and recollect *Jonathan Martin*. He behaved very well during the time he was at my house. I thought him a very sound man, he had no appearance of insanity. He employed himself in selling the pamphlets of his life; and when in my house in reading the Bible, and singing hymns. I heard him pray once. It was short, but a very pretty little prayer. I remember him returning to my house on the Saturday. It was about half-past eight, or near nine. I did not see him write letters; but have seen him engaged in writing. I was surprised to see him come back on Saturday evening, and told him so. He said his wife and he had not staid at *Tadcaster*, as they intended, but had gone to *Leeds*. I did not hear him say that he wrote letters to the clergy. He said, on Saturday night, that he had come to hawk *Tadcaster* with books. I asked him why he came to York; as it was an unnecessary journey. He said very little in answer—I cannot exactly remember the words; but it was something about, he thought he would come to York, as it was so near hand. He said he should go the next afternoon. I saw him last at half-past ten o'clock on Sunday morning. I observed not the least alteration in his conduct or demeanour. He did not come back; and did not take leave of us, nor pay for his lodging.

By *Mr. BROUGHAM*.—During the time I saw him he was, in my judgment, perfectly sensible, like any other man.



*Wm. Scott*, by Mr. STRICKLAND.—I am a brush-maker in York, and was in York Minster on Monday after Christmas day last. I saw the prisoner at the bar there, in the south aisle, on the steps leading to the Prayer House, this was between 11 and 12 o'clock in the morning. I went up the steps into the Prayer-House, and when I came back again I found that paper stuck on one of the spikes of the gate which goes towards the monuments.

*Henry Carter*, by Mr. ARCHBOLD.—I am the son of Joseph Carter, of Northallerton. On Monday, the 2d of February, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, the prisoner came to my father's house. My father was not at home. He had a bundle with him, and asked for a bed. He appeared tired, and said he should like to go to bed, as he had to get up at 11 o'clock to go off.

*Joseph Carter*, by Mr. ALDERSON.—I live at Northallerton. My sister married Martin. She is dead. On Monday, the 2d of February, he came to our house. I was not at home when he arrived. I got home between 6 and 7 o'clock. He called me to speak to him, I went up stairs to him; he was then up, but I believe he had been in bed. He had a bundle. I did not see him take any thing out of that; but he gave me a bit of red cloth, I cannot say whether he said he had taken it in part of an old debt, or a bad debt. (*Prisoner*.—I said, in part of an old debt.) My wife gave it away. He said he was going to Hexham, to his uncle, and said he should be back in three weeks. He went away from my house, about 11 o'clock that night. He asked me to lend him 3s. 6d., for he thought he was short of money. I lent it him, and got him a ride on from Northallerton in a coal-cart. I had not seen him before since Easter. On the Monday he looked very wild, and very much distressed. It is 32 miles from York to Northallerton.

By Mr. BROUGHAM.—He looked much wilder than he had done the Easter before. He was then going to Lincoln, and had been at Darlington or his uncle's, I cannot tell whether. (*Prisoner*.—I was at both.) I saw him a short time before Easter. He was not so wild then as he was the last time. I know he has been in a lunatic asylum.

*Dorothy Carter*, by Mr. STRICKLAND.—Is the wife of the last witness. She said her husband gave her a piece of red velvet and silk, which she gave to Mr. Smith. Martin seemed to be very wild.

*John Whitney Smith, Esq.* by Mr. ALDERSON.—I received the velvet from the last witness, and gave it to Mr. Pardoe. Mr. Pardoe produced the velvet.

*John Wilson*, by Mr. ARCHBOLD.—I am in the employment of Mr. Thompson, of Northallerton, farmer, and drove a cart to Darlington on the night of Monday, the 2d of February. Carter asked me to give a man a ride; the Prisoner is that man. He went to Flintoft's bank with me. Flintoft's bank is about 28 miles from Northallerton. He did not go through Darlington. He left me about eleven o'clock the next day.

*Edward Kell*, by Mr. ALDERSON.—I live at Codlaw Hill; I have known Jonathan Martin ever since he was six or seven years old. He came to my house on the 4th of February, about three o'clock in the afternoon. He had a bundle and a walking-stick with him, and a palm-branch. He asked how we all were, and said he had brought summer; alluding to the palm, which was budding. I observed nothing at all particular about him at that time. He looked tired, and said he had come from York on Monday morning: he added, he had been hunted there like a partridge. He said, he had been in Lincoln, working at his trade of a tanner; but had fallen into one of the pits, and caught cold; and had



come to York, to sell the pamphlets, not being able to work. He said more than once that he had been hunted like a partridge. He said a great many of the clergy in York were magistrates. He asked me if I had read the last edition of his pamphlet. I said I had not. He took one from his pocket, and read a dream about the destruction of London, and the overthrow of the government. I simply said to him—"You are a traitor." He said, that was what the people of York called him. He staid at my house till he was taken up. On the Thursday, he wished to see the York papers.—Either on Thursday or Friday morning, he read out of the Bible aloud. It was the 64th chapter of Isaiah. I always considered him inconsistent when he spoke about the clergy. He was confined in a lunatic asylum. It is about seven years ago. (*Pris.* It is eight, my Lord.)

By Mr. BROUGHAM.—He came to me when he made his escape from a lunatic asylum. I helped him to file off his irons. I put him in an out-office. I put out of his reach every thing with which he could hurt himself, or other persons. I thought it prudent to do so. I never knew he had a hurt in his head when he was at sea. I thought him inconsistent on the subject of the clergy. The inconsistency was something like insanity. I always avoided touching on that subject.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—It is 8 years ago since I had him in the out-house. I saw nothing unusual the last time he was with me; he conducted himself very soberly.

*Sarah Brown*, by Mr. STRICKLAND.—Is servant to Mr. Kell, and was at home when Jonathan Martin came there on the 4th of February. He had a bundle with him, which he said were clothes.

*Wm. Stainthorpe*, by Mr. ARCHBOLD.—Is a sheriff's officer of Hexham. On the 5th of February, in consequence of an advertisement in the Newcastle Courant, I went to Mr. Kell's, to apprehend Martin. When I got to the house, I found Martin there; he had a hymn book in his hand. I told him he was my prisoner. As we were going out, the housekeeper brought a bundle, which he owned as his. He carried it to Hexham, when I took possession of it. I opened it; it contained four pieces of crimson velvet, a piece of gold fringe, and a small bible. I gave the bundle to Mr. Pardoe, in the same state in which I received it.—As we were going along Mr. Kell asked, what time the Newcastle Courant came to Hexham. I said, this morning; Martin said—"Am I advertised in it?" I said he was. On coming near Hexham, Martin said—"That's a fine old church. Was that built by the Catholics too." I took him to Hexham House of Correction, and about half-an-hour after I went to him with the Magistrate's clerk. The bundle was opened in the presence of Martin. He said he had brought the velvet and the fringe from York Minster, and the Bible also. He told me he had set fire to the Minster. He told me, that he concealed himself on Sunday afternoon behind a monument. He remained there till service was done. He afterwards ascended the stairs to the Belfrey, where he struck a light with a razor, a small piece of flint, and tinder. He had a penny candle which he had cut in two. He cut the rope with a razor. He then drew it through a round hole in the Belfrey; he knotted it, and first used it in getting into the interior of the Minster, over the wooden gate. He put the light out, and knotted a part of the rope in the dark.

*Prisoner.*—That's wrong—I knotted it in the Belfrey in the light.

*Witness.*—He then got into the interior over the wooden gates—when he struck a light. With his razor he cut the curtain and gold fringe from the pulpit; and then collected the cushions and prayer books, which he



placed in a pile, on each side of the carved work. He introduced matches into each pile, and left the interior as the smoke began to surround him. He had a pair of pincers which he brought from his lodgings; with which he broke one of the windows. He then fastened one end of the ladder to the machine, and put the other out of the window, and by its assistance he got out of the Cathedral. Before he left he looked at the fire, and saw one of his piles burning briskly; the other was not burning so much. He left the Minster about 5 o'clock, and proceeded by Easingwold and Thirsk, to Northallerton. He subsequently went by Darlington, Allensford, and Corbridge, to Cod's Law Hill. The first time he told me he had set fire to York Minster, he told me, he had done it to be revenged of the clergy, who had put him into a lunatic asylum, and prevented his wife and children from seeing him.

By Mr. Sergeant JONES.—He gave me another account, which was about two dreams he had. He said, he saw a man standing at the door of the Minster with a bow and a sheath of arrows. The man let fly one arrow against the door of the Cathedral. The man then took another arrow from the sheath, and gave it to Martin, who endeavoured to use the bow, but the people surrounded him so, that he could scarcely use his arm. He then let fly the arrow, and it struck against the flags, and disappeared. The next dream was, that a black cloud hung over the Minster.

*Prisoner.*—You have forgot half your story, Sir.

*Witness.*—It rolled to the house where he lodged, and shook it very much. From these two dreams, he thought himself destined to destroy the Minster. He said, he took the fringe and the tassels to prevent any innocent persons from suffering; that they might testify that he was the person.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—When he was relating these things, the impression on my mind was, that he was not in sound mind.

*John Leefe*, by Mr. ALDERSON. I am keeper of the House of Correction at Hexham. (He produced the fringe, tassels, &c.) I asked him what made him burn the Minster. He told me about the dream; and said, he was vexed at the idolatrous worship of the people, and at seeing bad women and men walking about. He brought away the Bible because he knew he should have to be in prison, and he wanted it to comfort him.

*Mr. Pardoe* produced the bundle, Bible, &c.

*Matthew Wilson*, by Mr. ALDERSON.—I am a preacher among the Wesleyan Methodists, and visited Martin in the House of Correction. I asked him why he set fire to the Minster. Instead of answering the question directly, he told me he had long been of opinion, that the clergy of the establishment were blind guides; adding, if the blind lead the blind, they will both fall into the pit. I asked him, if he felt any ill-will, or malice against the clergy? He said no, but he was sorry for them, because he thought they led the higher ranks of society astray. He said he had had two dreams; and as to the Minster, he believed its destruction was for the glory of God, the good of the people of England in general, and the people of York in particular; as, when the Minster was destroyed, the people would be dispersed to other places of worship, where they would hear the Gospel preached. He said he felt no condemnation for his conduct whilst in the Minster, but on the contrary, he felt quite happy; sometimes he praised God, because he had strengthened him to do so good a work. I mentioned to him in allusion to what was said in the newspapers, relative to noises which were heard, that I sup-



posed it was him ranting about. He said, very likely; as he frequently shouted "Glory to God!"

By the JUDGE.—This was while the fire was in progress I suppose.  
*Pris.* No, my Lord, before I began the work.

By Mr. BROUGHAM.—He told me he had two dreams, which convinced him it was his duty to set fire to the Minster, and that he took the ring off his wife's finger, for the loss of which she expressed great concern, and which he restored to her on her promising not to oppose his design.

*Wm. Steele*, by Mr. STRICKLAND.—Is foreman to Mr. BEAL, upholsterer. He identified the velvet, &c., as being part of the Minster hangings. They were worth as they are now about 6s.

*Richard Nicholson*, by Mr. ALDERSON.—Was formerly keeper of a lunatic asylum at Gateshead. He identified the hand-writing of Martin; and the letter found on the choir gate was put in and read. Two other letters were also put in, and read, which he had addressed to the clergy.

*Witness.*—Martin was under my care, as a lunatic, for 11 or 12 months, about 11 years ago. I left him there as a patient. A man of the name of Orton succeeded me. I saw Martin about a year or a year and a half ago. I perceived no particular change in his conduct from what it was when he was in my care. He conversed very rationally. I should not have thought him fit for a lunatic asylum.

By Mr. BROUGHAM.—When under my care there was nothing in his manner or conduct, to induce the belief that he was deranged. This I mean to represent.

*Jane Hineson*, by Mr. ARCHBOLD.—I live at Boston, in Lincolnshire. The prisoner's wife lodged at my house before she was married. He visited her there. I was present at the wedding. They were married in Boston church. He conducted himself very properly. He was perfectly in his sane mind, as I thought. They were not acquainted long before they were married. After their marriage I went with them to Lincoln, and remained two days. He was in his own mind to my knowledge—I never saw any thing to the contrary.

*George Davis*, by Mr. STRICKLAND.—Is the parish clerk of Boston. Remembers seeing the prisoner on the 19th of October last, on a Sunday morning: he was married then to one Maria Hodson. His conduct was very good, very correct; he answered very correctly in the responses. I went to him in the afternoon to the house of Mrs. Hineson; he paid the clerk's fee; he did not pay the parson's; he said, he thought he had paid enough; and could not afford to pay any more, as he was a poor man.

*James Scott*, by Mr. ALDERSON.—Lives at Lincoln. Is a class leader in the Wesleyan Methodist society there. Remembers Jonathan Martin being there in the month of November and December last.—(A ticket shewn him.) That is the class ticket given to him by the minister. At that time he was in my class. I have heard him converse on religious subjects some two or three times. I have heard him express himself happy. The opinion I had of him was, that he had experience in religion. I did not see any act of insanity in him then. He did not appear to me to be insane at that time.

By Mr. BROUGHAM.—The last time I saw him was on the Monday in the Christmas week. I observed a terror and gloom in his countenance, and he appeared to be more than usually agitated.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—He applied to me for a note of removal. When a Wesleyan Methodist goes from one place to another, he has a certificate, to shew that he is an accredited member. I did not give him such a ticket, because I observed his mind to be in a state of agitation.



*Michael Fryer* was called by Mr. ARCHBOLD, but he could not identify Martin.

*Thomas Walls*, by Mr. ARCHBOLD.—Is a class leader of the Wesleyan Methodists in York; I do not recollect having seen the prisoner at the bar before.

*Francis Barker*, by Mr. ARCHBOLD.—I reside in York, and recollect going to a class meeting about a month or more back; Martin was in the class when I got there. I heard him pray. The class leader not being there, Martin led the meeting. He prayed aloud. There was nothing absurd in his prayer; he prayed correctly, as far as I know.

*George Thorpe*, by Mr. STRICKLAND.—I live in York. I was at a class meeting. I can't swear the prisoner was there.

*John Quin*, by Mr. ALDERSON.—I live at Leeds, and am a weaver. Martin came with his wife to lodge at my house. They brought a box and portmanteau. They came on the 28th January last. On the following day he got up, got his breakfast, and went out to sell his book. He said he should stop a month or five weeks. He came in generally at 5 o'clock; and used to read his Bible, and spend the remainder of the evening in singing hymns. At 9 o'clock we had prayer. The prayers were such as any other religious or rational man would offer. I saw nothing to lead me to think he was insane. He asked for Ann Carr, at the Ranters' meeting. He went away on the morning of the 31st January. I understood he was going to the neighbourhood of Tadcaster, and would be back by Monday morning.

By Mr. BROUGHAM.—I never saw Martin before then.

*Isaac Sharp*, by Mr. ARCHBOLD.—I saw Jonathan Martin at a meeting of the Primitive Methodists in Leeds, on the evening of the 31st of January. He put up a very solemn prayer indeed; and being a stranger I took particular notice, and felt much interested.

*Geo. Champney, Esq.*, by Mr. ALDERSON.—Is a surgeon at York. Is surgeon to the jail. Has visited Jonathan Martin four or five times. Has conversed with him several times, and considers him capable of distinguishing between right and wrong.

By Mr. BROUGHAM.—I have no connexion with a lunatic asylum, but have had private patients.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—I have had many private patients, though I have not given that department my particular study.

Mr. ALDERSON.—That is my case my Lord.

Mr. Baron HULLOCK.—Prisoner, if you wish to say any thing in your defence, now is your time.

Martin with much vehemence of manner, then spoke in the following rambling, incoherent style.

The first impression that I had, was by two particular dreams, sir; and after I had written five letters to warn the clergy. I think the last I wrote was a very severe one. I believe I wrote in it all the curses of the Scripture, to warn them, and likewise signed my name to every letter, and the place I lodged at, No. 60, Aldgate. I never received any letters, which I was anxious to have from these clergymen, to speak to them by mouth, but there was found none among them that dared to answer me. I prayed to the Lord what I was to do. The next night I dreamt that a wonderful thick cloud came from heaven, and rested upon the Minster. [Here the prisoner gave a long account of his dream, mentioned before, and about the cloud resting over the house. He continued.—] The house was so shook that it awoke me from sleep. I was astonished, and began to ask the Lord what it meant? I felt a voice inwardly



peak, that the Lord had chosen me to destroy the Cathedral for the wrong that was doing by the Clergy in going to plays, and balls, and card tables, and dinners. Different things impressed my mind, that the Lord had chosen me, because the house shook and trembled. I thought it resembled the pillar of smoke, and fulfilled the prophecy of Joel, that God would pour out his Spirit upon all flesh, and the old men should see visions, and the young men dream dreams, and that there should be signs in the heavens, blood, and fire, and vapour and smoke. I thought that I should be fulfilling the word of God, and it was so impressed on my mind, I had no rest night or day; for I found the Lord had determined to have me to show this people a warning to flee from the wrath to come. I was rather at a loss, and astonished, about my wife, lest she should attack me, for I could not do it without being all night from her. After I had considered a while, and got everything in order, I began to think it was impossible for me to do it, as, if I was away without my wife knowing where, she might conceive I was about the Cathedral, and come and put me out. Therefore I thought of this, to take my wife's ring off her finger, and tie her over to this concern, which I did as I have mentioned before, and the circumstance of my wife's keeping the vow. After I told her the circumstance, she was much grieved, and strove to get me away to Leeds, to get me from the purpose I had informed her of. We went to Leeds, and stayed a few days there, but I could get no rest to my mind till I had accomplished the deed. I was obliged to take leave of her on the Saturday morning. I had a severe contest between flesh and blood. It was a *sair* contest, especially when she asked what was to become of her, and of my child Richard I had at school at Lincoln? I thought she would have nailed me to the spot; but, after a moment a passage of scripture struck my ears, and it cried out like a whisper, "What thou doest do quickly." I heard another "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." And I heard a third whisper, "Even thine own life." I tore myself from her arms. I said, "Lord not my will, but thine be done." I then felt the love of God in my heart. I thought I would go to Tadcaster and took twenty books with me. When I got them, the Spirit told me to go forward. I had no money to keep me over the Sunday. I had only 4½d.—The prisoner then gave a minute detail of his proceedings, and the different expedients resorted to in order to set fire to the building, which he described as having been a work of great labour and difficulty. He said, at the evening service, he was "very much vexed at hearing them sing the prayers and amens; he thought the prayer of the heart came from the heart; and that they had no call for prayer books."—He observed—"the organ then made such a *buzzing* noise, I thought, 'thou shalt *buz* no more—I'll have thee down to-night.'" In some parts of his narrative he was almost facetious.—Notwithstanding he had "hard work," while engaged in making preparations for the work of destruction, he said "I had a glorious time of it; and many a time I called 'Glory be to God,' in a way which I wonder they did not hear on the outside." He left the piners, he said, because the old man with whom he lodged could not afford to lose them; and he knew he would get them again. He thought it a work of merit to burn prayer books and music books, but not to burn the word of God, and he appeared to regret that he could not save the large Bible, by getting it over the gates, and putting it outside.—He detailed the particulars of his journey to the North, nearly in the language which has already appeared; and, described himself as having, from his arrival at York till he reached Northallerton, had very little food, but "the Lord refreshed his soul on the road with the snow upon the ground." He then went on with his story, till he reached Mr. Kell's house, and "the Hexham man came, tapped him on the shoulder, and took him to the lock-up." He concluded—after speaking twenty minutes—"I am almost tired of talking, but I will afterwards tell you a bit more."

*John Douglas*, by Mr. BROUGHAM.—I am 75 years old. I am now a shoemaker, but was before, a seaman on board a man of war. I was on



board the *Atlas*; and Jonathan Martin was on board the same ship. He was with me at the battle of Copenhagen. It was the first battle in 1801.

*Prisoner.*—No, it was the last.

*Witness.*—Jonathan was the Captain of the foretop, and after the battle, he fell out of the top, over-board. He was ill after it. I perceived there was rather a change in him after that accident. He bore a very good character with his shipmates.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—He fell into the water; it was about 15 or 20 minutes before he was taken up. A boat was lowered, and he swam about till it took him in.

*Margaret Orton*, by Mr. Serjeant JONES.—I keep the lunatic asylum at Gateshead. I succeeded Orton, and found Martin there; this was on the 27th of December, 1819. He made his first escape on the 17th of June, 1828, and was brought back by the Norton overseer, Marshall, by order of the Norton magistrates. On the 1st of July, 1821, he made his escape—my husband went after him—but he never came back. I have had lunatics under my care 26 years. When Martin was with me I thought him a really insane person. He would sit on the floor, with two cross sticks, as if he was fiddling, either singing hymns or whistling. He called his sticks an imitation of David's harp. Some days he would have to be confined in order to be shaved. I have known him fast four days—and say it was God Almighty's orders—in imitation of Christ's fasting 40 days on the Mount. He was often under restraint, and was bad to manage. The last time he escaped, he had a pair of locks upon his legs. He was often dreaming and prophesying; and he said, whatever he dreamt he was determined to do. I have no doubt he was a lunatic.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—Have had nothing to do with him since 1821, since which time he has been at large.

*Paul Glenton*, by Mr. BROUGHAM.—I am a surgeon at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. I attended the asylum of Messrs. Nicholson and Orton during two and a half years of the confinement of Jonathan Martin. I have attended it four or five years in all. I was educated by Dr. Glenton—and have had extensive practice among insane patients. I am partner in a medical asylum myself. I saw Jonathan Martin two and a half years as a patient, and always looked upon him as a man of unsound mind, from first to last. It was insanity in one particular point. I should call it delusion. The medical term is *Monomania*. Points of religion, and the subject of the clergy, were those upon which he was of unsound mind. When he was excited on that particular subject, the eye became glassy, and the pupil much dilated. I have observed, in my practice generally, that that is a symptom of insanity. I lost sight of him since the middle of 1821, till this morning, when I saw him in prison. I walked up to him, and he shook hands with me, and recognised me as an old acquaintance. Patients with such maladies as he is subject to, have very tenacious memories. They never forget any thing. I think him precisely in the same state now as he was in 1821: the symptoms are the same. I do not believe it possible for any man to assume what I witnessed to-day. I had an opportunity of observing the eye, which had the same glassy appearance, and dilation of the pupil, which I mentioned before. A person may be under this delusion, and yet be acute on other subjects; and a person not aware of the subject of delusion, and who did not touch the string—might be deceived as to the state of his mind. I have not the smallest doubt, but that, upon subjects connected with the delusion he labours under, he is incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong.



Mr. ALDERSON examined the witness as to the subject on which Martin was incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong. He said on the subject of God's command relative to fasting; and he alluded to the circumstance which led to Martin's first commitment; viz. his threatening to shoot a dignitary of the church, if he did not answer correctly as to his faith; he said, however, he did not intend to shoot him. Mr. ALDERSON asked, whether this was not a proof of a knowledge of right and wrong. He said, he could not answer the question. A man's hiding himself, he should think would be a proof that he knew he was doing wrong. A man's running away he did not consider affording that proof. Insane persons were generally very angry at attempts to prove them so.

*George Middleton*, by Mr. Serjeant JONES. I am a tanner at Darlington. The prisoner has "wrought" for me. He came into my employ in 1822. He was of a religious turn of mind. I have heard him say, that Prayer Books have been the means of sending many souls to hell. In 1824, he had a coat and boots of seal skin, with the hairy side outwards. After that he procured an ass to ride on, which he thought would be useful, in selling his publications, and in imitation of our Saviour, who rode upon an ass. He preached at the High Cross, at Darlington, to a society of Odd Fellows. My memory would fail to tell all that I have heard him say he dreamt. One day he told me, he had been dreaming about Buonaparte's son, who was to conquer England, if the people did not repent. Towards the last part of the time he was with me, after the public display, there seemed a change in his conduct. I remember his agreeing that his son was to go with a Jew pedlar, as an assistant; and he alleged as a reason that his son was to assist in converting the Jews.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—He lived a good deal among the Methodists: is not aware that they have any objection to the Prayer-book. He was a good workman; he received his wages; and took care of his little boy.

*Thomas Wetherall*, by Mr. BROUGHAM,—I am a tanner at Lincoln. I know the prisoner: who worked for me. I do not consider him to be of sound mind. I consider him to be of unsound mind, on religious subjects especially. I have heard him say that he believed himself to be a prophet. I have heard him talk of dreams; and say that Buonaparte's son would conquer England. He left our employ in December last. About that period he was very gloomy.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—I am a member of the Church of England. I have been at Methodist meetings. I never heard the Methodist preachers call the clergy blind guides—or object to the use of the Prayer-book. He received his wages the same as other journeymen, and was a good workman in things he was employed about. He took to selling pamphlets in April, 1828.

*Joseph Worthy*.—By Mr. Serjeant JONES.—I live at Norton. I was present when the prisoner wanted to preach in the church; this was 11 or 12 years ago. When I first saw him he was in the pulpit. It was after the parson had got through the morning prayers, and the singing was done. The clerk was going to open the door, when Martin started up, and said something about preaching a sermon, but the clerk and some others took him out of the pulpit, and put him into a pew.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—Where he remained till service was over.

*Thomas Waddington*, by Mr. BROUGHAM.—I am a fellmonger, and live at Stillington, and have known the prisoner five years. I worked four months with him two years ago. I considered him of unsound mind. He was sometimes treated very cruelly by his companions. I saw one day when he was preaching on some steps, that they poured blood upon him. He was sometimes better and sometimes worse.



*William Barker*, a farmer of Stillington, by Mr. JONES.—Remembers being on the road, last summer, between Stillington and Sheriff-Hutton. I met the prisoner, who said to me “I pity your poor soul—you are on the high road to destruction; hell is opening to receive you. I have a message from God to you; ye blind leaders of the blind.” He said he was a prophet—that he had a commission from God—that he was next to God, being his only son; and to him he revealed his secret will.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—Is not aware of the language which the ranting Methodists use when speaking of clergymen. I was dressed in black.

Mr. *John Kilby*, by Mr. BROUGHAM.—I am keeper of the prison; have had charge of Jonathan Martin, and have seen a good deal of him. I cannot say whether or not he is of unsound mind. He is highly excited on particular subjects. He was highly exasperated when he learnt the kind of defence which his brother intended to set up for him. He said he had a great many enemies, the black coats were against him; the great men were against him; and now his brother was against him. He supposed that they wanted to prove him by himself, but that could not be, as God would not have taken a madman to do his work.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—He was very wild when he first came to us; and seldom left his room. Lately he has been more excited, and has walked about in the yard, at the rate of 30 miles a day, with a book in his hand. I believe he knows generally right from wrong. I have heard him say, it was wrong to kill. I have heard him say, that rather than own he had done wrong, or think so, he would place himself before a cannon, and himself apply the match.

Mrs. *Ann Kilby*, by Mr. Serjeant JONES.—I am wife of the last witness, and during the time Martin has been in the custody of my husband, I have observed him narrowly. He told me a dream soon after he came into the prison; he saw a man on the top of the wall, and an angel helping him down. He made out this man to be himself. He said—“The Lord was his defence, and he would support him. He would be his counsellor, and he would not trust to an arm of flesh.” When he came to the jail, I observed him very much, from being, like every body else prejudiced against him for setting fire to so beautiful a building. When he first came he was gloomy and depressed; about three weeks after he came a change took place so remarkable, that I noticed it to Mr. Kilby; he laughed and talked and was very merry: and that state of excitement has continued ever since. He told me another dream of his trial taking place, and of there being such a concourse of people, they could not get seats. He got up to make room, and then was left alone, when two children came to him.

Mr. ALDERSON, asked Mrs. Kilby several questions with a view to prove that this excitement was occasioned by the number of witnesses admitted to him.

The Rev. *George Coopland*, by Mr. BROUGHAM. I am chaplain to the Gaol. I have frequently had intercourse with Martin. I consider him to be of unsound mind. He considers himself a prophet sent by God, who reveals his will to him by dreams and visions, and sometimes by voices. During the first four or five weeks he was in the gaol, I saw him continually four times a week. I thought at first he was of unsound mind, but was confident of it from repeated interviews.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—I have no other reason to think he acted upon dreams and visions, than that he has told me so since he burnt the Minster.

Mr. *Caleb Williams*, by Mr. Serjeant JONES.—I am a surgeon in York, one of the medical attendants at the Quakers' Retreat. I first saw the



prisoner on the 21st of the present month; and have seen him daily since, with the exception of two days; I consider him a *monomaniac*, that is, where insanity is confined to one particular subject, or train of subjects, as opposed to delirium generally. I believe the appearances are *bona fide*. I believe his dreams to have more influence over him than they could have over a person of sound mind. They have influence over him chiefly, in religious subjects. The appearances I noticed with respect to the state of his body, confirmed my opinion, as to the state of his mind. His eye was red, his pulse full, hard, strong, and quicker than natural. I think the instances he has given shew, that he is not fit to go at large.

Mr. ALDERSON.—*Monomaniacs* cannot distinguish between right and wrong, on the subjects on which the delusion exists; on others they can. They frequently avoid dangers arising from their acts; are very cunning in devising means to achieve an object, and to escape punishment. The peculiar subject on which this man is mad is, undue reliance on his dreams, and a belief that they are divine revelations, directing him to certain acts. I have no other reason for knowing this, except that he has told me so. All my interviews with him have been, during the time the Judges have been in town.

Re-examined.—I do not think, judging from my past experience, that the conduct of the prisoner could have been assumed for the purpose of deceiving me.

Dr. Wake, by Mr. BROUGHAM.—I am a physician in York, I have had experience in lunatic patients, and have been attendant to a lunatic asylum for thirty years. I have seen Martin repeatedly since the 21st, and think I have investigated his case as carefully as the time will admit of. He is of unsound mind, most undoubtedly. He labours under monomania. It is a frequent disease, but there are a great many varieties. I observed the appearance of a wound or accident on the frontal bone. He has a most voracious and inordinate appetite; it is a symptom which attends insanity generally where the health is good. The eye is glassy, and when excited, has a great deal of monomaniacal expression, which a person accustomed to such patients cannot be deceived in. I think such appearances could not be assumed. He is incapable of judging of right or wrong on the subjects of his delusion. Maniacs are generally subject to the influence of fear, and when they have committed any act, will endeavour to make their escape.

By Mr. ALDERSON.—Does not think the attempt to escape a proof of the party's knowing right from wrong. After great excitement, a collapse takes place; and then a lucid interval sometimes results. Contrivance is no proof of a lucid interval. I know maniacs to be most ingenious in contriving means to accomplish their ends.

Mr. BROUGHAM asked Dr. Wake a few questions; and closed his case.

At four o'clock, Mr. Baron HULLOCK proceeded to charge the jury. He thought they would have no difficulty as to the question, whether the prisoner was the individual by whom the act was done. If they believed he was the individual, the next consideration was, whether he could exempt himself from the punishment to which the offence subjected a rational being;—in other words, whether he was in such a state as to be incapable of distinguishing right from wrong. If he was under such a delusion as rendered him insensible to the nature of the act at the time it was committed, he was not amenable to the laws of his country. The single question upon this part of the case was, whether, considering his preceding aberrations, his antecedent conduct, and the nature of the act itself, the prisoner was aware at the time, that he was doing



that which was wrong. The precise time at which this incapacity should be established, to their satisfaction, must be the time when the crime was perpetrated. Although an individual might have laboured at different periods under insanity, and have been incapable of reasoning and judging, it did not follow that he was to be exempt from punishment during the remainder of his life. It was clear from the evidence, that a person might labour under delusion on one particular subject; but on other points might be not only competent to reason and argue, but to form correct opinions. He called their attention to the dates in the case, and left them to say how far these warranted them in the conclusion that Martin was insane; or whether it was not probable that Martin, conceiving he had divine authority, did not think himself doing a meritorious and even laudable act. His Lordship referred to the case of Hatfield, and quoted a passage from the charge of Lord Kenyon, to show, that if a person was insane immediately before the offence, it was hardly probable he could recover in a short interval. He dwelt much on the letter of Martin, as indicating a diseased understanding; observing, that it was impossible for any one but a maniac to write such letters, or act as Martin had done, with regard to them, or in some other points, particularly as he had neither personal resentment nor private malice to gratify. His Lordship went through the whole of the evidence, on both sides, pointing out its bearings upon the case.

The Judge finished his charge to the jury about half after five o'clock, and the jury retired to consider of their verdict. Whilst they were absent, Martin recognised three individuals in the court whom he knew with whom he shook hands very heartily, and the parties appeared mutually pleased at the recognition. In about ten minutes the jury returned; and their names being called over, the Clerk of Arraignment asked them in the usual form, if they found Jonathan Martin guilty or not guilty of the charge of arson and felony? The foreman replied—"We find him guilty; but consider that he was insane at the time he committed the act."

Mr. Baron HULLOCK told them, that was in fact "not guilty;" and that verdict must be recorded. This was accordingly done; and the prisoner was removed from the bar.



