

## CONSPIRACY!

On Wednesday last our City was thrown into a little confusion by the committal of six persons of color, who were charged with having attempted to excite an insurrection in the City of Augusta and its vicinity. We refrained, at the time, from noticing this circumstance, being unwilling to do so, until the result of a judicial investigation was known.

A complaint for insurrection and revolt was immediately preferred against the conspirators, and Coo, or Coot, the ring leader, was brought before the inferior Court on Saturday last for trial.

There were five or six witnesses introduced, (all negroes) who generally and substantially testified as follows:—

That on the 1st February, 18th and 25th April, and 2d May, 1819, they were in company with Coo, or Coot, who used every plausible argument he could offer, to induce them to join the conspiracy.—It was his intention to obtain ammunition from the magazine, and arms by breaking open the store of Mr. McKenzie, and another store, the name of the owner not recollected by the witnesses. The City was to be fired at the upper and lower end, and when the white inhabitants had collected at the firm, the blacks were to advance and begin the work of destruction.—To prevent the escape of the whites, or favor their own retreat, as contingencies might require, the bridge was to be cut down, and the boats unloosed from their moorings, and anchored in the middle of the river. A body of negroes in Edgefield, South-Carolina, had pledged their assistance, and some in the swamp, who were provided with arms.—Augusta was to be held by Coot, who was to be the *Commandant*, and the witnesses alleged that Coot said, he would "keep them under strict laws." If he, Coot, could not raise a revolt, he would blow up the magazine and flee to the Spanish dominions. The wily villain told the witnesses, that the infection would spread so rapidly throughout the State as to produce an almost simultaneous rising. The Jury retired and in five minutes brought in a verdict of *guilty*.

Such was the wild and impracticable scheme which this daring fellow contemplated. And had not his murderous and treacherous designs been timely discovered—the inevitable consequence of all attempts of the kind—he would no doubt have essayed their execution. During his trial there was a bold and impudent effrontery in his manner, combined with a total indifference to his awful situation and impending fate. Yet, the uncouth gibberish of the witnesses would ever and anon provoke the gentleman's risible nerve, and he would graciously condescend to smile! —We watched his countenance closely when the verdict of guilty! was pronounced—Not a muscle moved—his features were marked with the same stern collectedness. He was an active brigand in the insurrection and massacre in St Domingo in the year '93.

It is worthy of notice that the testimony of the witnesses was so concurring and corroborative, that not a doubt of its truth remained in the mind of the most sceptical. It was in vain that the Council for the accused endeavored to confound them, and beat them from their ground: they maintained it firmly, and preserved a consistent and unbroken chain of testimony, seldom, if ever, exhibited under similar circumstances.

However we may deplore the blow which huris a fellow being to eternity we cannot, on this occasion, refrain from an opinion, that imperious necessity demands a terrible example. Mercy would here be cruelty. Justice and Policy cry aloud for their victim.

The trial of the remaining five commenced to-day.

P.S.—Since writing the above, sentence of death has been pronounced upon Coo, or Coot. He is to be executed on Monday next.—The trial of John, another of the conspirators, belonging to Mr Thomas Quizerberry, came on to-day. The jury went out about half past one o'clock, P. M. and had not returned with their verdict when our paper went to press.