THE BEE.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. SAUL,
PRINTER TO THE STATE, AND FOR THE FIRST MUNICIPALITY.

NEW ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 1838.

MURDER OF GESPI BARBA.

A few days since, a crime as atrocious in its conception, as it was revolting in its execution, was perpetrated in the parish of St. Bernard. The mere outlines of the horrible murder have been previously given, but diligent enquiry having since put up in possession of all the circumstances connected with the affair, we hasten to lay them before our readers.

Fifteen days before the consummation of the murder, one of the accused, named John O'Neill, repaired to the house of one Welsh, who is likewise an accomplice, and asked for lodging. Some days after, he returned to Welsh's, accompanied by Michael Tolle, who had arrived recently from Mobile, and requested Welsh to accommodate him. Two days subsequently, Tobin, one of the accused, passed opposite Welsh's house, in which O'Neill, Welsh and Tolle were at the time. One of them exclaimed "there is Tobin," and Tolle crossed the street and followed him.

Soon after this circumstance, Tobin presented himself to Welsh, and after taking a glass of grog, requested him also to furnish him with lodgings, declaring that he did not wish to live any longer with O'Neill. Welsh wished to know the reason. Tobin replied that O'Neill had purchased seventy-five calves' heads from a man whom he had employed to bring them to the Port of Orleans, and that he, after selling them, had run away without paying for them. He, Tobin, did not wish to be implicated in this humbug.

In fine, Tobin, O'Neill and Tolle remained together at the deponent's during some days. O'Neill and Tolle went out every evening. One night Welsh saw them enter with a white jacket, hat and other articles of clothing. He a ked them how they had been obtained? The reply was, that they had cost $200 by their negligence, but that insisting an individual on the road, they had severed their anger on him and had *land him*. Tobin, it must be observed, never left the house without a *bar of iron*, which he carefully hid within his sleeve.

Eight days before the murder, Welsh, Tobin, O'Neill and Tolle were seated on the staircase in the house. They complained of *boredom*, and O'Neill observed that *times were so hard that he was then worth two thousand dollars on his arrival in New Orleans*. He then continued as follows:

"Some time ago, I went with Adams up a Spaniard's house; the negro who waited on us with cosmetics, to drink, informed us that there was a trunk under his master's bed, so heavy, that it required three men to raise it, when the floor was secured. Adams told me that he knew the negro, so he had us concealed him in his house at one time during the course of two days."

"The best means of doing this business," continued O'Neill, "will be to visit the spot in a morning, and there to take all the necessary steps."

After some deliberation, it was decided that O'Neill should go and hire a carriage. They would then proceed to Welsh's house at 8 o'clock in the morning, and the four accomplices repaired to Barba's house, while O'Neill and Tobin entered the neighbouring plantation, and interrogated the inhabitants as to whether they were acquainted with a certain Williamson, who, as they pretended, owed them money. On the return of the others, they feigned that they had not been enabled to find the individual whom they sought. They then began drinking, and asked the clerk if he could procure dinner for them — This was done; Welsh paid for their repast. O'Neill then asked for the *old man*. The reply was that he was in bed. "I ask you this question," said O'Neill, "because I have lately arrived on board a flat boat, and have some whiskey for sale." "How do you sell it?" "Fifty cents — seems a gallon." "I have some cheaper than that," was the answer, and then the affair ended. They offered a dollar to the coachman to conduct them to the English Turn, but he replied that his horses were too much fatigued. They therefore entered the carriage, and returned immediately to Welsh's — It was then that they commenced elaborating their infernal project. One of them assured the others that the night was the most propitious period for its execution. O'Neill observed, however, that he had already been twice at Barba's company with Adams, in a yawl which they had stolen from a ship in New Orleans, but they had invariably found too many people there to enable them to act as he chose. A discussion arose on the subject between the four. O'Neill then proposed a game of cards — saying that the winner would determine whether a dinner day should be selected. The singular proposal was accepted. Tolle was O'Neill's associate, while Welsh was Tobin's partner. O'Neill was the winner, and the expedition was fixed for the next day; but in the time it took for the wretches had not put a termination to all their preparations and had not obtained from him some other weapons.

On Thursday they had arranged their scheme somewhat better; arms were procured, distributed among them, with the exception of Tobin, who had left them in the morning after an altercation, which had occurred between him and O'Neill. The grounds upon which was founded the quarrel, are not known. Tobin, however, had previously unscrewed from the trunk of Adams, and an individual named James Waters. The day preceding the perpetration of the crimes Welsh repaired to a stable situated in Girod street, between Carondelet and Baronne, and hired a wagon and a saddle horse for the following day.

The next morning Tobin rose at an early hour, purchased some brandy, and declared that it was time for preparing every thing. He, Tobin, had just struck O'Neill next made his appearance, went to the stable of Adams and soon returned with him. Tobin was sent for the wagon, but it was refused without previous payment. Welsh gave him 4 dollars, and the wagon was finally obtained. When they had breakfasted, the arms being wrapped up in a cloth, were deposited in the wagon. Welsh alone entered the wagon and drove — on a establishment called the Union House, in Gentilly-road. The others were already there with Adams' horse, who proved to be the man called Waters. Welsh was invited to descend and take a drink, after which he re-entered the wagon, and it pulled on a stable in St. Charles street. The band were there already — Two horses more were hired, and Welsh left in company with Tobin on for the railroad. They all met once more at the cotton press, and stopped again near the barracks to