

In the first week of last month, much excitement was produced at New-Orleans, by an order which the Governor of Louisiana, Derbigny, had issued, not to employ longer, at the public works, the white convicts. This measure was ascribed to the desire of saving from the disgrace of exposure the relative of a respectable family, who was sentenced to hard labour for the crime of murder. The Louisiana Advertiser, of the 8th ult. says—

“Do we live under a government of equal laws? In theory we do: but how is it in fact? A man perpetrates a crime of unparalleled atrocity—he deliberately and in cold blood assassinates the mother of his wife, while she is holding his own child in her arms—he stops, and gloats his eyes with her streaming life-blood, determined, as it were, if one blow were not sufficient to produce her death, to repeat it; and yet this man, for whom in reality simple hanging would be too mild a punishment, is found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to twenty years imprisonment at hard labour. One would suppose that this escape from an ignominious death would satisfy him and his relatives. But no: those relatives, it seems, are people of wealth, of ancient lineage; their sensibility is not to be touched—the honour of the family is not to be tarnished by the disgraceful spectacle of a kinsman chained among common, low born convicts. Such it appears, is to be the future law of Louisiana, sanctioned and enforced by Peter Derbigny in spite of the positive enactments of the representatives of the people. We say in spite of the positive enactments of the representatives of the people: for his exempting of Galarre from the execution of the mild sentence which was passed upon him is *contrary to law*, as it is contrary to every principle of state policy, every sentiment of morality, to the feelings of honest men and to the spirit of our free government, which regards all men as equal—and acknowledges no distinction between the rich and the poor, the humble and the high born—which punishes and protects alike, according to their deservings, the man who wears a ruffled shirt and he who has no shirt at all.”

After some correspondence between the City Authorities of New-Orleans and the Governor, the latter consented to suspend the objectionable order.