

**TRIAL OF WIKOFF, VANNOUD, AND  
CAVALLARI, FOR A CONSPIRACY TO  
EFFECT A FORCED MARRIAGE  
BETWEEN MISS GAMBLE, AND ONE OF  
THE ACCUSED. BEFORE THE HIGH COURT  
OF GENOA. FEBRUARY 9-10, 1852**

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Trial of Wikoff, Vannoud, and Cavallari, for a conspiracy to effect a forced marriage between Miss Gamble, and one of the accused. Before the High court of Genoa. February 9-10, 1852 by Various

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# VARIOUS

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*Henry Wilkoff.*

W. Shöberl, Publisher, 20. Great Marlborough Street.

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WIKOFF, VANNOUD, AND CAVALLARI, c

FOR A

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AND ONE OF THE ACCUSED.

BEFORE THE HIGH COURT OF GENOA.

FEBRUARY 9—10, 1852.

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1852.

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## THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

v.

WIKOFF, VANNOUD, & CAVALLARI.

TRIBUNAL OF THE FIRST INSTANCE OF GÉNOA.

PRESIDENT COUNSELLOR, MALASPINA.

AUDIENCE OF THE 9TH OF FEBRUARY, 1852.

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At a quarter before eleven o'clock, the Hall of Audience was thrown open, and the three accused, escorted by a body of Royal Carabineers, took their seats on the bench assigned to them.

The first of the accused was well dressed, and is about forty years of age, of tall stature, light brown hair, a high forehead, brown eye-brows, blue eyes, a regular nose, natural colour, and pensive countenance.

The second wore a coat and pantaloons of brown cloth. He was of low stature, hair and beard of a dark brown colour, blue eyes, round face, and a dark complexion.

The third was dressed in a *bourous*. He was of tall stature, dark hair, a high forehead, dark complexion, marked with small-pox, and had a square chin.

The Court was filled by an immense crowd. Several ladies were present, and two among them took their places on the bench behind the Defendants.

The Prosecutrix,\* accompanied by several other ladies, and

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\* "Querelante," the person who lays the original "querels," or complaint before the authorities. The word "Prosecutrix," by which it is here translated, does not exactly correspond to "Querelante;" because, in the Sardinian dominions criminal prosecutions are conducted entirely by the Public Prosecutor. The party injured has no voice in the matter, and cannot even appear by counsel on the trial, or produce or cross-examine witnesses: unless by constituting himself a "Civil Party:" which is, in form, joining a civil action for damages with the criminal prosecution.

the witnesses, among whom was remarked the British Consul, wrapped up in a *Câche-nez*, and the American Consul in his official dress, and many persons of distinction, several of whom belonged to the Consulates, took their seats within the Tribunal itself.

The Public Prosecutor was represented by the Advocate, Tito Carbone, substitute of the Advocate Fiscal.

The Accused were supported in their defence by the Advocates, Tito Orsini, Giovanni Maurizio, L. Leveroni, and E. Meriardi, who took their places immediately behind the accused.

The Prosecutrix having constituted herself, a Civil Party, was represented by the Advocate Cabella, and the Procurator, Graziani.

The part of Secretary devolved upon the Assistant-Secretary, David Gianelli Castiglione.

Signor Agostino Develasco appeared as interpreter on the part of the Public Prosecutor, and Signor Parodi as interpreter on the part of the Civil Party.

The President demanded the names and occupations of the accused.

The first replied "My name is Henry Wikoff, son of the late Henry Wikoff, of New York, living in Paris, passing through Genoa, a bachelor, employed in diplomacy.

The second replied "Louis Vannoud, of Switzerland. I have no fixed residence. I am now travelling in Genoa as family courier to Miss Jane Gamble."

The third stated "My name is Luigi Cavallari, born and living in Genoa, Cicerone and Valet de Place.

The list of witnesses was read, and the indictment, in which Wikoff was indicted for the false imprisonment of Miss Gamble, for using menaces towards her, and for carrying dangerous weapons.

Vannoud was indicted as principal agent, for aiding and abetting in the false imprisonment of the said lady, and for being in the possession of dangerous weapons.

Cavallari was indicted as an accomplice in the before-mentioned misdemeanour.

The witnesses and the Prosecutrix having been ordered to withdraw,

The President, turning to Wikoff, explained to him of



what he was accused, and demanded what he had to say in his defence.

WIKOFF requested to speak in French, which was accordingly permitted. The following is the translation of his reply:—

“I have been acquainted with Miss Gamble for sixteen years, and knew her in London, where she was living with her uncle and aunt. I was an intimate friend of these relations of hers, and continually dined at their table. I had conceived an affection for her, but at that time I concealed my affection. In April last year, knowing that she was at that time in the country, at Bournemouth, I wrote a letter to her to know whether I might have her consent to pay her a visit. She replied in the affirmative. I accordingly went, and remained there nine days, during which time I revealed my passion, and made her an offer of marriage: she gave me a refusal; but afterwards, while I was at Paris, she wrote me a letter, in which she stated her regret at having refused to accept my proposals of marriage. In the succeeding month of May, she sent me another letter, in which she informed me of her great desire to see me again. I immediately set out from Paris, and repaired to London, where she then was: and, having called on her, I demanded whether it were true that she would unite herself to me in marriage; she replied in ambiguous terms. We passed about a week in the most intimate and affectionate manner.

“Being obliged to leave her, I told her that I had to go to Paris, and that she should not write to me, because she had not chosen to declare herself, whether or not she would accept me for a husband: I departed for that time. She soon after wrote to me a letter full of love, to which I replied with equal warmth. In the month of June, she informed me that she had determined upon making a tour in Switzerland. In this letter she said, that she sent me her last adieu, and that she should not write to me again. A fortnight after, to my surprise, I received another most friendly letter from her, dated from Switzerland, in which she stated that very soon she would come to Paris, and that I should take care not to marry in the meantime.\* I did not answer

\* See this letter, dated St. Goar, 24th June, 1851.

this letter, because I thought she was trifling with me. Ten days after, I received another letter, in which she informed me that I had appeared to her in a dream, that she had been very unhappy in consequence of not having received a reply from me, and begged me to give her an immediate answer.\* I sent her a kind reply, and afterwards went to Switzerland, for the purpose of putting a stop to this state of things, and demanding of her whether she were ready, or not, to be my wife. Having found her there, she gave me her hand in token that she accepted me for her husband. I remained with her a fortnight, at the same hotel, and breakfasted and dined with her: during that time she more than once confirmed her promise that she would marry me, and frequently added that she would not have anything known of it. We then fully agreed that she should soon return to London, and that we should be married there.

“ On my return to London, I found her there, when to my surprise she told me, that she had not sufficiently considered the matter, that she had thoughtlessly pledged her hand, and that I must allow her further time for reflection. She also told me to speak to one of her relations, in order to obtain his consent, because he was not agreeable to the marriage. This I refused to do, and gave her another week for a definite reply. Her answer was ambiguous, and having spoken to a friend, a confidant of hers, who condemned her conduct, I addressed another letter to her, and set out for Paris. While there I received from the Courier of the said lady, a letter, in which he stated that she was very unhappy, that she passed her days in weeping, and repented of not having married me.

“ I was obliged to depart for Turin, and there became acquainted with the ministers Azeglio and Cavour. I must observe, that before entering Turin, being seated in the coupée of the diligencé, I saw a carriage pass me on the road, in which I recognised Miss Gamble, her companion, and Courier. I knew that she had put up at the hotel Feder, and as I could not have apartments at the Trombetta, I left that hotel, and took up my quarters at the hotel Feder. I availed myself of the Courier and the Lady's-maid, to obtain an

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\* See this letter, dated Frankfort, 2nd July, 1851.

interview with Miss Gamble, but although both those persons, and especially the latter, who was privy to the whole, were very desirous that I should marry the lady, and did all in their power to obtain an interview for me, she sent me a refusal, informing me that I had better return to Paris and think no more about her.

“ Upon this, she set out for Genoa, where she arrived on the night of Wednesday, and took up her abode at the Croce di Malta. I heard this by chance, having accidentally put up at the same hotel. Finding this to be the case, I immediately removed to another hotel, and went to the Reale, in order that I might not be compromised, it being my intention to proceed to Marseilles, and then to Paris, as my diplomatic affairs did not permit me to absent myself from that capital for any length of time. I, however, greatly desired to speak with her, and as I did not wish to take her to the Reale Hotel, I endeavoured, by means of Pietro, the valet de Place, to find some place, whither she might be allured by stratagem. The said Pietro hired for me an apartment in the Strada Serra, for a week, though I only required it for an hour or so.

“ The Courier, who had been several times to speak to me, at last found me in the hotel, and informed me that it was Miss Gamble’s intention to set out on the following Monday. I accordingly wrote him a note, telling him the situation of the house in which I had taken apartments; viz.—the Strada Serra, the house of the Russian Consul; that I wished him to make his mistress believe that he had lost her passport, and that in order to procure another, it was necessary that she should go to the Governor; but that, instead of taking his mistress to that official, he should conduct her to the apartments I indicated, accompanied by her maid. At first, he refused to have anything to do with it, for fear of being involved in some unpleasantness. I assured him that my only intention was to see her and speak to her, upon which he consented.

“ Towards the middle of the day of Saturday, the 15th of November, the Courier conducted to the house where I had taken the apartments, Miss Gamble, accompanied by her companion and I then desired Pietro to shew into my room, the one of the two ladies who wanted the passport. I had