



The Executions at Fisherton

Salisbury, March 28 On Tuesday, about Ten o'clock in the morning, were executed at Fisherton Gallows, pursuant to their Sentence at our last Assizes, Bernardo Varda, and John Phillipps, for a robbery on the highway, and Daniel Swanborough, for house-breaking. They behaved very calm and decent, as become persons in their unhappy circumstances, and went to the place of execution dressed in their shrouds. Varda, a genteel young fellow, about 22 years of age, an Italian, died a Roman Catholic, and behaved with a remarkable air of composure to the last. he had a fine head of hair, which in general he wore platted, but on this occasion it was curled, hung loose over his shoulders, and was powdered to excess. they neither of them at the place of execution denied, or so much as endeavoured to palliate the crimes for which they suffered. Varda, whom Phillipps had just taken his final leave of with a kiss, a few minutes before the cart drew away addressed himself to the spectators, but with a low voice, and begged them to take notice of his wretched end, and to let it be a warning to all, especially those who are wickedly inclined, to shun his unhappy fate.

Salisbury And Winchester Journal, Monday, 4 April 1757

Tuesday Jeremiah Exell, John Poulson, Richard Potter, and James Whiting, condemned at our late assizes, were executed, pursuant to their sentence, at Fisherton gallows; they all behaved in a manner becoming their dreadful situation, and severally confessed the commission of the crimes for which they suffered.

Bath Chronicle, 20 August 1789