

they were all jailed, and taken subsequently to Boston where all of them but one, who had committed suicide while in prison, were put on trial before a Federal Court, presided over by Mr. Justice Story, for piracy.

The evidence was pretty conclusive as to their identity, but some of them—the cook, Ferrer; the cabin boy, Costa, and the three sailors: Guzman, Portana and Velazquez, the jury thought might have acted under the compulsion of the others, and so found them not guilty. But seven of the Spaniards, Gibert, the captain; De Soto, the mate, and Ruiz, Boyga, Castillo, Garcia and Montenegro, were convicted of piracy and sentenced to death. But the jury in returning their verdict recommended the mate De Soto to the merciful consideration of the Government “because of his generous, noble and self-sacrificing conduct in saving the lives of more than seventy human beings, the passengers and crew of the ship *Minerva*,” an incident which was brought to their attention during the trial. And the wife of one of the counsel went to the President and told him the story of heroism, which so impressed the chief executive that he gave the mate a full pardon. As for the others, Boyga cut his throat and Ruiz pretended to be insane. But it was decided that he was shamming and with Boyga, sitting in a chair, the six pirates were hanged at the Leverett street jail in Boston.

#### THE TRIAL.<sup>1</sup>

*In the United States Circuit Court, Boston, Massachusetts, November, 1834.*

HON. JOSEPH STORY,<sup>2</sup>  
HON. JOHN DAVIS,<sup>3</sup> } *Judges.*

Early in the month of June, 1834, intelligence reached this country, that the British brig of war *Curlew*, Capt. Trotter, while cruis-

<sup>1</sup> *Bibliography.* \*A Report of the Trial of Pedro Gibert, Bernardo De Soto, Francisco Ruiz, Nicola Costa, Antonio Ferrer, Manuel Boyga, Domingo De Guzman, Juan Antonio Portana, Mannel Castillo, Angel Garcia, Jose Velazquez, and Juan Montenegro alias Jose Basilio De Castro, before the United States Circuit Court, on