

B 3789 No 3; Witch 060, Petroniere femme Jean Varnier dit Bessat, de Bruyères

30 October 1615; Jean Varnier dit Bessat made a submission to the prévôt. On October 21 Nicolas Varnier, tabellion, had warned him and his wife Petroniere that he had heard another tabellion, Nicolas Vallat, swear that if Petroniere 'ne guerissoit sa femme qu'elle avoit ensorcélé qu'il la feroit brusler et ce dans quinze jours.' Next morning he went to reproach Vallat, whose uncle he was, but latter told him that Petroniere had killed his father and his children, and 'donné le mal' to his mother, so that if she entered his house he would kill her on the spot. She did then enter, and he attacked her with his sword, giving her several blows on the back and calling her witch. Varnier now asked for an investigation into the conduct of his wife, as a means of vindicating honour against those who questioned it.

Prévôt records acceptance of this plea the same day, but also that several people have informed him of her ill fame, 'et du soupçon que grande partie de la Bourgeoisie a contre elle, qu'elle soit sorciere'.

12 November 1615; informations

(1) Marie femme a Mongeon Francois le jeune Marchal de Bruyeres, c. 36

At Easter the herdsman of the cattle had taken her son aged 14 or 15 to help him, and about 7 weeks later he developed leg trouble, which afflicted him for a long time. Another woman suggested that Petroniere might be responsible, because he had been chosen in preference to one of her sons. A woman who suspected her had secretly obtained bread, salt, and ashes from her house for her own child, and witness also used some of these. Went on a pilgrimage to St. Curien at Brouvelieures, and did not know what was responsible for his partial cure - still had pains in his side. Petroniere generally suspected, and witness had heard her complain in company of other women 'et en pleurant disoit qu'elle desireroit qu'on la preigne afin de pouvoir faire conoistre de son innocence.'

(2) Nicolas Vanderchamps bourgeois a Bruyeres, c. 24

18 months earlier had married Zabillon daughter of Nicolas le Moine, merchant of Bruyeres. She had died five months later, believing herself to have been bewitched by Petroniere, on account of a dispute latter had with her and her father over some cloth damaged by a child. General suspicion of Petroniere, 'laquelle le sachant pleure et se deconforte demesurement.'

(3) Jean Francois, paistre du troupeau des bestes blanches de Bruyeres, c. 26

Petroniere had asked him to take one of her sons as assistant, and had been angry when he chose another boy. Subsequently developed stomach trouble, and swellings in loins, which had now lasted a year, although it had eased after she visited him, saying that she would do so more often but for 'le bruit et murmure des gens'. She had previously threatened him that he would repent. Also told of incident around St. Jean previous year when during thunderstorm an animal like a

pig, 'noir et rougeatre' had run around among the troop of pigs, knocking over 50, killing two, then made off towards mountain; believed this too had been her work in anger at the refusal.

(4) Nicolas Demengeon cordonnier et bourgeois de Bruyeres, c. 26

He and his wife believed Petroniere might have caused sickness and death of their 2-year-old child, which had become 'eticq' at Easter. Knew no cause why she should feel grievance against them, but they lived in same house. She had been very disturbed when knowing that proceedings were likely against her, and had talked of shaving herself.

(5) Antoine Gaspar boucher et bourgeois a Bruyères, 46

Some 6 or 7 years earlier his wife had fallen ill with 'une maladie extraordinaire', which lasted some 5 months. Suspected the late Jandon (subsequently executed), and went to see him, threatening that unless he cured her he would kill him or throw him in his fire. Jandon said he was not responsible, but that he suspected Petroniere, and asked to be allowed to go and talk to her. On return said he had threatened to have her imprisoned, and that his wife would now recover - as she did the next day, and had since remained in good health. Also remembered that Jandon had told his wife that she should remember a woman to whom she had sold a pound of mutton and given some 'picquate' on a particular day; they had been astonished that he could know about this when he had not been present. General suspicion; she was 'beaucoup crainte et redoubtée'.

(6) Zabillon veuve Jean Brocquard bourgeois a Bruyeres, c. 42

Told of incident 7 or 8 years earlier when Petroniere had warned her husband about damaging young tree when crossing her land with a cart; she had touched horse which subsequently died 'comme enragé', 4 days later.

(7) Jennon femme Mongeon Feburel de Bruyeres, c. 28

She and her husband had lost various animals, notably horses, over the past few years. Suspected Petroniere, partly because some animals had eaten some of her oats, and she had been angry. Had also some suspicion of Jandon, whom they called in to see if he could heal them, but misfortunes had continued after his execution. He had advised them to buy horses cheaply, and 'qu'encore bien leur allast de ce qu'une femme qui les causoit ce malheur sans l'avoir voulu denommer n'avoit pu avoir aucune puissance sur leurs personnes, qu'autrement ils eussent couruz hazard.'

(8) Mongeote femme honnble Joseph Pierre, marchand a Bruyères, 42

Told of incident 5 years earlier, when her mother-in-law (Claudate Litaize hostelaine) had entered into a contract with Jean Varnier for him to harvest some hay, and take a part in payment. Her husband had returned from an absence,

discovered there was more hay than he thought, and cancelled the arrangement, giving Varnier 3 gros. He and his wife had been furious, and when witness, who was then expecting a child, heard of this she was alarmed, since since she already feared Petroniere. Tried to appease her with friendly words and offer of some other hay, but this was not accepted. Was ill for 18 weeks after giving birth, and she and her husband suspected this was from Petroniere's ill-will. Took care to ask her to her last childbirth, out of fear rather than anything else.

(9) Mengeon Mainel, jeune homme a marier de Bruyeres, c. 28.

Some 5 or 6 years earlier he had been taking horse of M. du Bourg, the lieutenant, to drink when it stepped on a goose and broke its leg. Some days later Petroniere told him it was hers, and that he must pay her. Later, when his late father had agreed to cart some manure for her husband, the night before he was to do so the horse that would have pulled cart died suddenly. General reputation.

(10) Marguerite femme Nicolas Besdel de Bruyeres, c. 32.

Some 12 to 15 months earlier her children had been fighting with one of Petroniere's, and her husband had struck the latter. Petroniere had said to him 'qu'il prenoit grande peine, mais qu'avant qu'il fust peu de temps le diable en emporterait des pieces.' Lost 7 beasts over next 6 weeks. Previous Notre Dame the child of Bertremin Jacquel had become ill, and his mother thought this was result of a quarrel with Petroniere. Asked witness to get bread, salt, and ashes; child was then cured overnight. However another child from same family then fell ill in a strange manner, and remedy had no effect. Witness also tried to obtain same items for child of one Gerardin, but was discovered by Petroniere; latter took no action, although witness explained exactly what she was doing, but pretended that witness had craved the bread because she was pregnant. Had also been called witch in the street without taking action.

(11) Nicolas Besdel, masson a Bruyeres, c. 35

Told story of children's fight and subsequent deaths of animals; he had been so furious that people didn't dare approach him. Petroniere had tried to be friendly, but he had not replied to her, and 'ils ne s'entreaimoient guere a raison de quelque proces'. When they lived in same house had seen her all blackened and bruised about face - she claimed she had fallen against a fence by accident. Also said that her husband had threatened to take legal action after incident when his wife was trying to take bread etc, but did not finally do so. Also told of a persistent illness of his sister-in-law Marie le Large after a dispute about a house; had been periodically out of her wits. After Petroniere had heard that she was to be accused she had made show of friendliness towards her, and she had ceased to be ill after she had told her she would recover.

(12) Annon Magnien de Bruyeres, c. 40

Some time before, when residing in same house, she was wetnursing a child (not clear if it was hers), which became 'tout perclus et comme eticq', while she lost her milk. Had already had various quarrels with accused. Took child to Claudate Clauchepied (since executed), who put it in her apron, murmured some words, and cured it. Told her that a woman living under same roof had made child sick, without naming her; she thought of taking Petroniere to justice, but did not in view of difficulties of getting her convicted.

(13) Claudate femme Demenge Piat bourgeois de Bruyeres, c. 30

Just before St. Jean, when living in same house as accused, had a dispute with Petroniere as result of pig which escaped and did some damage. Same night baby in cradle became strangely unwell, and remained so until taken to Monsieur Saint Hubert at Aultrey. Had no suspicion of Petroniere at time, but 'depuis qu'il se bruit qu'on veut proceder contre elle' had begun to think she might have been cause.

(14) Marie Magnien, widow of Bruyeres, c. 66

Some three years earlier, spinning at poisle, had been touched several times on back and shoulders by Françoise, daughter of accused; eventually told her to stop. A few days later became ill, with left arm 'perclu' and other also affected, while it seemed that 'les chiens luy devorent les intestines'. Thought that Petroniere might have given her sickness, on account of dispute with daughter and great quarrels they had previously when they lived together. 'Qu'au surplus elle scait que de longtems on l'auroit soupçonné de sortilege, mais qu'elle rebrouoit tousiours ceux qui lui en parloient, en leur allegant qu'elle n'avoit point veu de mal en elle, et que si elle eut este telle veu leurs querelles elle luy eut fait du desplaisir, et qu'a cela on luy repliquoit que les sorcieres n'avoient pouvoir sur toutes sortes de gens.'

(15) Bastlenne veuve Demenge Valot de Bruyeres, c. 67

Some 7 years earlier, when her son Nicolas had married his first wife Georgine Gustin, feast for fiancailles had taken place a few days before marriage feast. Petroniere had been serving guests, but 'elle se comporta bien insolemment, pour avoir trop beu'. Witness therefore decided not to employ her again, and she was invited merely to sit with other women at marriage feast - but did not come. There were 'beaucoup d'accidents' during feast; a fire in the house, bridegroom had a fall, a man was killed in the stable where horses of guests were kept, and her husband Demenge Valot fell ill of the strange malady from which he died after languishing more than a year. Petroniere was already suspected as a witch, and she thought she had caused all these problems. Her husband had been at village of Belmont one day, and Jeandon (subsequently executed) asked him whom he suspected of making him ill; when he named Petroniere, Jeandon replied 'qu'il n'avoit pas mauvaise raison'. She herself suspected Petroniere of being cause of illness she had now had for 2 years, with loss of sight, and of that of her current daughter-in-law Marie Grand Didier. Suspect had been very angry when they refused to take her daughter as a servant. They further suspected her of causing death of Nicolas' first child, found dead in cot after she had been to see it.

(16) Marie Grand Didier femme a Nicolas Valot tabellion a Bruyeres, c. 30

Told how she had refused to take Petroniere's daughter into service, because she was too small, although Petroniere had said she would come and do any hard tasks herself. This had been some 5 years earlier; Petroniere had since borne her ill-will, and she believed her witchcraft responsible for the illness from which she had languished for 18 months. Also told of death of first child; day before death Petroniere had come into house and picked baby up, feeling its body and murmuring 'qu'aillant valloit qu'il fust mort et qu'il estoit mort'. Found dead shortly after midnight in cradle. She also believed her responsible for death of second child. Had heard from the late Catherine Doridant that Petroniere had been seen before dawn under a waggon with Jeandon. Long suspected, and there were 'une infinité de personnes qui s'en plaignent.'

(17) Marguerite femme Claudon Molin bourgeois de Bruyeres, c. 38

Some 5 years before had been in house of her brother-in-law Nicolas Valot nursing child; confirmed her sister's deposition about death of baby. Also reported Demenge Valot's suspicions, his conversation with Jeandon, and general reputation.

(18) Curien Daguet paistre des bestes rouges de Bruyeres, c. 50

Reputation all 12 years he had been herdsman. Had quarrelled with her because she did not want to pay for keeping of her animals, and he said to her 'que personne ne vouloit prendre le mauvais gré contre elle, pour ce que chacune la craignoit, mais qu'il la prendroit' - she made no reply.

(19) Adrian Gallenar serrurier de Bruyeres, c. 33

At previous harvest, working in wheat field with accused and others, a storm had come up. She looked at mountains and asked if it was that of Anezon which was close to Bruyeres; they were all amazed, and judged 'qu'elle estoit comme en extase et transporté de son esprit', while Demenge Biol 'allega que possible elle n'estoit autre chose qu'un fantosme, posé avec eux par l'ennemy, en lieu de la réalité de son corps, qui pouvoit estre a tel temps ailleurs par luy transporté.'

(20) Claudon Jean Remy, boulanger de Bruyères, 38

Told of a dispute some 3 or 4 years earlier. Had been cooking bread for several neighbours, and as often happened had to wait for Petroniere; could not prevent himself from telling her she should not be late 'au prejudice d'autrui'. She became so angry that he was frightened and tried to appease her, but she would not be satisfied 'ains sembloit le menacer sous paroles couvertes'. 3 to 4 weeks later horse and cow fell ill, and he had Petroniere brought to see them, suspecting her of witchcraft. She told him that the horse would recover, but not the cow, and it turned out so. Some 5 weeks before had seen her walk past his house and towards

fields carrying dough; came back when Jean Mariel's wife and witness started to laugh, and called her back, and said she didn't know where she was going.

(21) Jean Varnier mareschal de Bruyeres, c. 60

General reputation. Last harvest, when in fields with her husband (also Jean Varnier), latter 'faisoit plusieurs plaintes contre sa femme, allegant qu'elle avoit une mechante teste, et luy estoit si rude et rigoreuse qu'il estoit en deliberation de la quitter, et se retirer en Allemaigne, d'ailleurs qu'encor que caducq, elle ne luy vouloit permettre ny souffrir aux necessitez de se traiter, ny achepter par fois quelque peu de vin pour s'en substenter.'

(22) Jean fils feu Parisat Vallay, jeune homme a marier, c. 28

Some two years earlier he and his brother Thomas had refused to let a house to Jean Varnier, 'crainte du mauvais gré des voisins'. 4 to 5 weeks later his brother lost an ox, and for fear of worse sold his other 7 at St. Dié.

(23) George Hatton bourgeois de Bruyeres, c. 48

Some 14 years before had lived in same house with Varniers; had various quarrels with Petroniere, 'pour ce qu'elle estolt fort terrible et qu'elle l'incomodoit en plusieurs sortes.' Finally he went and gave her two strokes across back with a 'buche', after which she made her back bloody with some meat from butcher, and went to complain of him. Soon after became ill with sickness which still troubled him, with pains in arms and legs, and believed that Petroniere, who was feared by all, had given it to him.

(24) Marguerite femme Bertremin Jacquel mercier bourgeois a Bruyeres, c. 42

Six years earlier Jeandon had told her that her child Didier had died through witchcraft by accused. Also said 'elle est femme advenante et qui tasche toujours d'entreprendre sur autrui' - 18 months earlier her husband had caught her taking 'terrasse' from their garden, and reprimanded her. Son aged 10 then became 'tout perclu, sans apparence que ce fust de maladie naturelle, ains de pure sortilege'. Had then obtained bread, salt, and ashes from suspect's house, whereupon child had been instantly and almost totally cured. However her other child Gabriel had then become ill 'afflige de tranchées au petit ventre', and same remedy had not cured him. On way back from Docelles had met 13 or 14 year-old son of accused, who had taken him by arm and swung him round two or three times, and became ill same evening.

(25) Crestienne Varnier de Bruyeres, c. 60

Told of seeing Petroniere lying in garden some 2 years before; when witness called out loudly was she ill, made no reply.

(26) Claudate veuve Jean Doridant de Bruyeres, c. 50

General reputation only.

(27) Nicole femme Nicolas Gerardin, cordonnier de Bruyères, 28

Told how last Lent she and her husband had sought to share tenancy of house they were renting from Marc Varnier; had made accord with Petroniere and her husband, then rescinded it because they were not satisfied with terms. When Petroniere came angrily to ask her why, she said the proprietor was making difficulties; soon afterwards one of her children became 'malade et eticq' and died. Finally the Varniers had come to live in house, and she had heard 'son marit et elle mener d'ordinaire un pauvre train, depuis le temps signamment qu'il se bruit qu'on la veut apprehender, et ouy par fois luy dire par luy que si elle estoit sorciere comme il se publioit, il failloit qu'elle endurast le feu, et qu'elle respondoit qu'elle estoit aussy nette de ce crime que luy et autres qui l'en chargeroient.' Had also talked in company of other women of making herself a shirt of the kind worn by witches, and of shaving her own hair; witness had noticed that she had been wearing chapelet round neck just since recent rumours.

(28) Marie fille de feu Claude Masson, tailleur d'habits de Bruyeres, c. 26

Some 2 years before Petroniere had reproched her that she had not helped her as she had done previously to transport her belongings from one house to another. Same evening she developed a strange sickness, like a 'mal caducq' every new and old moon. Some 12 weeks earlier Petroniere had been to see her, and told her 'comment son fils qui avoit este chassé de chez le sieur Conseiller se louoit d'elle, et qu'il disoit qu'il demeureroit bien toute sa vie avec elle et que luy aians reparti que si elle n'estoit vexée de son infirmité toutes choses iroient bien, alors elle luy dist de se taire et prendre courage, et que ce mal cesseroit moiennant Dieu' - had subsequently recovered, but believed her to have bewitched her, although she had often visited her, brought her food, and cried when she saw her crying.

(29) Nicolas Crance marlier de Bruyeres, c. 36

Told of quarrels when they lived in same house, and of calling her witch without any reaction. Previous year, as he returned from church, she had said to him 'Marguiler il te fault aller sonner pour le temps'; had been fine all day, but was a sudden storm that evening.

(30) Andreu Mengin bourgeois de Bruyeres, c. 28

Had a serious eye illness some 8 or 9 years earlier, which he thought had been caused by accused. Had quarrelled with her husband over 'aide generale', and had also been witness of insults which passed between her and Demenge Adrian as they quarrelled. When his wife went to fetch water to wash his eyes from someone living in same house as Petroniere, she told her he would recover, and gave her a piece of meat which they ate. Also told of death of goat 'comme enragée' after his

late mother had failed to comply with his orders to pay Petroniere for some milk, because she was so afraid of her.

(31) Demenge Biol, Marchal de Bruyeres, c. 26

Had had a child ill, and another dead, on whose cot a cat had jumped, but could not afterwards be found in a locked room. Believed Petroniere to be cause, as result of a dispute over his payment for helping her and husband in woods; also told of occasion when he got up before dawn to go to furnace, but was frightened by 'quelque chose d'affreux' in front of him - knew that she had left house they shared, but not why, and that she only returned 2 hours later. Also told of incident in fields reported by witness 19.

(32) David Viriot, musnier de S.A. au village de Laval, 36

Told how at carnival of 1613 'les haultz maires des chetise dudit Bruyeres' had been to Laval as usual, followed by various young people and children. Two of these had found his 'caines' in a 'cloaque', and had been trying to kill them with batons. He rushed out and struck one of them, Petroniere's son, and then ducked him in stream. Next week she came to have corn ground, and 's'en formalisa fort'; his wife tried to appease her, being frightened of her on account of bad reputation, but 6 weeks later lost an ox. Believed this to be her witchcraft, not least because child had several times said 'qu'il s'en repentiroit'.

(33) Mongeote femme Marc Thiebault bourgeois de Bruyeres, c. 49

Told of incident 2 years before when Petroniere had been seen lying apparently unconscious in garden, and had not woken when called to loudly.

(34) Jacote femme Mathieu gros Didier boulanger a Bruyeres, 28

Told how on 16 October Petroniere had asked her if she knew which of the sergeants of the prévôt had been enquiring about incident when she started to walk out of town with dough. Witness replied that she did not think it had been her brother Nicolas Masson, but Petroniere said that he had ordered, without warrant from the prévôt, that she should remove her flax which was soaking in the fountain behind the chateau. Previous Tuesday her brother had been sent by Prévôt to Laval, where he became so ill that he had to be brought back 'letargique et tout stupide', with his limbs trembling constantly. Next day Petroniere told witness not to be so upset; went to see sick man, and told him to have 'bon courage', speaking facetiously in effort to make him laugh. Advised them to make an offering to St. Hubert; took a cock to Aultrey, then cut its throat and put some of blood on sick man's forehead, all this following her advice. Then made him lie naked in bed and sweat as much as possible - this improved his condition, although he was still in pain. Also told of visit to house on the Tuesday, on pretext of borrowing a 'bracquine', when she had avoided greeting husband and brother, who were in kitchen, even though she knew latter had been 'fiancé' previous evening she did not say 'à bonne santé' to him.

(18 November 1615)

(35) Nicolas Masson sergent, c. 22

Told story essentially as already reported by his sister, although did not mention offering of cock etc. Was now recovered apart from some stomach trouble.

(36) Mongeote femme Demenge Perrin de Bruyeres, c. 60

Some 10 days earlier Petroniere had passed her house complaining of accusations against her, and said among other things 'que si elle scavoit ou il y avoit un devin elle l'iroit plustost trouver sur son dos qu'elle ne deut apprendre la verité de ce dequoy on la chargeoit, et qu'elle luy repartit que pour cognoistre ce qui en estoit, il n'y avoit pas plus veritable ny certain devin qu'elle, et qu'elle feroit bien si elle estoit telle qu'on la soubconnoit d'en esclairer la justice et saulver son ame.'

(37) Barbeline femme Claudon Houel de Bruyeres, c. 28

Could not depose, since she had not quarrelled with accused and did not believe her to have done her any harm.

(38) Antoine Doridan, hostelain a Bruyeres, 30

Some 6 weeks earlier he had employed Jean Varnier to recondition two barrels, in which he had subsequently brought wine from Allemaigne - but barrels had not been properly cleaned, so that wine was spoiled. Had been angry with Varnier, and reproached him with loss he had caused. On next trip to fetch wine had various incidents with horse, which fell strangely etc., and he believed this to result from witchcraft by Petroniere.

(39) Antoinette de Ranfaing veuve de Nicolas Vanderchamps, 35

Told of incident some 18 months earlier, when they had lived in same house, and after quarrel with husband Petroniere had spent night crying in barn; next day witness told her it would have been 'plus seant' to spend night in bed with him. Some 8 years earlier had believed her to have caused pain in husband's hand, which had been cured after she had called her 'sorciere, double sorciere' and told her to heal him.

(40) Colatte femme Mongeon Vanderchamps, c. 36

They had quarrelled 7 years earlier, when Petroniere had not returned a 'force' she had borrowed to shear sheep, and witness had taken a water-bucket instead. Subsequently lost two foals and a horse, and had a child partly paralysed on right side; believed Petroniere responsible, notably in view of menaces which neighbours reported.

(41) Claudon Jacquiel, sergent du prévôt, c. 44

Believed her to have caused broken thigh of his small son 3 years earlier, after quarrel when he had acted for neighbours to prevent her moving into a house.

(42) Colatte femme Demenge Durant de Bruyeres, c. 30

Some 6 years earlier, after a quarrel with accused, had taken her baby to woods where she was working with husband. Came back at intervals to check on cot, and found fire around it, and baby already a little burned; since there had been no fire near, believed Petroniere or some other witch responsible.

17 November 1615; interrogation

Said she was daughter of Nicolas Coua of Olichamps near Remiremont, and his wife Jannon. Married for 18 years to Jean Varnier tonnellerie, had 4 sons and 2 daughters, one of latter being dead. Said she had confessed regularly, as curé could tell.

Said she had been imprisoned because Nicolas Valot had accused her of bewitching his wife, and had also beaten her 'outrageusement'. Asked if she was not by far the most bad-tempered person in the place, she conceded that she was rather bad-tempered, but claimed that it was only at the expense of her husband, since 'par fois il eschapoit aux tavernes et y despensoit contre son gré.'

Asked if this had not put her in such a state of despair that she had been seduced by the enemy, she denied this.

Admitted that in complaining of rumours about her, she had said 'qu'on fit d'elle ce que l'on voudroit, et que si on la vestoit de ladite chemise et rasoit, il faudroit tout endurer.'

Denied all charges of witchcraft and many of quarrels. Denied account of what had happened at festivities for Nicolas Valot's marriage. Denied causing any harm to Valot family, but on contrary 'tout son appuy et reconfort gisoit en eux.'

Agreed to quarrel with Curien Daguët and words he spoke to her.

Said there was no house where she went more often than that of Mathieu Gros Didier.

19 November 1615; confrontations

Generally denied all serious allegations. Said she had prevented her husband buying wine on account of number of children they had to feed. Agreed that she had spoken to Mongeatte Perrin about finding a devin, from whom she might learn the truth. Accused Demenge Biol of often beating his wife.

23 November 1615; PG des Vosges asks for torture (ordinaire)

2 December 1615; Change de Nancy approves

12 December 1615; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews on hands and feet, then racked. Denied at first, then begged to be let down, after which she 'auroit en fin confessé avoir este tanté, et estoit sorciere, et que ce fust sont quelque temps. Que son maitre n'a point de nom. Qu'il s'apparut a elle en forme grand et noir, la sommant de le suivre, ce qu'elle fit, et se trouvant beaucoup ensemble, luy promettant qu'elle seroit tousjours avec luy, et luy avec elle, et luy donroit beaucoup. Qu'elle s'est donné a luy, renoncé dieu, et que ce fust en champs de derrier le Chasteau, pour rien et sans estre faschée. Que la forme de son apparition estoit pareille a celle d'un homme humain. Luy dist de croire en luy comme elle promit faire et y a depuis creu, sans que pour ce il luy ait rien donné. Qu'elle a esté au sabbat une fois, deux fois, et qu'elle y a esté tant de fois que de fois que voudrions, puis promptement dit qu'elle y a esté vraiment et certainement bien des fois, sans y avoir recogneu personne, la raison estant qu'elle n'y prenoit garde.'

Then said repeatedly 'O quelle justice, justice de dieu'.

When released and placed by fire she failed to make any sensible confirmation of her confessions, saying she had only been seduced 4 days earlier, with many 'variations'. Finally sent back to cell until the afternoon.

A four-hour interrogation that afternoon failed to produce any coherent statement, to evident frustration of prévôt.

14 December 1615; interrogation

Asked again to confirm her confession, 'elle a enfin dit que nous aions a faire escrire ce que nous voudrions, et que si elle n'est saulve veu ce qu'elle endure, il ny aura personne qui le soit, que comme elle scait que l'on veut suplicier ce jourd'huy quelques personnes, elle estoit bien contente qu'on la face mourir avec eux.

Sommée de respondre plus pertinemment et a propos au sujet de cest interrogat

Elle a fait response que quand elle diroit la verité on ne la croiroit pas, qu'elle n'est pas telle qu'on l'estime, scavoir sorciere, et que partant elle ne fust oncq' tentée du malin esprit, moins auroit elle commis aucun des cas dequoy on la charge, que nre seigneur et elle le scavent bien.'

22 December 1615; PG des Vosges asks that she be tortured again

23 December 1615; Change de Nancy approves.

30 December 1615; interrogation under torture

After thumbscrews and lengthy racking, finally confessed again that she had been seduced by devil - about a year earlier - and then taken to sabbat. Still denied doing any harm to men or animals, although judges objected 'qu'il n'estoit guieres croiable, que puis qu'ainsi se donne a l'ennemy, il ne l'ait en plusieurs fois sollicité de commettre plusieurs malefices'.

Still failed to give details of her seduction, of pact, and about sabbat, despite questioning on rack. When released asked if she could see her husband to talk to him about their children, and also see the curé.

31 December 1615; interrogation

Once again was very slow to confirm her limited confessions, saying that she was frightened of damnation because she had not told the truth. Finally agreed that confessions were true; was then asked about sabbat and accomplices. Started by saying that all those there had been disguised, then said 'qu'elle estoit telle qu'elle' without naming anyone.

'Sur l'apparence au jugement de toute l'assistance que denommant quelque personne, ce seroit plustost faulcement, par inimitié, et vindicte, que de verité, pour avoir recogneu en elle un appetit de vengeance, l'avons admonesté de bien prendre garde a son fait . . .' followed by general warning against false accusations. She then said she did not wish to accuse anyone. Asked for trial to be concluded quickly so that she might 'sortir de l'ennuy et fascherie de ce monde'.

2 January 1616; Petroniere asked judges to hear her again, and said that she was no witch, but was willing for matters to go forward.

4 January 1616; PG des Vosges asks for further torture, in view of the unsatisfactory nature of her confessions, and final denial.

11 January 1616; Change de Nancy agrees

18 January 1616; interrogation under torture

Renewed admission that she was a witch, and promised not to retract it again. Did confirm it that afternoon, but then said of her children that they would in future be called something they were not.

22 January 1616; PG des Vosges notes that this last statement again sounds like a retraction, and is clearly unhappy about partial and limited nature of confessions; asks for banishment for life and confiscation of goods.

26 January 1616; Change de Nancy agrees to banishment, but without confiscation.

29 January 1616; statement by Prévôt of Bruyères that bons hommes jugeants have sentenced Petroniere to be burned alive. She has now been executed, but after he had persuaded the bons hommes 'pour plusieurs considerations' to commute the sentence and allow her to be strangled first.