

B 7134 no 3; witch 114, Annon Bourguignotte, femme Didier Galay, de Bettoncourt

22 August 1624; PG des Vosges has received information that she is greatly feared as a witch, on account of 'accidents' which have occurred to those in Bettoncourt and surrounding villages 'hors de la cognoissance naturelle'. Suspected of causing these by 'ses charmes, filtros et malefices'. Also accused by Claude femme Jacquot Marlier de Vomécourt, just convicted of witchcraft (at Donipaire). Orders receveur of Mirecourt to take information as secretly as possibly against her.

23 August 1624; informations preparatoires

(1) Jean Mathieu le jeune, 28

Her son Jean had sought his sister in marriage, and he and his wife had done best to prevent this, while he was sure that accused and husband had wanted to secure marriage. Since sister's marriage 2 years earlier she had sought every occasion to cause them trouble. After quarrel between himself and her husband, was sure she had bewitched his wife; became ill every time she saw accused. 10 months earlier went to Moyennoustier, where she was exorcised for 10 hours a day over 27 days. The devil speaking through her said Annon had bewitched her, naming other witches as well; he heard this at exorcisms, with several monks of Moyennoustier. Greatly feared as a witch. (Fairly competent signature)

(2) Françoise femme Jean Mathieu le viel, 50

25 years earlier husband had lawsuit against Dedier Gallay, after which 4 horses died, and Jean Anthoine, who served as conseil, lost 2 cows. Believed this had been witchcraft by Gallay or his wife. Also had child ill, who was 'jugé ensorcillé par une devineresse qui le vit en cest estat, et nomma le sorcier qui lui avoit donna ladite maladie ledit Gallay, declarant qu'elle le luy soustiendroit devant tout le monde'. Advised them to get bread and salt from his house, after which child recovered.

(3) Asdeline femme Jean Methieu le jeune, 30

About February or March of previous year had come to ask for a pot, saying she would pay her, and believed she 'luy donna ung sort', so that she was possessed by 3 evil spirits, as the spirits had declared during exorcisms at Moyennoustier. When they named Annon witness had been more tormented than ever, while they had said there were 5 witches in Gallay family, and that they had assembled to prevent spell being removed. Thought this was because of resistance to marriage of son, and that she had also made her child ill. Cured 5 months later when Annon asked to see him, advising pilgrimage, and immediately he began to walk, although previously those who saw him thought he would never do so. General reputation.

(4) Demenge Maguison, marchal, 85

7 or 8 years earlier horse had damaged crops in Gallay's field; that night became ill as if rabid, and died 4 days later. Next day after it became ill she came to shop where he was working with his son Mansuy, and said to latter 'l'on dict que votre cheval est bien malade', to which he replied 'O sorciere, le veux tu guerir', so

that he drove her away. Believed she had made it ill, and that she would have cured it; long reputation.

(5) Nicolas Chepart, de Vomécourt, 40

His wife had been bewitched for 12 years, and believed Annon had done this; wife had been godmother to one of her children, and she often reproached her that she gave nothing to the child. Wife had been exorcised by curé of Dommartin-les-Toul, who told her she was bewitched, but could not say who had given it. (Competent signature)

(6) Isabelle Remy Rainville, fille demeurant à Vomécourt, 50

24 years earlier Annon had stolen a scarf and would not return it, so she stole one of hers. Also refused to enter service of her mother, and thought that for one or other reason she had bewitched her; effects had redoubled several times, and she was still suffering. While deposing made cries and strange movements, so that she had to be supported; said she only suspected Annon, who was reputed a witch. Added story of bread which Annon brought to 'accraigne', and kept under coat for long time; tasted bad, and gave her great pains. Told her mistress, who blamed her for eating it. Every time she saw her or heard her name went into convulsive movements; this had happened on pilgrimage to Neufviller previous year when Annon looked at her, although witness did not see her, also every time she went to church.

(7) Jean Vincent, manouvrier, 53

Said he was bewitched over last 4 years; effects felt every time he met Annon. Then was apparently unable to speak until curé of Vomécourt performed exorcisms on him, after which he added that she was a witch, and had companions at Bettoncourt. She had cast spell on him.

23 August 1624; PG des Vosges orders arrest and hearing of further witnesses.

26 August 1624; additional depositions

(8) Aubry Poirot, 27

He and his father had several times told her she was a witch, without any action following. 12 years earlier had been called to their house by 3 of her daughters (one of whom was now dead) to see a small black dog, but this vanished out of back; thought he saw it in garden, but it disappeared. Thought it might have been Dedier Gallay or his wife, because of reputation (!) Another day was in fields with others when they saw circle of people dressed in white dancing around a man in black who did not move; after some time separated and moved in different directions, and 3 or 4 in form of sheep went towards Gallays' garden. Then there was a violent hailstorm. (Fairly competent signature)

(9) Claudotte veuve Thiebault Poirot, 60

When she had been ill her husband suspected Annon had been cause; he had also blamed her because he lost more animals than anyone else in village. General reputation.

(10) Honn Jean Anthoine, 74

General reputation. (Signature more like monogram)

(11) Jean Mathieu le viel, 60

General reputation, suspicions of his daughter-in-law. Knew she talked with prisoner held at Donipaire, whom he had seen go to his house after being in church at Vomécourt.

(12) Thiery Pieron, 32

Previous summer had taken cow back to her house and told her he would take caution; she said one of her daughters had been sent to guard it. Then passed in front of him on pretext of giving keys to daughter, and next day he fell ill. Curé of Vomécourt advised him to look in pillow, where he found oats and barley, fishbones, twisted feathers, oak twigs, cloth, and other things. Was on way to show them to curé when he met Annon, and limbs became so paralysed that he could not move, eyes turned in head, and he lost speech. On several other occasions when she passed felt as if he had a fire in his body. Knew she was greatly feared as a witch.

(13) Le maire Gaspard Vauthier, 60

Some 30 years earlier Françoise femme Jean Mathieu le viel had asked him how to get bread and salt from Annon's house; he went there and found no-one in, so took some for her. Had often wished he had not done so, in view of later reputation, but did not think he had suffered any harm.

(14) Balthazard de France, mercier, 34

Reputation 12 years (residence); knew of accusation by wife of Jean Mathieu le jeune, his sister-in-law. had been guarding her after arrest, and said that in view of evidence she must be a witch; she replied 'Balthazard si je l'estois je n'en serois la cause je suis de sy bonne race'. T'bought she meant that she might have been under compulsion from husband or others. (Clear signature)

(15) Claudon François, femme du precedent, 27

General suspicion.

(16) Nicolas Mathieu, 36

Long reputation; accusation over horse by Demenge Maguison.

(17) Pieron Trenillot, 64

Long reputation.

(18) Le maire Demenge Bourlier, 34

General reputation, but had seen nothing himself.

(19) Jean Dirand, 36

4 years before wife was pregnant, and Gallay's daughter-in-law asked that Jean Gallay and his sister Claude should be godparents. However he had a dispute with Jean later, so invited others to act; thought that in disdain Annon had bewitched child 2 years later, between St Martin and Chandeleur, and was assured of this by a woman. His sister Jeannon had suspected Annon, and they had quarrel in which latter said 'qu'elle rendroit bientost compte a dieu'. Fell ill a week later, and if she had not confessed on first day could not have done so later, since tongue was swollen until it filled her mouth, and she died in another week. During illness of his child Annon sent him a plate of ointment, but curé of Vomécourt advised him to burn it rather than use it; when put on fire gave green flame and bad smell. (Clear signature)

(20) Bastien Dirand, 27

Story of sister Jeannon's quarrel with Annon 18 months earlier, over illness of brother's child. Passing before latter had cursed whoever was responsible, when she responded with remark about accounting to God. Believed death had been her doing; long reputation.

(21) Pierot Grand Maire, 50

Over last 4 or 5 years had feared to meet her or go in front of her, in view of reputation, but did not think he had suffered any harm. (Weak signature)

(22) Demenge Jean Maire, 30

Long reputation. A girl who was servant in his house, now at Vomécourt, had believed herself bewitched by her, and was so still; all those in household thought this was the case. (Competent signature)

(23) Claude Poirot, 38

8 years earlier his uncle Thiery Pierre told him how after quarrel with Dedier he had been attacked in his garden by a hideous creature the size of a calf which tried to strangle him; went to house and armed himself, but it still jumped against him 3 or 4 times before disappearing against a wall in the garden. He believed that it was the accused who had transformed herself into this shape. General reputation.

Not all witnesses seem to have been asked to sign; some indicated as illiterate, minor ones sometimes no statement.

30 August 1624; interrogation

Said she was about 60. Asked if she knew reason for arrest, said all she knew was 'que le sieur le Curé trouve des sorts par leur finage et qu'il declare que c'est elle qui les donne'.

Asked whether son Jean had wanted to marry daughter of Jean Mathieu, said he had not asked for her, 'mais qu'ils s'entreaymoient grandement'. Asked whether she had made Mathieu's wife ill, exclaimed 'Jesus Maria, je ne luy ay pas donné'. Said that lawsuit between husband and older Mathieu followed quarrel in tavern. Denied visiting child of younger Mathieu, or advising pilgrimage.

Said that wife of Nicolas Chepart had been godmother to daughter who was called Françoise after her, as she had wished. Denied expecting any gifts from her.

Said that illness of Isabelle Remy had been result of carrying a burden which was too heavy for her.

(2 September 1624) Said 'que l'on a envie de la faire brusler sans estre sorciere', but she would never say she was such. Said that one day Jeannon sister of Jean Dirand 'luy donna le bon jour, a laquelle elle respondi Comment me donne tu le bon jour, puisque tu m'en veu tant, qui luy repartit ne tiré pas le fardeau a vous.' Continued to deny all charges.

3 September 1624; receveur had taken accused to Dompaire, under guard of sergent and four armed men, to be confronted with woman of Vomécourt. Found she had discharged all those she had named, and when Annon was presented to her just before execution she made no charge against her.

4 September 1624; confrontations

In reply to Jean Dirand, said she had sent ointment to treat his wife's breasts; had been sent by her daughter who was married at Charmes, and came from 'la Damoiselle femme du sieur Vallee'. He claimed his wife had nothing wrong with her breasts at that time.

Jean Mathieu le jeune added that when his child was ill 8 years earlier his wife took it to 'une devineresse', who said that as soon as she returned home the woman who had given the illness would seek her out. Took child into garden on return, and immediately Annon (who was neighbour) suggested she took child on pilgrimage, and gave her fresh butter to rub on him. After this made quick recovery, having expelled 'bois de chanvre' from nose. Also said that during exorcisms 'le diable parlant en elle declara que ladite prevenue gardoit les sorts du logis ou le deposant reside presentement et qu'ung diable gardoit les autres sorts de la maison de Pieron Petit Jean dudit Bethoncourt ou il residoit auparavant, et leur decela autres sorts en plusieurs endroitz, et particulierement ung qui estoit en ung puix proche la croix de Vomécourt a ung pied hors de l'eau, lequel Dedier Begin de Vomécourt, ayant descendu deans ledict puix, trouva a l'endroit que le diable avoit designé, et que c'estoit une escorce de febve deans laquelle il y avoit eu ung limaçon, laquelle escorce le sieur Curé de Vomécourt ayant jecté deans le feu, pendant qu'elle brusloit autres femme dudit Vomécourt, ausquelles ladite prevenue est soubpconnée d'avoir donné les sorts qu'elles ont, se dejectoient en sorte que plusieurs personnes ne les pouvoient tenir, le diable ayant encor déclaré ung autre sort qu'estoit le peau d'ung Crapeau mort soubz le pied d'une couchette en la chambre derrier de leur logis que ladite prevenue y gardoit.'

In reproach to Nicolas Chiepart said there had been occasion when she was crossing stream on way to Charmes, and maire of Pont and his wife went to help her, but he prevented them, saying they should let her drown - he admitted this.

Esdeline femme Jean Mathieu le jeune claimed that Annon's daughter Claude had said to her that her sister-in-law 'avoit long temps pleuré de ce que l'on ne luy avoit donné pour marit le frere de ladite Claude, elle luy respondi qu'elle

aymeroit mieulx veoir ladite sa belle soeur au gibet que de la veoir en la race desdits Gallay.' Also said that Annon had killed her daughter Françoise in hatred because she refused to mediate in quarrel between her brothers and husband of accused. During exorcisms devil declared 'qu'il falloit necessairement qu'il ostast lesdits sorts pour les donner aux porceaux ou aux poissons, et publia haultement que ladite Françoise seroit prinse pour ne s'avoir voulu meller de la querelle susdite'.

Jean Vincent broke out sobbing and barking like a dog when confronted with her; she said this was malicious, and she was not responsible for his state.

Isabelle Remy of Rainville was said to have absented herself and gone off begging, after threats made to her by relatives of accused, saying she would never return to Vomécourt.

7 September 1624; request to PG des Vosges on behalf of accused. Asks for communication of procédure and of indices which result from depositions, claiming that according to 'pratique Criminelle' accused has right to self-defence, which can only be exercised in this way. PG agrees that she or her procureur may see the documents in his presence.

30 September 1624; Change de Nancy says that despite request she should not be allowed to see the trial documents, but PG des Vosges should give his opinion on next stage.

1 October 1624; further request, this time to Duke. Claims that justification of innocence can only be made if documents are communicated, 'd'autant que la plus grande partie des prevenus estans gens imbecilles et de petit jugement ils ne peuvent scavoir ce qui peut servir a leur justification, dont s'il failloit qu'ilz en donnent les moyens sur la simple lecture des depositions des tesmoins qu'ilz ont peu avoir a leurs confrontations, leur innocence demeureroit souvent opprimé faute d'avoir sceu se deffendre'.

Followed by order (originally signed by Duke) consenting to her request.

9 October 1624; copy of documents delivered to accused, her son Jean, and Sr Du Menil, her counsellor. She is to present her own objections within 2 weeks.

21 October 1624; submission on behalf of Annon

Suggests that she has no need to produce counter-proofs, 'car si l'on veult considerer et esplucher de pres les depositions des tesmoins ouys en icelle se trouvera que ce dont ils ont deposés est si esloigné de la qualité de vrais indices qu'il n'est pas capable de faire naistre un soubçon tant soit il leger qui est chose beaucoup moindre que l'indice, et se jugera facilement que lesdits tesmoins n'ont déposé que ce que l'envie leur a suggeré.

Aussi la plus grande partie d'iceux sont reprochables de tous droicts, notamment les premier, second, et troisieme, comme ses parties et tous ceux qui s'ont imaginez avoir receu quelque desplaisir de ladite Annon tesmoignans assez ce qu'ilz deposent ne proceder que d'un pur ressentiment qu'ilz ont des querelles qu'ilz disent avoir eu avec elle.

Et ce ressentiment et hayne se recognoist de ce qu'ilz sont tous singuliers en leurs depositions estant vraysemblable que si leur opinion donnée avoit quelque apparence de verité qu'ilz ne seroient seulz qui en pourroient déposer.

Laquelle singularité faict que si ce qu'ilz ont déposé portoit consequence d'indices prochains que ladite Annon ne seroit obligée a veriffier faictz justificatifz

contraires Car il est tenu pour contant et pratique assuree qu'il fault deux tesmoins majeurs de toutes exceptions pour prouver chacun indice, Coinde (?) au Chapitre 13 nombre 18 des Tortur. Reor. le tient ainsy et que l'opinion de ceulx qui tiennent que les tesmoins singuliers sur divers indices font preuve suffisante pour obliger le prevenu a une decharge est fausse Aussy par la constitution de Charles le quint art. 23 il est nommément ordonné que les indices se prouveront par deux tesmoins sans reproches et deffendu aux juges de n'avoir esgard aux indices qu[and] la preuve ne soit telle ainsy que rapporte Binsfeldi au traicté des confessionib. maleficii au doubte commencent Exempli gratia en la conclusion 5 au 2. membre de la question generale An fides fit habenda confessio maleficii.

Que s'il failloit venir a une descharge ladite Annon veriffieroit contre la deposition de Nicolas Chippart qu'on n'a jamais ouy parler que sa femme ayt esté affligée d'un sort et n'en ont jamais rien entendu ses plus propres parentz mesmes son pere propre tesmoinsage de la mauvaise volonté dudit Chippart de simuler une maladie pour en rendre autrice ladite Annon.

Contre la deposition d'Ysabelle Remy, que sy elle a de l'incommodité elle procede d'avoir autre fois porté un fardeau trop pesant, ainsy qu'elle la eu declairé, qu'elle a soustenu à serment que son mal luy avoit esté donné par celle qui fut bruslée naguieres a Dompaire pour crime de Sortilege et ce par les pieces de la procedure tesmoignage de son inconstance et du peu d'assurance qu'il y a aux serments qu'elle preste.

Mais il ne semble necessaire de venir a telle preuve puisque ce dont lesdits Chippart et Ysabelle desposent comme tous les autres tesmoins sont faitz du tout esloignez et remoyz et desquelz on ne peult tirer consequence d'indices suffisans contre ladite Annon pour l'obliger a se justifier joint que comme dit est, Tous les tesmoins sont singuliers et la plus grande part suspectz et qui deposent des choses du tout esloignées de raison et de pures bagatelles, Elle a seulement a supplier que le fait soit meurement consideré et les circonstances d'Iceluy, et affin qu'ainsy soit suplié mondit Sieur le Receveur de prendre advis outre celuy des Sieurs Mr Echevin et Eschevins de Nancy, de Gens doctz et perilz en droicts, s'assurans qu'ilz peseront le fait et ensuyvront les advis et opnions des Criminalistes qui sont d'accordz touchant les faits cy dessus proposés, et a lesgard du bruict et renommée qu'il fault qu'elle soit publicque et nompar qu'elle deppende de l'opinion des particuliers Ainsy que dit Julius Clarus au ff dernier senten. lib. 5. 9. 7. num 15, et encor tel bruict ne vault que pour informer, Ainsy que dit le mesme Clarus eod. ff q. 22 num 1. Bodin le plus exacte en ceste matiere au Chapre 4 du live 4 de sa Demonomanie veult que tel bruict ayt commencé par gens dignes de foid et pour en venir a la cognoissance veult que les tesmoins nomment ceulx desquelz ils l'ont ouy dire et n'en veult moins que de vingt sans reproches pour le prouver. Ce qui ne se retrouve pas ausdits informations ou les Tesmoins y ouys ne deposent d'avoir ouy reputer en publicque ladite Annon pour sorciere Ains parlent de leur opinion particuliere seulement sans fondement ny raison ne disent de qui ilz l'ont ouy dire et ne sont en nombre suffisant. Une partie d'eulx deposans contre ledit bruict dont semble n'y avoir lieu de venir a une descharge, offre neanmoins de veriffier lesdits faits en tant qu'il soit trouvé necessaire et si justice vient a l'ordonner apres que ledit advis sera prins par lequel ladite Annon s'assure que son innocence luy sera conservée.

Response from PG des Vosges. Claims that request has come too late, and that at confrontations she had full opportunity to object to witnesses and depositions.

Continues 'Et quand aux tesmoins qu'elle dict estre singulier, ses ennemis et qu'ils deposent chose esloignée du fait present et qui la puisse Indicier du Crime

pour lequel elle est detenue, au contraire en Crime privilegié, comme est le present tous tesmoins singuliers font foy depposans tout a la charge d'ung mesme crime et si non prosunt singula, multa servant et que toutes personnes ennemis ou non, maieurs neantmoins de toutes exceptions sont receues cap. in fidei de haer. in Vo glos in L fin C. de accusa Binsfel memb. 2o conclu 1a Delrio Lib. 5o Sec. 5a outre qu'il se trouvera qu'il y a des indices verifiés par deux tesmoins et plus non objectés ny reproches lors qu'il sera question de prendre fins et conclusions en la presente procedure par apres la resulte d'icelle, nempeschant cependant que l'accusée ne soit admise a veriffier les faictes par elle posées pour jointctz a ladite procedure y avoir tel esgard que de raison.'

25 October 1625; opinion from two jurists (?), whose names appear to be de Landrian and Vincens.

Agree that there is sufficient evidence for her to be tortured and pricked for the mark. 'Le motif de la question ordinaire et extraordinaire se collige premierement en plusieurs sorts possessions et obsessions dont ladite prevenue est grandement chargée, les Indices desquels sont en tant plus preignantz et pressantz qu'il se trouvent cinq a six personnes non reprochez valablement lesquelles deposent que lesditz sortz les ont agitez d'une violence extraordinaire et surhumaine a la presence ou a la veue voire a la seule denomination des noms et surnoms de la prevenue.

Secondement les Indices de malefices exercées non seulement sur du bestail mais encore a l'encontre de quelques personnes la plus part tendans a la mort et dont par les mesme Indices les effectz s'en seroit ensuivy N'Importans pas qu'ilz soient seulement veriffiez par tesmoings singulieres d'autant qu'en crimes occultes comme est celuy du sortilege les preuves pour la conviction et condamnation ne debvant estre sy exactes et claires qu'en apparentz Il est sans doute par l'avis de tous les Criminalistes qu'a plus fortes raisons que les Indices pour la torture ne doibvent estre sy violentz et Indubitables que desdictz autres Crimes par argument du plus au moins. Estans de plus tres veritable que sy au crime de Lese Majeste humaine ou divine Tel que celuy en question les personnes ne sont en sy grande discussion qu'en aultres crimes et que dix tesmoings singulieres suffisent pour operer une condamnation (voire moins selon aucuns) que ceste ordonnance de torture n'est que Juridique puisque il n'y a pas seulement dix tesmoings singulieres deposantz en presumptions dudit crime mais qu'il sy en trouvent deux qui parlent que vraysemblablement la mort de Jeannon Dirand soeur du xix tesmoin auroient estez maleficiiez par le fait de la prevenue et dont l'ung en seroit mort et l'autre grièvement malade l'espace de deux ans.

Toutz lesquels tesmoings n'estant reprochés que d'inimitié sous pretexte que la plus partz d'iceux disent avoir eu quelques petites querelles contre ladite Annon au subjectz esquelles ilz deposent n'en croyent avoir receus lesditz malefices ne sont que frivoleusement reprochez: en tant qu'il se cognoist par les procedures ordinaires des sorcieres que la plus part d'eux voire tous n'adressent leurs sortz que contre ceux contre lesquels ilz ont de pareilles piquoteries; les tesmoignages desquels partant s'il convenoit rejeter sous plusieurs pretextes ce crime sy nuisible au genre humain demeureroit impuny contre les maximes retenus en le cas universellement: scavoir qu'en crimes de leze majesté divine comme humaine toutz tesmoings sont receus fors ceux reprochez d'inimitié capitale.

Et ce qui fortifie davantage ses indices est l'accusation d'une convaincue de pareille crime dont est fait mention au requises du Sr Procureur sur lesquelles ladite information est faite, en laquelle s'il couste autrement selon que les deliberez le



supposent ledit Indice se peut dire prochain joint le commun bruit qui diffame dudit crime la prevenue et les autres Indices pareilz.

Ne pouvant estre objectez contre ce tesmoignage de la complice les Illusions que le diable peult faire au sabat au prejudice de l'innocence supposez que ladite complice ayt declaré qu'elle l'ayt veu aux sabbats faire les actes d'adoration du diable comme les sorcieres ont accoustumez faire et danser et qu'elle ne soit reprochée d'inimitié capitale dequoy il n'appert par le proces.

La raison de la premiere assertion est que quelques criminalistes et notamment Lancre grandement pratique en la recherche de ce Crime tient qu'il a recognu par la deposition de plusieurs sorcieres que le diable n'a le pouvoir de suplanter tellement l'innocence qu'il puisse représenter au sabat la forme d'une homme exempt de ce crime en sorte qu'il n'y ait de la difference entre les representations et ceux qui reellement y sont: Laquelle disparité il dit consister en ce qu'il tient pour indubitable que dieu ne lache la bride au diable pour pouvoir fegnnier une homme ou femme dansant et faisant les actes d'adoration et d'execration qui se font au sabat lesquels soient innocentz Bien qu'il puisse y représenter la forme d'une personne de cette innocente qualité, mais avec telle difference que la figure ne bouge privée qu'elle est de mouvement ce qu'il dit avoir recognu par le dire de quantité de sorcieres et grande experience en pareille matiere auquel lieu qui est en son premier t de l'Inconstance des demons il dit que cela est signe de venarye (?).

Mais supposé que ladite Complice n'ayt circonstanciée son accusation voire mesme qu'il n'y ayt eu aucune accusation, sy est ce qu'il y ayt matiere d'ordonner [torn for last words].

Le motif de ce que l'on est d'avis de n'appliquer la prevenue a la torture de plein saulf que prealablement elle n'ayt esté razées et visitée est que la plus part des sorciers et sorcieres notamment des magiciens ont des sorts de taciturnité au moyen desquelz le diable les rende insensibles a la torture pensant eluder l'effet de la question: Sy que les modernes qui ont traité de ce crime recognoissant les ruzes et artifices du malin esprit tiennent toutz (comme il se pratique maintenant par toutz) qu'il ne fault arrester ou attendre la confession d'un prevenue de ce crime quand il y a de la diffamation et des Indices suivyes de marques insensibles estant necessaire que comme le diable par le moyen de ces sortz de silence tache d'enerver les effetz de la Justice Temporelle et ainsy se conserver ses ministres qu'on change cette vielle et abusive pratique qu'on ne puisse condamner personne sans confession, laquelle se pourroit mais encore foiblement soustenir en d'aultres crimes mais en celuy de sortilege elle est de sy dangereuse Consequence que le Crime ayans sa source dans l'ame et ainsy occulte demeureroit a couvert sy a mesure que l'on cognoist que la necessité la requiert on ne changoit cette pratique ancienne en une meilleure laquelle doibt estre assez autorisée en ce pays par une celebre exemple que nous avons veu depuis peu d'années par ung jugement rendu par des gens de probité et capacité singuliere sans parler de quelques autres qui ont pieca (?) commencé a descrediter cette vielle pratique Or que la prevenue se treuve estre soubconnée pour insigne sorciere sy elle l'est il y a de l'apparence en ce qu'elle n'est pas seulement accusez de malefices mais de possessions et obsessions ce que n'appartenantz qu'aux sorcieres a triple estages il y a crainte sy on l'apliquoit de primabord a la question qu'elle ne l'endure et qu'ainsy elle n'evite la main de la Justice de laquelle taciturnité ayant desja menacé la Justice en sa response a l'interrogat troisieme du deuxiesme Septembre dernier par laquelle elle a declarée qu'elle ne diroit jamais qu'elle fut sorciere quoy qu'on luy puisse faire il semble estre tres a propos d'ordonner ladite visite laquelle esclairrira grandement ce proces soit ce que la prevenue se trouve marqué ou non Par ce qu'au premier cas la question sera de tant plus seurement

ordonnée non tant pour tirer la confession du Crime que des Complices: Cause pourquoy nonobstant la taciturnité de la prevenue on la pourra condamner a ung bannissement perpetuel et au second elle operera son absolution supposé qu'elle ne confesse, adjoustant les soubscriptz pour le soustenent de ceste ordonnance de visite et sonde que toutz les Criminalistes tiennent notamment les modernes le tesmoignage desquelz est assez veriffié par la pratique de journaliere experience que de dix milz (?) sorcieres il ne s'en trouvera pas deux qui ne soient marquez: Comme sy dieu a mesure que le diable donne ses sortz de silence pour s'autoriser au prejudice du genre humain vouloit par ses marques que l'on descouvert ses supotz: Lesquelles marques partants estant de sy grandes consequences pour la conviction de ce Crime la preuve d'Icelle ne doit estre negligées contre la vielle pratique du pays, les changementz ne pouvans estre blasmez lors qu'ilz se font du mal en bien.

31 October 1624; Change de Nancy approves question ordinaire et extraordinaire

12 November 1624; PG des Vosges orders torture to proceed.

15 November 1624; interrogation

Said that she knew wife of Jean Mathieu le jeune 'a fait plusieurs imprecations a son mari et ne scayt si elles sont retombées sur elle'. As for wife of Nicolas Chepart, she had asked nothing from her, but on account of her ingratitude she was known as 'la peu bonne' at Vomécourt.

Otherwise continued to deny all charges.

21 November 1624; interrogation under torture

Was given thumbscrews, rack, and tortillons, but stoutly denied all charges. Called on Virgin Mary, declared 'qu'elle enduroit son martir patiemment en l'honneur de la passion de nre Seigneur.'

23 November 1624; interrogation

Continued to deny she was a witch, saying that if she were she would have confessed in order to save her soul, which was dearer to her than anything in the world.

23 November 1624: PG des Vosges suggests that she be renvoyée, after satisfying 'reasonable' costs of trial.