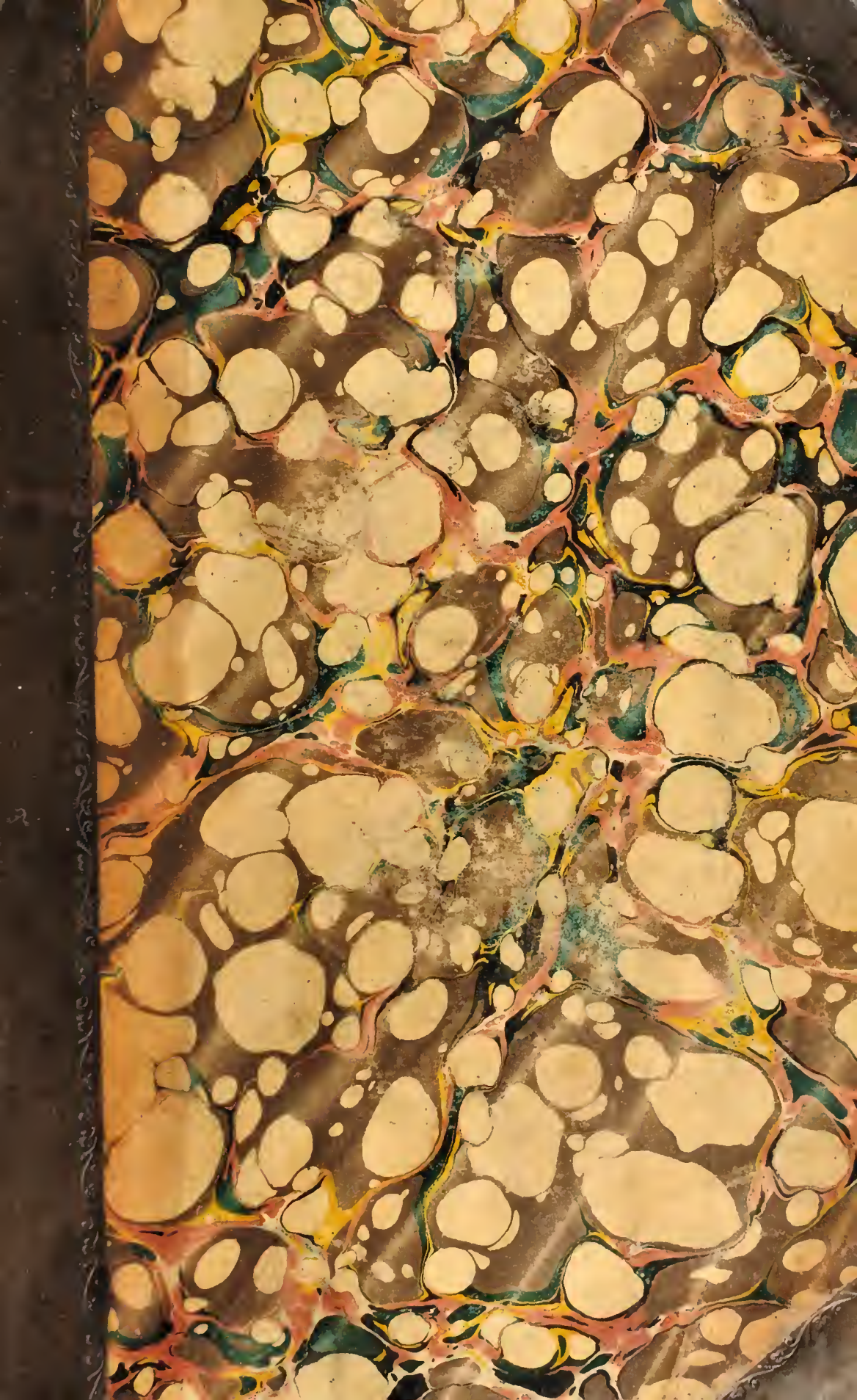








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BENWICK WILLIAMS.

Commonly called 'The Monster.'

THE
NEWGATE CALENDAR;

COMPRISING

INTERESTING MEMOIRS

OF

THE MOST NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS

WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF OUTRAGES ON

The Laws of England

SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY;

WITH

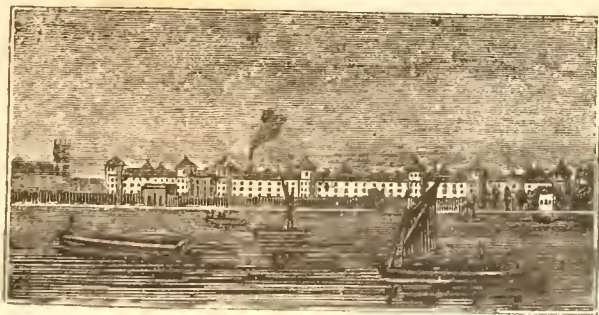
OCCASIONAL ANECDOTES AND OBSERVATIONS,

SPEECHES, CONFESSIONS, AND LAST EXCLAMATIONS OF SUFFERERS.

BY

ANDREW KNAPP AND WILLIAM BALDWIN,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.



The Penitentiary, Milbank.

VOL. III.

London:

J. ROBINS AND CO. IVY LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1825.



KNAPP AND BALDWIN'S NEWGATE CALENDAR,

AND
Criminal Recorder.



Rann on his Trial at the Old Bailey.

JOHN RANN, COMMONLY CALLED SIXTEEN-STRING JACK,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THIS fellow was entitled to be classed among the impudent and arrogant self-created gentlemen who levied arbitrary contributions on the highway: he was also of considerable notoriety in acts of such species of depredations, having been regularly initiated, from the humble pickpocket.

John Rann was born at a village a few miles from Bath, of honest parents, who were in low circumstances, and incapable of giving him

any kind of education. For some time he obtained a livelihood by vending goods, which he drove round the city and adjacent country on an ass.

A lady of distinction, who happened to beat Bath, took Rann into her service when he was about twelve years of age; and his behaviour was such, that he became the favorite of his mistress and fellow-servants.

At length he came to London, and

got employment as a helper in the stables at Brooke's Mews, in which station he bore a good character. He then became the driver of a postchaise, after which he was servant to an officer, and in both these stations he was well spoken of.

About four years before his execution he was coachman to a gentleman of fortune near Portman Square, and it was at this period that he dressed in the manner which gave rise to the appellation of Sixteen-string Jack, by wearing breeches with eight strings at each knee.

After living in the service of several noblemen he lost his character, and turned pickpocket, in company with three fellows, named Jones, Clayton, and Colledge, the latter of whom, a mere boy, obtained the name of *Eight-stringed Jack*.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in April, 1774, Rann, Clayton, and one Shepherd, were tried for robbing Mr. William Somers on the highway, and acquitted for want of evidence. They were again tried for robbing Mr. Langford, but acquitted for the same reason.

For some time past Rann had kept company with a young woman named Roche, who, having been apprenticed to a milliner, and being seduced by an officer of the guards, was reduced to obtain bread by the casual wages of prostitution; and, at length associating with highwaymen, received such valuable effects as they took on the road.

'A woman's honour is a woman's all,
You're lost for ever if perchance you fall;
In this, wit, beauty, fortune, form, and
mix'd,
You give like atoms to the whistling wind;
All worth, all pleasure, is with honour lost,
A truth which thousands witness to their
cost.

The fate of woman deeply we deplore,
They fall like stars that set to rise no
more.'

On the 30th of May Rann was

taken into custody, and, being brought to Bow Street on the following Wednesday, was charged with robbing John Devall, Esq. near the nine-mile stone on the Hounslow road, of his watch and money. This watch he had given to Miss Roche, who had delivered it to Catharine Smith, by whom it was offered in pledge to Mr. Hallam, a pawnbroker, who, suspecting that it was not honestly obtained, caused all the parties to be taken into custody.

Miss Roche was now charged with receiving the watch, knowing it to have been stolen; and Miss Smith, being sworn, deposed that, on the day Mr. Devall was robbed, Roche told her that 'she expected Rann to bring her some money in the evening;' that he accordingly came about ten at night, and, having retired some time with Miss Roche, she, on her return, owned that she had received a watch and five guineas from him, which he said he had taken from a gentleman on the highway; and that she, Miss Smith, carried the watch to pawn to Mr. Hallam, at the request of Miss Roche.

Sir John Fielding asked Rann if he would offer any thing in his defence; on which the latter said, 'I know no more of the matter than you do, nor half so much neither.' On this occasion Rann was dressed in a manner above his style of life and his circumstances. He had a bundle of flowers in the breast of his coat almost as large as a broom; and his irons were tied up with a number of blue ribands.

For this offence Rann was tried at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in July, 1774, and acquitted.

Two or three days after this acquittal Rann engaged to sup with a girl at her lodgings in Bow Street; but, not being punctual to his ap-

pointment, the girl went to bed, and Rann, not being able to obtain admittance at the door, attempted to get in at the window on the first floor, and had nearly accomplished his purpose, when he was taken into custody by the watchman.

For this burglarious attempt he was examined at Bow Street on the 27th of July, when the girl, whose apartments he had attempted to break open, declared that he could not have had any felonious intention, as he knew that he would have been a welcome guest, and have been readily admitted, if she had not fallen asleep. On this he was dismissed, after Sir John Fielding had cautioned him to leave his dangerous profession, and seek for some more honest means of support.

On the Sunday following Rann appeared at Bagnigge Wells, dressed in a scarlet coat, tambour waistcoat, white silk stockings, laced hat, &c. and publicly declared himself to be a highwayman. Having indulged pretty freely, he became extremely quarrelsome, and several scuffles ensued, in one of which he lost a ring from his finger, and, when he discovered his loss, he said it was but a hundred guineas gone, which one evening's *work* would replace. He became at length so troublesome that part of the company agreed to turn him out of the house: but they met with so obstinate a resistance that they were obliged to give up their design; when a number of young fellows, possessed of more spirit than discretion, attacked this magnanimous hero, and actually forced him through the window into the road. Rann was not much injured by this severe treatment; but he complained bitterly against those who could so affront a *gentleman* of his character.

Rann, being arrested for a debt of

fifty pounds, which he was unable to pay, was confined in the Marshalsea prison, where he was visited by a number of men and women of bad character, some of whom paid his debt, and procured his discharge.

At another time, Rann being with two companions at an alehouse in Tottenham Court Road, two sheriff's officers arrested Rann, who, not having money to pay the debt, deposited his watch in the hands of the bailiffs, and his associates advanced three guineas, which together made more than the amount of the debt; and, as a balance was to be returned to Rann when the watch should be redeemed, he told the bailiffs that, if they would lend him five shillings, he would treat them with a crown bowl of punch. 'This they readily did; and, while they were drinking, Rann said to the officers, 'You have not treated me like a gentleman. When Sir John Fielding's people come after me they use me gently; they only hold up a finger, beckon me, and I follow them as quietly as a lamb.'

When the bailiffs were gone, Rann and his companions rode off; but our hero, soon returning, stopped at the turnpike, and asked if he had been wanted. 'No,' said the tollman. 'Why,' replied the other, 'I am Sixteen-string Jack, the famous highwayman—have any of Sir John Fielding's people been this way?' 'Yes,' said the man, 'some of them are but just gone through.' Rann replied, 'If you see them again, tell them I am gone towards London;' and then rode off with the utmost unconcern.

Soon afterwards Rann appeared at Barnet races, dressed in a most elegant sporting style, his waistcoat being blue satin, trimmed with silver; and he was followed by hundreds of people, who were eager to gratify

their curiosity by the sight of a man who had been so much the subject of public conversation.

A very short time before Rann was capitally convicted he attended a public execution at Tyburn, and, getting within the ring formed by the constables round the gallows, desired that he might be permitted to stand there, 'for,' said he, 'perhaps it is very proper that I should be a spectator on this occasion.'

On the 26th of September, 1774, Rann and William Collier went on the Uxbridge road, with a view to commit robberies on the highway; and on the Wednesday following they were examined at the public office in Bow Street, when Dr. William Bell, chaplain to the Princess Amelia, deposed that, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, the 26th of September, as he was riding near Ealing, he observed two men of rather mean appearance, who rode past him; and that he remarked they had suspicious looks; yet neither at that time, nor for some little time afterwards, had he any idea of being robbed: that soon afterwards one of them, which he believed was Rann, crossed the head of his horse, and, demanding his money, said 'Give it to me, and take no notice, or I'll blow your brains out.' On this the doctor gave him one shilling and sixpence, which was all the silver he had, and likewise a common watch in a tortoise-shell case.

On the evening of the day on which the robbery was committed Eleanor Roche, who was kept by Rann, and her maid-servant, carried a watch to pledge with Mr. Cordy, pawnbroker, in Oxford Road, who, suspecting that it had not been honestly acquired, stopped it, and applied to Mr. Grignion, watchmaker, in Russell Street, Covent Garden,

who had made the watch for Dr. Bell.

Mr. Clarke swore that, on going to Miss Roche's lodgings on the Monday night, he found two pair of boots wet and dirty, which had evidently been worn that day; and Mr. Haliburton swore that he waited at Miss Roche's lodgings till Rann and Collier came thither; in consequence of which they were taken into custody.

On the 5th of October, John Rann, William Collier, Eleanor Roche, and Christian Stewart (servant to Roche), were brought to Bow Street; when Dr. Bell deposed in substance as he had done the preceding week: and William Hills, servant to the Princess Amelia, swore that he saw Rann, whom he well knew, ascend the hill at Acton about twenty minutes before the robbery was committed—a circumstance which perfectly agreed with Dr. Bell's account of the time that he was robbed.

John Rann and William Collier were therefore committed to Newgate, to take their trials for the highway robbery; Miss Roche was sent to Clerkenwell Bridewell, and Christian Stewart, her servant, to Tothill Fields' Bridewell, to be tried as accessories after the fact.

The evidence given on this trial was, in substance, the same as that which had been given at Bow Street; but, some favorable circumstances appearing in behalf of Collier, he was recommended to mercy, and afterwards respited during the king's pleasure. Miss Roche was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years; her servant was acquitted; and Rann was left for execution.

When Rann was brought down to take his trial he was dressed in a new suit of pea-green clothes; his hat was bound round with silver

KNAPP & BALDWIN'S NEWGATE CALENDAR.

strings; he wore a ruffled shirt; and his behaviour evinced the utmost unconcern.

Rann was so confident of being acquitted that he had ordered a genteel supper to be provided for the entertainment of his particular friends and associates on the joyful occasion; but their intended mirth was turned into mourning, and the madness of guilty joy gave way to the sullen melancholy of equally guilty grief.

When Rann received his sentence he attempted to force a smile, but it was evident that his mind was racked with pains that no language can express.

After conviction the behaviour of this malefactor was, for some time, very improper for one in his unhappy circumstances. On Sunday, the 23d of October, he had seven girls to dine with him. The company were remarkably cheerful; nor

was Rann less joyous than his companions.

His conduct was expressive of great unconcern till the time that the warrant for his execution arrived; after which he began to be somewhat serious in his preparation for a future state.

On the morning of execution he received the sacrament in the chapel of the prison, and at the fatal tree behaved with great decency, but did not appear so much affected by his approaching fate as some printed accounts have represented him. When he came near the gallows he turned round, and looked at it as an object which he had long expected to see, but not as one that he dreaded, as might reasonably have been expected.

He was turned off November the 30th, 1774, and, having hung the usual time, his body was delivered to his friends for interment.

ROBERT AND DANIEL PERREAU,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

ON the 10th of March, 1775, discovery was made of a series of forgeries, said to have been carried on for a length of time by Robert and Daniel Perreau, twin brothers; the one an apothecary of great practice, and the other living in the style of a gentleman.

The above parties, together with Mrs. Margaret Caroline Rudd, who lived with Daniel Perreau as his wife, and who was deemed to have been a principal agent in the forgeries, were taken into custody, and carried before the bench of magistrates in Bow Street, where the crowd attending to hear their examination was so great, that it became necessary to adjourn to the Guildhall, Westminster.

The evidence there adduced tended to prove that the parties

had raised considerable sums by bonds forged in the name of the well-known agent, William Adair, Esq. which they imposed on several gentlemen of fortune, as collateral securities with their own notes, for the payment of the said sums.

This transaction was discovered by the following means:—Robert Perreau, whose character had been hitherto unimpeachable, applied to Mr. Drummond, the banker, to lend him five thousand pounds, and offered a bond for seven thousand five hundred pounds, which he said Mr. Adair had given to his brother as a security for the payment.

It will now be proper to remark that, in order to give colour to the validity of these bonds, it had been artfully suggested that Mrs. Rudd had near connexions with Mr.

Adair; and it was even insinuated that she was his natural daughter: but Mr. Drummond, to whom Mr. Adair's writing was familiar, had no sooner looked at the signature than he doubted its authenticity, and very politely asked Robert Perrean if he had seen Mr. Adair sign it. The latter said he had not, but had no doubt but that it was authentic, from the nature of the connexion that subsisted.

To this Mr. Drummond replied that he could not advance such a sum without consulting his brother, and desired Perrean to leave the bond, promising to return it the next morning, or advance on it the sum required.

Mr. Perrean made no scruple to leave the bond, and call in the morning. In the interim Mr. Drummond examined the bond with greater attention; and Mr. Stephens, secretary of the Admiralty, happening to call, his opinion was demanded; when, comparing the signature of the bond with letters he had lately received from Mr. Adair, he was firmly convinced that it was forged.

When Perrean came Mr. Drummond spoke more freely than he had done before, and told him that he imagined he had been imposed on; but begged that, to remove all doubt, he would go with him to Mr. Adair, and get that gentleman to acknowledge the validity of the bond; on which the money should be advanced.

Perrean made not the least objection. They went together, and Mr. Adair was asked if the bond was his. He declared it was not; but Perrean smiled, and said he jested.

Mr. Adair told him that it was no jesting matter, and that it was his duty to clear up the affair. Perrean said, 'if that was the case, he

had been sent on a fine errand!' He desired to have the bond, and said he would make the necessary inquiries; but this was refused, and it was thought a point of prudence to watch the motions of Robert Perrean till Daniel and his pretended wife were produced.

Soon after he returned home the three parties went into a coach; and, if Mrs. Rudd's testimony may be credited, she took with her what money and valuables she could conveniently carry; and said that the brothers had taken her money, gold watch, and jewels, into their possession; but no reason was assigned for their doing so.

Their escape, however, if such was intended, was prevented; for, on information being laid against them, they were apprehended, carried before Sir John Fielding, and examined at the Guildhall, Westminster, as above related. The facts already mentioned were attested by Mr. Adair, Mr. Drummond, and other persons; and Sir Thomas Frankland charged them with obtaining from him four thousand pounds on the first application, which they honestly repaid before the money became due; afterwards five thousand pounds, and then four thousand pounds, on similar bonds, all signed with the name of Mr. Adair.

Mr. Watson, a money-scrivener, said that he had drawn eight bonds, all of them ordered by one or other of the brothers; but he hesitated to fix on either, on account of their great personal resemblance; and, being pressed to make a positive declaration, he fixed on Daniel as his employer.

Dr. Brooke charged the brothers with obtaining from him fifteen bonds of the bank of Air, each of the value of one hundred pounds, upon the security of a forged bond

for three thousand one hundred pounds.

On the strength of this evidence the brothers were committed, the one to New Prison, and the other to Clerkenwell Bridewell; and Mrs. Rudd was admitted an evidence for the crown.

On her future examination she declared that she was the daughter of a nobleman in Scotland; that, when young, she married an officer in the army, named Rudd, against the consent of her friends; that her fortune was considerable; that, on a disagreement with her husband, they resolved to part; that she made a reserve of money, jewels, and effects, to the amount of thirteen thousand pounds, all of which she gave to Daniel Perreau, whom she said she loved with the tenderness of a wife; 'that she had three children by him; that he had returned her kindness in every respect till lately, when, having been unfortunate in gaming in the alley, he had become uneasy, peevish, and much altered to her; that he cruelly constrained her to sign the bond now in question, by holding a knife to her throat, and swearing that he would murder her if she did not comply; that, being struck with remorse, she had acquainted Mr. Adair with what she had done; and that she was now willing to declare every transaction with which she was acquainted, whenever she should be called upon by law so to do.'

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in June, 1775, Robert Perreau, Esq. was indicted for forging a bond for the payment of seven thousand five hundred pounds, in the name of William Adair, Esq. and also for feloniously uttering and publishing the said bond, knowing it to be forged, with intention to defraud Robert and Henry Drummond, Esqrs.

After what we have mentioned above, respecting this transaction, we shall be as concise as possible in the recital of the evidence.— Henry Drummond, Esq. deposed that Robert Perreau requested the loan of one thousand four hundred pounds, having made a purchase in Suffolk or Norfolk to the amount of twelve thousand pounds. He said he had a house in Harley Street, Cavendish Square, which cost four thousand pounds, the deeds of which house he would leave as a security. These he did leave, and, promising to return in ten days, the money was paid him. He came some time afterwards, and apologized for not having kept his appointment; and said he then came to borrow five thousand pounds on the bond, out of which he would pay the one thousand four hundred pounds above mentioned.

Mr. Drummond and his brother doubting the validity of the bond, Perreau said there were family connexions between him and Mr. Adair, who had money of his in his hands, for which he paid interest.

A great part of what Mr. Drummond delivered in evidence has been already given in the former part of this narrative. Mr. Drummond going with the prisoner to Mr. Adair's, Mrs. Daniel Perreau (Mrs. Rudd) was sent for, when Robert asked her if she had not given the bond to him. She owned that she had, took the whole on herself, and acknowledged that she had forged the bond.

The counsel for the prisoner asking Mr. Drummond if he was certain that the prisoner said it was *his* money that Mr. Adair paid interest for, he answered in the affirmative. He likewise declared that Mr. Perreau did not make the least objection to leaving the bond with him, nor showed any reluc-

tance in going with him to Mr. Adair's house.

He likewise said that Mrs. Rudd took the whole on herself; begged them 'for God's sake to have mercy on an innocent man,' and that she said no injury was intended to any person, and that all would be paid; and that she acknowledged delivering the bond to the prisoner.

The counsel demanding if Mr. Drummond and Mr. Adair, after hearing what Mrs. Rudd said, had not expressed themselves as considering the prisoner as her dupe; the answer was, 'We both expressed ourselves to that effect. A constable had been sent for, and we discharged him.'

The identity of the bond was proved by Mr. Wheatley, clerk to Messrs. Drummond.—The evidence of Mr. Robert Drummond was not, in any very essential point, different from that of his brother. He deposed that, when Mrs. Rudd had acknowledged that she forged the bond, he expressed his doubt, the handwriting being so different from that of a woman; and said nothing would convince him of it but her showing, on a piece of paper, that she could write that sort of hand. He said he did not mean to insnare her, and would immediately throw the writing into the fire. Mrs. Rudd instantly wrote 'William Adair,' or part of the name, so very like the signature of the bond, that it satisfied him, and he burnt the paper. Robert Perreau then said that 'he hoped that the information she had given sufficiently acquitted him;' but he was told that he had better not inquire into that; and on this occasion he showed the first sign of anxiety.

Sir Thomas Frankland deposed that the prisoner brought him two bonds at different times, one to Daniel Perreau for six thousand pounds, and the other to himself (Robert) for five

thousand three hundred pounds; that for five thousand three hundred pounds, on which he lent him four thousand pounds, was to be repaid on the 26th of March, with the three days' grace; the other was due on the 8th of March.

Mr. Wilson declared that he filled up the bond at the desire of the prisoner, and produced his instructions for so doing. He likewise acknowledged that he had filled up other bonds for the prisoner.

That the handwriting at the bottom of the bond was not the handwriting of William Adair was proved by Scroope Ogilvie and James Adair, Esquires. Mr. James Adair was now questioned by counsel respecting a private interview he had with Mrs. Rudd; but the Court doubted if this might be allowed as evidence. After some observations made by the counsel for the prisoner, a letter was read, which he presumed had been sent him by William Adair, Esq. but which appeared to have been written by Mrs. Rudd; but it was scarcely intelligible.

The prisoner now proceeded to make his defence in the following terms:—'My Lords, and gentlemen of the jury, if I had been wanting in that fortitude which is the result of innocence, or had found any hesitation in submitting my proceedings to the strictest scrutiny, I need not at this day have stood before my country, or set my life upon the issue of a legal trial. Supported by the consciousness of my integrity, I have forced that transaction to light, which might else have been suppressed, and I have voluntarily sought that imprisonment which guilt never invites, and even innocence has been known to fly from; ardently looking forward to this hour, as the sure, though painful, means of vindicating

a character, not distinguished, indeed, for its importance, but hitherto maintained without a blemish. There are many respectable witnesses at hand (and many more, I persuade myself, would be found, if it had been necessary to summon them upon a point of such notoriety) who will inform your lordships and the Court how I have appeared to them to act, what trust has been reposed in me, and what credit I had in their opinions, for my diligence, honesty, and punctuality. In truth, my lords, I am bold to say that few men, in my line of life, have carried on their business with a fairer character; not many with better success. I have followed no pleasures, nor launched into any expenses: there is not a man living who can charge me with neglect or dissipation. The honest profits of my trade have afforded me a comfortable support, and furnished me with the means of maintaining, in a decent sort, a worthy wife, and three promising children, upon whom I was labouring to bestow the properest education in my power: in short, we were as happy as affluence and innocence could make us, till this affliction came upon us by surprise, and I was made the dupe of a transaction, from whose criminality, I call God, the searcher of all human hearts, to witness, I am now as free as I was at the day of my birth.—My lords, and gentlemen of the jury, men who are unpractised in deceit will be apt to credit others for a sincerity which they themselves possess. The most undesigning characters have at all times been the dupes of craft and subtlety. A plain story, with the indulgence of the Court, I will relate, which will furnish strong instances of credulity on one part, and at the same time will exhibit a train of such consummate artifices

on the other as are not to be equalled in the annals of iniquity, and which might have extorted an equal confidence from a much more enlightened understanding than I can claim.'

Having said thus much, the unhappy man proceeded to relate a variety of circumstances relative to the imposition practised on him by Mrs. Rudd, of which the following are the most remarkable:—

He said that she was constantly conversing about the interest she had with Mr. W. Adair; and that Mr. Adair had, by his interest with the king, obtained the promise of a baronetage for Daniel Perreau, and was about procuring him a seat in parliament. That Mr. Adair had promised to open a bank, and take the brothers Perreau into partnership with him; that the prisoner received many letters signed 'William Adair,' which he had no doubt came from that gentleman, in which were promises of giving them a considerable part of his fortune during his life; and that he was to allow Daniel Perreau two thousand four hundred pounds a year for his household expenses, and six hundred pounds a year for Mrs. Rudd's pin-money. That Mr. Daniel Perreau purchased a house in Harley Street for four thousand pounds, which money Mr. William Adair was to give them. That, when Daniel Perreau was pressed by the person he bought the house of for the money, the prisoner understood that they applied to Mr. William Adair, and that his answer was, that he had lent the king seventy thousand pounds, and had purchased a house in Pall Mall at seven thousand pounds, in which to carry on the banking business, and therefore could not spare the four thousand pounds at that time.

The prisoner now related a variety of circumstances which would

tempt an ingenuous mind to suppose him innocent, and that the guilt of the transaction rested with Mrs. Rudd. The unfortunate man then proceeded in his defence in the following terms:—

‘My lords, and gentlemen of the jury, I have now faithfully laid before you such circumstances as have occurred to my memory, as necessary for your information, in order as they happened during my acquaintance with Mrs. Rudd, under the character of my brother’s wife. Many have been the sufferers by artifices and impostors, but never man appeared, I believe, in this or any other tribunal, upon whom so many engines were set at work to interest his credulity. It will not escape the notice of this splendid Court that my compassion was first engaged by the story of Mrs. Rudd’s sufferings, before my belief was invited to her representations. Let me have credit with you for yielding up by pity in the first instance, and you cannot wonder I did not withhold my credulity afterwards. It is in this natural, this necessary consequence, I rest my defence. I was led from error to error by such insensible degrees, that every step I took strengthened my infatuation. When Mr. Drummond first hesitated at the handwriting at the foot of the bond, if it did not so alarm me as to shake my belief in this artful woman, let it be considered that I had been prevailed upon to negotiate other bonds of hers, depositing them in the hands of bankers who had never spied any defect, or raised the least objection. These bonds have been regularly and punctually paid in due time. The letters sent to me, as if from William Adair, critically agreed with the handwriting of the bond. Mr. Adair did not keep money at Mr. Drummond’s; opportunities of

comparing his handwriting for many years had not occurred; and the hesitation upon his part appeared to me no more than the exceptions and minute precautions of a banker, which could not so suddenly overturn the explicit belief that I had annexed to all that was told me in Harley Street. Can any greater proof be given than my own proposal to Mr. Drummond of leaving the bond in his hands till he had satisfied his credulity? Can your lordships, or gentlemen of the jury, for a moment suspect that any man would be guilty of such a crime whose proceedings were so fair and open? That single circumstance, I am satisfied, will afford my total exculpation. The resort to Mr. Adair was as easy to Mr. Drummond as to the books in his own counting-house: it does not come within the bounds of common sense, much less does it fall within the possibility of guilt, that any man living should voluntarily, with his eyes open, take a step so directly and absolutely centering in his certain destruction. But this circumstance, strong as it is, is not all my case. I bless God, the protector of innocence, that, in my defence, proofs arise upon proofs: the least of them, I trust, will be thought incompatible with guilt. It should seem impossible that a guilty person would propose to Mr. Drummond to retain the bond for the satisfaction of his scruples; but that the same person should, after so long a time for consideration had passed after my leaving the bond, which was full twenty-four hours, openly, and in the face of day, enter the shop of Mr. Drummond, and demand if he had satisfied all his scruples, unless a man from mere desperation had been weary of his life, and sought a dissolution; this, I humbly apprehend, would be an

absolute impossibility: but, my lords, and gentlemen of the jury, I had neither in my breast the principle of guilt, nor had I that desperate loathing of existence as should bring a shameful condemnation on my head. It is true I have invited this trial; but it is equally true I have done it in the consciousness of my integrity, because I could not otherwise go through the remainder of my days with comfort and satisfaction, unless I had the verdict of my countrymen for my acquittal, and rested my innocence upon the purest testimony I could have on this side the grave. It is plain I had an opportunity of withdrawing myself. How many men are there, with the clearest intentions, yet, from the apprehension of being made the talk of the public, and, above all, the dread of imprisonment, and the terror of a trial, would have thought themselves happy to have caught at any opportunity of saving themselves from such a series of distress? Greater confidence can no man be in of the integrity of his case, and the justice of his country. When it was found necessary to the designs of Mrs. Rudd that I and my family should be made the dupes of her connexions with the house of Adair, it may well be believed that nothing but the *strongest interdictions* could prevent my endeavours to obtain an interview. In fact, this point was laboured with consummate artifice; and nothing less than ruin to my brother and his affairs was denounced upon my breaking this injunction. It was part of the same error to believe her in this also. A respectable witness has told you—and I do not controvert his evidence—that my confidence in her assertion, and in the testimonials *that she exhibited under the hand, as I believed, of Mr. Adair*, were

such, in my mistaken judgment, as to be equal to the evidence of my own senses, pressed by the forms of business to say to Mr. Drummond that I had seen Mr. Adair myself; but I neither went to Mr. Adair, nor disclosed those pressing motives which prevented me. No less free to confess my faults than I am confident to assert my innocence, I seek no palliation for this circumstance, except my temptation and my failings; and I trust it will rather be a matter of surprise, that, in the course of a negotiation, through the whole of which I was acted upon by the most artful of impostors, this only deviation was to be found: and yet this very circumstance carries with it a clearer conviction of my being the dupe of Mrs. Rudd's intrigues than any I have to offer in my defence; and if my subsequent proceedings, and the alacrity I showed in going with Mr. Drummond to Mr. Adair, together with my conduct before this gentleman, is, as I apprehend it is, absolutely irreconcilable with a consciousness of guilt, the circumstances above mentioned will serve to show with what a degree of credulity the artifices of Mrs. Rudd had furnished me. Upon the whole, if, in the above detail, no circumstances are discovered in which an innocent man, under the like delusion with myself, might not have acted as I have acted, and, at the same time, if there be very many particulars in which no guilty man would have conducted himself as I have conducted myself, I should be wanting in respect to your lordships and the jury if I doubted the justice of their verdict, and, which is inseparable from it, my honorable acquittal.'

The prisoner now proceeded to call his witnesses, the substance of whose evidence we shall give in the

most concise manner. George Kinder deposed that Mrs. Perreau (the only name by which he knew Mrs. Rudd) told him 'that she was a near relation of Mr. James Adair; that he looked upon her as his child, had promised to make her fortune, and with that view had recommended her to Mr. William Adair, a near relation and intimate friend of his, who had promised to set her husband and the prisoner up in the banking business.' He likewise deposed that the said Mr. Daniel Perreau was to be made a baronet, and described how she would act when she became a lady. This witness deposed that Mrs. Rudd often pretended that Mr. William Adair had called to see her, but that he never had seen that gentleman on any visit.

John Moody, a livery-servant of Daniel Perreau, deposed that his mistress wrote two very different hands; in one of which she wrote letters to his master, as from Mr. William Adair, and in the other the ordinary business of the family: that the letters written in the name of William Adair were pretended to have been left in his master's absence; that his mistress ordered him to give them to his master, and pretend that Mr. Adair had been with his mistress for a longer or shorter time, as circumstances required. This witness likewise proved that the hand at the bottom of the bond and that of his mistress's fictitious writing were precisely the same; that she used different pens, ink, and paper, in writing her common and fictitious letters; and that she sometimes gave the witness half a crown when he had delivered a letter to her satisfaction. He said he had seen her go two or three times to Mr. J. Adair's, but never to William's; and that Mr. J. Adair once visited his mistress on her lying in.

Susannah Perreau (the prisoner's

sister) deposed to her having seen a note delivered to Daniel Perreau, by Mrs. Rudd, for nineteen thousand pounds, drawn as by William Adair, on Mr. Croft, the banker, in favour of Daniel Perreau.

Elizabeth Perkins swore that, a week before the forgery was discovered, her mistress gave her a letter to bring back to her in a quarter of an hour, and say it was brought by Mr. Coverley, who had been servant to Daniel Perreau: that she gave her mistress this letter, and her master instantly broke the seal.

Daniel Perreau declared that the purport of this letter was 'that Mr. Adair desired her to apply to his brother, the prisoner, to procure him five thousand pounds upon his (Adair's) bond, in the same manner as he had done before; that Mr. Adair was unwilling to have it appear that the money was raised for him, and therefore desired to have the bond lodged with some confidential friend, that would not require an assignment of it; that his brother, on being made acquainted with his request, showed a vast deal of reluctance, and said it was a very unpleasant work; but undertook it with a view of obliging Mr. William Adair.'

The counsel for the prosecution demanding 'if he did not disclaim all knowledge of the affair before Mr. Adair,' he said he denied ever having seen the bond before, nor had he a perfect knowledge of it till he saw it in the hands of Mr. Adair.

David Cassady, who assisted Mr. R. Perreau as an apothecary, deposed that he lived much within the profits of his profession, and that it was reported he was going into the banking business.

John Leigh, clerk to Sir John Fielding, swore to the prisoner's coming voluntarily to the office, and giving information that a forgery

had been committed, on which Mrs. Rudd was apprehended. Mr. Leigh was asked if she 'ever charged the prisoner with any knowledge of the transaction till the justices were hearing evidence to prove her confession of the fact.' Mr. Leigh answered that he did not recollect that circumstance, but that on her first examination she did not accuse the prisoner.

Mr. Perrean now called several persons of rank to his character. Lady Lyttleton, being asked if she thought him capable of such a crime, *supposed she could have done it as soon herself.* Sir John Moore, Sir John Chapman, General Rebow, Captain Ellis, Captain Burgoyne, and other gentlemen, spoke most highly to the character of the prisoner; yet the jury found him guilty.

After this copious account of the trial of Robert a very short abstract of that of the other brother may suffice, especially as that of Mrs. Rudd is to follow.

Daniel Perrean was indicted for forging and counterfeiting a bond, in the name of William Adair, for three thousandthree hundred pounds, to defraud the said William Adair, and for uttering the same, knowing it to be forged, to defraud Thomas Brooke, doctor of physic. Mr. Scroope Ogilvie, who had been clerk to Mr. William Adair nine or ten years, proved the forgery; and Dr. Brooke proved the uttering of the forged bond.

By way of defence, the prisoner declared that Mrs. Rudd had given him the bond as a true one; that he believed it genuine, authentic, and valid; and protested, by all his hopes of happiness in this life and in a future, that he had never conceived an idea of any thing so base as the defrauding any man of his property. He added, 'I adjure the

Almighty so to assist me in my present dangerous situation, as I speak here before you.'

Mr. Daniel Perrean called several persons to prove the artifices which Mrs. Rudd had practised to deceive him. Many persons of fortune and credit appeared to his character, and spoke of his conduct previous to the fatal event in terms of the highest approbation; but the jury brought in a verdict of guilty, and the unfortunate brothers received sentence of death, but were not executed till January, 1776, because, though Mrs. Rudd had been admitted an evidence, yet the judges committed her as a principal, as will be seen more at large in the account of the subsequent trial.

After conviction, the behaviour of the brothers was, in every respect, proper for their unhappy situation. Great interest was made to obtain a pardon for them, particularly for Robert, in whose favour seventy-eight bankers and merchants of London signed a petition to the king: the newspapers were filled with paragraphs, evidently written by disinterested persons, in favour of men whom they thought dupes to the designs of an artful woman: but all this availed nothing.

On the day of execution the brothers were favored with a mourning-coach, and it was thought that thirty thousand people attended. They were both dressed in mourning, and behaved with the most Christian resolution. When they quitted the coach, and got into the cart, they bowed respectfully to the sheriffs, who waved their hands as a final adieu.

After the customary devotions, they crossed their hands, joining the four together, and in this manner were launched into eternity. They had not hung more than half

a minute when their hands dropped asunder, and they appeared to die without pain.

Each of them delivered a paper to the Ordinary of Newgate, which stated their innocence, and ascribed the blame of the whole transaction to the artifices of Mrs. Rudd; and, indeed, thousands of people gave credit to their assertions, and a great majority of the public thought Robert wholly innocent.

Daniel Perreau and Robert Perreau were executed at Tyburn on the 17th of January, 1776.

On the Sunday following, the bodies were carried from the house of Robert, in Golden Square, and, after the usual solemnities, deposited in the vault of St. Martin's Church. The coffins were covered with black cloth and nails, and a black plate on each, inscribed with their names, day of their death, and their ages (forty-two, being twin brothers). They were carried in separate hearses, their friends attending in mourning-coaches. The crowd was so great that the company could with difficulty get into the church; but at length the ceremony was decently performed, and the mob dispersed.

A few reflections naturally arise on this occasion. There was great guilt somewhere, but where it lay the public will determine. One would imagine that, if Robert Perreau had been guilty, he would not have returned to Drummond's, nor went to Adair's, after being suspected. Charity will suppose that he fell a victim to his friendship for his brother, and lost his life through the telling of a lie; a strong argument for a strict adherence to truth in all we say.

A very ingenious writer on this subject says, 'Upon a dispassionate review of the above trial, is it not possible that the plausible promises of an artful impostor, aided by the vain hope of being made rich and great by her pretended connexions, may have operated on a credulous, though otherwise sensible, mind; like as a gipsy's tale is frequently found to do on weak and unsuspecting women? If so, it will naturally account for the absurdity of the prisoner's pretending an acquaintance with Mr. William Adair, whom he had never seen, and was strictly enjoined not to see, and for all the fallacious pretences that followed.'

MARGARET CAROLINE RUDD,

INDICTED FOR FORGERY.

On the 16th of September, 1775, Mrs. Rudd was put to the bar at the Old Bailey, to be tried for forgery; but the counsel for the prisoner pleading that, as she had been already admitted an evidence for the crown, it was unprecedented to detain her for trial, and the judges differing in opinion on the point of law, she was remanded to prison till the opinion of the judges could be taken on a subject of so much importance.

On the 8th of December, 1775,

Margaret Caroline Rudd was indicted for feloniously forging a bond, purporting to be signed by William Adair, and for feloniously uttering and publishing the same.

Having been brought to the bar, in September sessions, to plead to the said indictment, and her counsel contending that she ought not to be tried, as she had acknowledged herself an accomplice, and had been admitted an evidence by the magistrates; and the judges differing in opinion on the point of law; refer-

ence was had to the opinion of all the judges, that the matter might be finally settled, how far, under what circumstances, and in what manner, an accomplice received as a witness ought to be entitled to favour and mercy.'

Mr. Justice Aston now addressed the prisoner, informing her that eleven of the judges had met (the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas being indisposed), 'and were unanimous in opinion, that, in cases not within any statute, an accomplice, who fully discloses the joint guilt of himself and his companions, and is admitted by justices of the peace as a witness, and who appears to have acted a fair and ingenuous part in the disclosure of all the circumstances of the cases in which he has been concerned, ought not to be prosecuted for the offences so by him confessed, but cannot by law plead this in bar of any indictment, but merely as an equitable claim to mercy from the crown: and nine of the judges were of opinion that all the circumstances relative to this claim *ought* to be laid before the Court, to enable the judges to exercise their discretion whether the trial should proceed or not. With respect to the case before them, the same nine judges were of opinion, that if the matter stood singly upon the two informations of the prisoner, compared with the indictments against her, she ought to have been tried upon all, or any of them, for from her informations she is no accomplice: she exhibits a charge against Robert and Daniel Perreau, the first soliciting her to imitate the handwriting of William Adair, the other forcing her to execute the forgery under the threat of death. Her two informations are contradictory: if she has suppressed the truth, she has no equitable claim to favour; and if she has told the

truth, and the whole truth, she cannot be convicted. As to the indictments preferred against her by Sir Thomas Frankland, as her informations before the justices have no relation to his charges, she can claim no sort of advantage from these informations.'

The trial was now proceeded on. —The principal evidences were, the wife of Robert Perreau, and John Moody, a servant to Daniel. The first endeavored to prove that the bond was published, the latter that it was forged. Sir Thomas Frankland proved that he had lent money on the bond. It was objected, by the counsel for the prisoner, that Mrs. Perreau was an incompetent witness, as she would be interested in the event; but the Court overruled this objection.

Mrs. Perreau deposed that, on the 24th of December, she saw Mrs. Rudd deliver a bond to her husband, which he laid on the table while he brushed his coat; that it was for five thousand three hundred pounds, payable to Robert Perreau, and signed 'William Adair;' and that it was witnessed in the names of Arthur Jones and Thomas Start, or Hart. Mrs. Perreau, being asked when she again saw the bond, said it was brought to her on the 8th of March (the day after her husband was convicted), when she selected it from other bonds delivered to him on the 24th of December. She made her mark on it, and deposed that, when it was delivered to Mr. Perreau; Mrs. Rudd said, 'Mr. Adair would be very much obliged to Mr. Perreau to try to raise upon that bond the sum of four thousand pounds of Sir Thomas Frankland.'

Sergeant Davy cross-examined Mrs. Perreau. She acknowledged that till the 24th of December she had never seen a bond in her life; and that, on her first sight of that

in question, she had no suspicion 'that any thing was wrong.' Being asked how she could recollect, at the distance of three months, the names, the sum, and the several circumstances respecting the bond, she said 'I have the happiness to have a good memory.' Being asked if she had not examined the other bonds at the same time, she said she had. It was demanded if her memory had retained the date or sum in any other paper produced to her. She replied 'I do not remember.'

John Moody, who had been servant with Mrs. Rudd, deposed that his mistress wrote two different hands, a common and a feigned one: that in her common hand she noted the usual business of the house; but that, when she wrote letters as coming from William Adair, she wrote her feigned hand. A bond signed 'William Adair' was now shown him; and he said, 'The name appears to be the same hand the letters were wrote in, which I gave to Daniel Perreau, as coming from Mr. William Adair, and which I saw Mrs. Rudd write the directions of.' He was asked if he thought Mr. Adair's name was of the prisoner's writing. He replied, 'I believe it is her handwriting.'

On his cross-examination he owned that he had never seen Mrs. Rudd write Mr. Adair's name.

Thus stood the evidence. Sir Thomas Frankland proved the lending Robert Perreau four thousand pounds on the bond in question, and that he had given him 'a draught for three thousand eight hundred and ninety pounds, deducting the discount of five thousand pounds formerly lent, with the discount of the money then borrowed, and fifteen pounds ten shillings for a lottery ticket: that he

thad since received, among other things, jewels to the value of two thousand eight hundred pounds, with women's wearing apparel, &c. which might, for what he knew, be the prisoner's, but were sold to him by the two Perreaus by a bill of sale.'

Christian Hart deposed that she had received a paper from the prisoner, tending to prove that there was a combination against her life to have been concerted, at the house of this witness, by Sir Thomas Frankland and the friends of the Perreaus. Our readers will give what credit they please to this evidence.

It was now demanded of Mrs. Rudd what she would say in her defence. She addressed the jury in a short, but sensible, speech; and concluded in these words: 'Gentlemen, ye are honest men, and I am safe in your hands.'

The jury, after a short consultation, gave their verdict in the following singular, and perhaps unprecedented, words: 'According to the evidence before us, Not Guilty.'

The verdict was no sooner given than Mrs. Rudd quitted the court, and retired to the house of a friend at the west end of the town.

There is a mystery in the story of the brothers Perreau, and Mrs. Rudd, that no person but the latter can clear up. We are told that she is yet living;* but we hope that, before she quits this world, she will discover the secrets of a transaction, concerning which the public opinion has been so much divided. The Perreaus were guilty, or they were not; and it is only from Mrs. Rudd the truth can be known. A declaration of the fact, if she *was* guilty, could not now affect her, as she was acquitted by the laws of her country.

* In March, 1779.



The Duchess of Kingston's Interview with Foote, the Comedian.

THE DUCHESS OF KINGSTON, CONVICTED OF BIGAMY.

FEW females have, in their time, attracted so large a portion of public notice as this celebrated lady, who was the daughter of Colonel Chudleigh, the descendant of an ancient family in the county of Devon. Her father dying while she was very young, the care of this, his only daughter, devolved on her mother, who had little more than the usual pension allotted to the widow of an officer for their mutual subsistence. Under these circumstances, Mrs. Chudleigh prudently availed herself of the best substitute for money—good connexions. These, the rank, situation, and habits of her husband had placed within her power. She hired a house, fit, at that less refined period, for a fashionable town residence; and accommodated an inmate, for the purpose of adding to the scantiness of her income.

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Her daughter Elizabeth was soon distinguished for a brilliancy of repartee, and for other qualities highly recommendatory, because extremely pleasing. An opportunity offered for the display of them to every advantage. The father of King George III. had his court at Leicester House. Mr. Pulteney, who then blazed as a meteor in the opposition, was honored with the particular regard of the Prince of Wales. Miss Chudleigh was introduced to Mr. Pulteney, and he obtained for her, at the age of about eighteen, the appointment of maid of honour to the Princess of Wales; but he did more than thus place her in an elevated station; he endeavored to cultivate her understanding: to him Miss Chudleigh read; and with him, when separated by distance, actually corresponded.

The station to which Miss Chudleigh was advanced, combined with many personal attractions, produced her a number of admirers; some with titles, and others in the expectation of them. Among the former was the Duke of Hamilton, whom Miss Guining had afterwards the good fortune to obtain for a consort. The duke was passionately fond of Miss Chudleigh, and pressed his suit with such ardour as to obtain a solemn engagement, on her part, that on his return from a tour, for which he was preparing, she would become his wife. There were reasons why this event should not immediately take place; that the engagement would be fulfilled at the specified time both parties considered as a moral certainty. A mutual pledge was given and accepted; the duke commenced his proposed tour; and the parting condition was, that he should write by every opportunity, and Miss Chudleigh, of course, to answer his epistles. Thus the arrangement of Fortune seemed to have united a pair, who possibly might have experienced much happiness; for between the duke and Miss Chudleigh there was a similarity of disposition. Fate, however, had not destined them for each other.

Miss Chudleigh had an aunt, whose name was Hammer: at her house the Hon. Mr. Hervey, son of the Earl of Bristol, and a captain in the royal navy, was a visitor. To this gentleman Mrs. Hammer became so exceedingly partial, that she favored his views on her niece, and engaged her efforts to effect, if possible, a matrimonial connexion. There were two difficulties which would have been insurmountable, had they not been opposed by the fertile genius of a female—Miss Chudleigh disliked Captain Hervey, and she was betrothed to the Duke of Hamilton.

To render this alliance nugatory, the letters of his grace were intercepted by Mrs. Hammer; and, his supposed silence giving offence to her niece, she worked so successfully on her pride as to induce her to abandon all thoughts of her lover, whose passion she had cherished with delight. A conduct the reverse of that imputed to the duke was observed by Captain Hervey: he was all that assiduity could dictate, or attention perform. He had daily access to Miss Chudleigh, and each interview was artfully improved by the aunt to the promotion of her own views. The letters of his Grace of Hamilton, which regularly arrived, were as regularly suppressed; until, piqued beyond endurance, Miss Chudleigh was prevailed on to accept the hand of Captain Hervey, and, by a private marriage, to ensure the participation of his future honours and fortune. The ceremony was performed in a private chapel adjoining the country mansion of Mr. Merrill, at Lainston, near Winchester, in Hampshire.

On a review of life, the predominant evil experienced may be easily traced, by every reflecting mind, to some wilful error, or injudicious mistake, operating as a determinate cause, and giving the colour to our fate. This was the case with Miss Chudleigh; for the hour she became united with Captain Hervey proved to her the origin of every subsequent unhappiness. The connubial rites were attended with unhappy consequences, and, from the night following the day on which the marriage was solemnized, Miss Chudleigh resolved never to have further connexion with her husband. To prevail on him not to claim her as his wife required all the art of which she was mistress; and the best dissuasive was the loss of her situation as

maid of honour, should the marriage be publicly known. The finances of Captain Hervey not enabling him, at the time, to compensate such a loss, this, most probably, operated as a prudential motive for his yielding to the entreaties of his wife, which he did in a manner that at times indicated a strong desire to play the tyrant. In fact, as she frequently expressed herself, 'Her misery commenced with the arrival of Captain Hervey in England, and the greatest joy she experienced was the intelligence of his departure.'

Miss Chudleigh, now Mrs. Hervey, a maid in appearance, a wife in disguise, seemed, to those who judge from external appearance only, to be in a most enviable situation. Of the higher circles she was the attractive centre; of gayer life the invigorating spirit. Her royal mistress smiled on her; a few friendships she cemented; and conquests she made in such abundance, that, like Cæsar in triumph, she had a train of captives at her heels: yet, with all this appearance of happiness, she wanted that, without which there is no happiness on earth—peace of mind. Her husband, quieted for a time, grew obstreperous as she became more the object of admiration; and, feeling his right, was determined to assert it. She endeavored, by letters, to sooth him into peace; but her efforts were not successful; and he demanded an interview, enforcing his demand by threats of exposure in case of refusal: she was therefore obliged to comply. The meeting was at the apartment of Captain Hervey; a black servant only was in the house. On entering the room where he was, his first care was to prevent her retreat by locking the door. This interview ended, like every other which she had with Captain Hervey,

unhappily for her—the fruit of it being the addition of a boy to the human race. Miss Chudleigh removed to Chelsea for a change of air, and returned to Leicester House, perfectly recovered from her indisposition. The infant, soon sinking into the arms of death, left only the tale of its existence to be related.

While these and a variety of other circumstances were passing between Miss Chudleigh and her husband, the Duke of Hamilton arrived from his travels. He lost not a moment in paying his homage to the idol of his affections, and obtaining an explanation of the reason why his letters were unanswered. Flighty as he was in other respects, to Miss Chudleigh his constancy remained unshaken. The interview placed Mrs. Hammer in her true light, and the duke made a tender of his hand where his heart was already centred. The rejection of this offer, which it was impossible to accept, and almost as impossible to explain why it was rejected, occasioned emotions in the duke which the imagination may conceive better than the pen explain. Miss Chudleigh was even compelled to prohibit his visits. Several other nobles experienced a similar fate, which astonished the fashionable world; and the mother of Miss Chudleigh, who was a total stranger to the private marriage of her daughter, reprehended her folly in proper terms.

In order to relieve herself, at least for a time, from the embarrassments which environed her, Miss Chudleigh determined to travel, and embarked for the Continent, choosing Germany for the theatre of her peregrinations. She resided some time at Berlin; then went to Dresden; and, as she aspired to the acquaintance of crowned heads, she was gratified by that of the great Frederic of Prussia, who not only

conversed, but corresponded, with her. In the Electress of Saxony she found a friend, whose affection for her continued to the latest period of life. The electress was a woman of sense, honour, virtue, and religion. Her letters were replete with kindness: while her hand distributed presents to Miss Chudleigh out of the treasury of abundance, her heart was interested for her happiness. This she afterwards evinced during her prosecution; for, at that time, a letter from the electress contained the following passage:—‘ You have long experienced my love; my revenue, my protection, my every thing, you may command. Come then, my dear life, to an asylum of peace. Quit a country where, if you are bequeathed a cloak, some pretender may start up, and ruin you by law to prove it not your property. Let me have you at Dresden.’

On her return from the Continent Miss Chudleigh ran over the career of pleasure, enlivened the court circles, and each year became more ingratiated with the mistress whom she served. She was the leader of fashion, played whist with Lord Chesterfield, and revelled with Lady Harrington and Miss Ashe. She was a constant visitant at all public places, and, in 1742, appeared at a masked ball in the character of Iphigenia.

Reflection, however, put off for the day, too frequently intruded an unwelcome visit at night. Captain Hervey, like a perturbed spirit, was eternally crossing the path trodden by his wife. If in the rooms at Bath, he was sure to be there. At a rout, ridotto, or ball, this destroyer of her peace imbittered every pleasure, and even menaced her with an intimation that he would disclose the marriage to the princess. In this Miss Chudleigh anticipated him, by being the first relater of the

circumstance. Her royal mistress pitied her, and continued her patronage to the hour of her death.

At length a stratagem was either suggested, or it occurred to Miss Chudleigh, at once to deprive Captain Hervey of the power to claim her as his wife. The clergyman who had married them was dead. The register-book was in careless hands. A handsome compliment was paid for the inspection, and, while the person in whose custody it was listened to an amusing story, Miss Chudleigh tore out the register. Thus imagining the business accomplished, she for a time bade defiance to her husband, whose taste for the softer sex subsiding, from some unaccountable cause, occasioned Miss Chudleigh a cessation of inquietude. Her better fate influenced in her favour the heart of a man who was the exemplar of amiability: this was the Duke of Kingston. Meanwhile Captain Hervey had succeeded to the earldom of Bristol. With rank he obtained fortune; and both were inviting objects to the mind of our heroine. When a succession to the family honours and revenue became highly probable, a short period before it took place Miss Chudleigh went to the house of Mr. Merrill, in whose chapel she was married. Her ostensible reason was a jaunt out of town; her real design was to procure, if possible, the insertion of her marriage with Captain Hervey in the book which, in order to destroy the written evidence of that marriage, she had formerly mutilated. With this view she dealt out promises with a liberal hand. The officiating clerk, who was a person of various avocations, was to be promoted to the extent of his wishes. The book was managed by the lady to her content, and she returned to London, secretly exulting in the excellence and success of

her machination. She did, it is true, succeed, but it was laying the groundwork of that very evidence which operated afterwards to her conviction.

Such was the situation of Miss Chudleigh when the Duke of Kingston became her admirer. Re-married, as it were, by her own stratagem, the participation of ducal honours became legally impossible. The chains of wedlock, which the lady had been so industrious in shaking off or putting on, as seemed most suitable to her views, were now galling to an excess. Every advice was taken, but the means of liberation were beyond the power of human device. To acquiesce in that which could not be remedied seemed the only alternative. The Duke of Kingston's attachment was ardent, and truly sincere. He mingled the friend with the lover; nor was there an endearing title under heaven he would not have assumed, could but the assumption have really advanced the happiness of Miss Chudleigh. For a series of years they cohabited; yet with such observance of external decorum, that their intimacy was not an evidenced certainty.

The Earl of Bristol, by time and attachments, had grown so weary of the connubial state, as to be cordially desirous of a change. At first, when sounded on the subject of a divorce, he said her vanity should not be gratified by being a duchess. Afterwards, however, there being a lady to whom he wished to offer his hand, he so altered his tone, as to express a readiness to consent to any possible means of annihilating the union subsisting between him and Miss Chudleigh. The civilians were consulted, a jactitation suit was instituted, but the evidence that could prove the marriage was kept back. Lord Bristol failing, as it was de-

signed he should fail, in substantiating the marriage, a sentence of the Court, pronouncing the nullity of the claim, concluded the business. The object now to be obtained was, a legal opinion as to the operative power of such a sentence; and the civilians, highly tenacious of the rights of their own courts, adjudged the decree not liable to be disturbed by the interference of any extrinsic court of judicature. Under conviction of perfect safety, therefore, the marriage between his Grace of Kingston and Miss Chudleigh was publicly solemnized. The favours were worn by the highest personages in the kingdom; and, during the life of the duke, not any attempt was made to dispute the legality of the proceeding. The fortune was not entailed; his grace had, therefore, the option to bequeath it as seemed best to his own inclination. The heirs since, were then expectants; the claims rested on hope, not certainty. The duchess figured without apprehension or control. She was raised to the pinnacle of her fortune, and for a very few years did she enjoy that which the chicanery of her life had been directed to accomplish, the parade of title, without that honour which integrity of character alone can ennoble.

At length she was checked in the career of enjoyment by the death of the Duke of Kingston. His will, excluding from every benefit an elder, and preferring a younger nephew as his heir in tail, gave rise to a prosecution of the duchess, which ended in the beggary of her prosecutor, and the exile of herself. The demise of the Duke of Kingston was not sudden or unexpected: being attacked with a paralytic affection, he lingered but a short time, and that time was employed by his consort in journeying his grace

about, under the futile idea of prolonging his life by change of air and situation. At last, when real danger seemed to threaten, even in the opinion of the duchess, she dispatched one of her swiftest-footed messengers to her solicitor, Mr. Field, of the Temple, requiring his immediate attendance: he obeyed the summons, and, arriving at the house, the duchess privately imparted her wishes, which were, that he would procure the duke to execute, and be himself a subscribing witness to, a will made without his knowledge, and more to the taste of the duchess than that which he had executed. The difference between these two wills was this: the duke had bequeathed the income of his estates to his relict during her life, and expressly under condition of her continuing in a state of widowhood. Perfectly satisfied, however, as the duchess appeared with whatever was the inclination of her dearest lord, she could not resist the seeming opportunity of carrying her secret wishes into effect. She did not relish the temple of Hymen being shut against her. Earnestly, therefore, did she press Mr. Field to have her own will immediately executed, which left her at liberty to give her hand to the conqueror of her heart. The duchess, in her anxiety to have the restraint shaken off, had nearly deprived herself of every benefit derivable from the demise of the duke. When Mr. Field was introduced to his grace, his intellects were perceptibly affected: he knew the friends who approached him, and a transient knowledge of their persons was the only indication of mental exertion which seemed to be left him. Mr. Field very properly remonstrated on the impropriety of introducing a will for execution to a man in such a state. This occasioned a severe reprehension

from the duchess, who reminded him that his business was only to obey the instructions of his employer: feeling, however, for his professional character, he positively refused either to tender the will, or be in any manner concerned in endeavoring to procure the execution. With this refusal he quitted the house, the duchess beholding him with an indignant eye as the annoy of her scheme, when, in fact, by not complying with it, he was rendering her an essential service; for, had the will she proposed been executed, it would most indubitably have been set aside. The heirs would consequently have excluded the relict from every thing, except that to which the right of dower entitled her; and, the marriage being invalidated, the lady in this, as in other respects, would have been ruined by her own stratagem. Soon after the frustration of this attempt the Duke of Kingston expired.

No sooner were the funeral rites performed than the duchess adjusted her affairs, and embarked for the Continent, proposing Rome for her temporary residence. Ganganelli at that time filled the papal see. From the moderation of his principles, the tolerant spirit which he on every occasion displayed, and the marked attention he bestowed on the English, he acquired the title of the Protestant Pope: to such a character the duchess was a welcome visitor. Ganganelli treated her with the utmost civility—gave her, as a sovereign prince, many privileges—and she was lodged in the palace of one of the cardinals. Her vanity being thus gratified, her grace, in return, treated the Romans with a public spectacle. She had built an elegant pleasure-yacht; a gentleman who had served in the navy was the commander. Under her orders he sailed for Italy; and

the vessel, at considerable trouble and some expense, was conveyed up the Tiber. The sight of an English yacht there was uncommon; it drew the people in crowds to the shore, and the applause was general through the city. This seemed to be the era of festivity and happiness; but, while the bark floated triumphantly on the undulation of the Tiber, a business was transacting in England which put an end to all momentary bliss.

Mrs. Cradock, who, in the capacity of a domestic, had been present during the ceremony of marriage between Miss Chudleigh and Lord Bristol, found herself so reduced in circumstances that she applied to Mr. Field for pecuniary relief. He saw her, and most injudiciously refused her every succour: in vain she urged her distress, and the absence of the duchess, who was the only person on whose munificence she had the justest claim. Field was deaf to her entreaties; she then told him what was in her power to discover. To many circumstances which she related he was an entire stranger, and he affected to discredit the rest. Mrs. Cradock ended the interview with a menace that she would make the relations of the Duke of Kingston acquainted with every important particular. Field set her at defiance: and, thus exposed to penury, she was exasperated to vengeance, and instantly set about the work of ruin.

His Grace of Kingston had borne a marked dislike to one of his nephews, Mr. Evelyn Meadows, one of the sons of his sister, Lady Frances Pierpoint. This gentleman, being excluded from the presumptive heirship, joyfully received the information that a method of doing himself substantial justice yet remained. He saw Mrs. Cradock; heard the detail of evidence which

she offered; and, perfectly satisfied as to its accuracy, he had a bill of indictment, for bigamy, preferred against the reputed widow of the Duke of Kingston, and the bill was found. Mr. Field had notice of the procedure, and the duchess was properly advised to return instantly to England and appear to the indictment, to prevent an outlawry.

An immediate return to England was the only measure that could now be adopted by her grace, who, on recovering the little of her judgment which was left, drove to the house of Mr. Jenkins, at that time banker to all the British travellers who visited the Roman capital. The opponents of the duchess endeavored to prevent her return to England by a species of artful policy exactly suited to the lady with whom they had to deal. The duchess had placed securities in the hands of Mr. Jenkins for the sums she might occasionally require, and he was perfectly safe in regard to any advance he might make. Yet, apprized that the duchess would call on him for money to defray the expense of her journey to England, he avoided seeing her. Aware of this, the duchess was incessant in her applications; and, finding all her efforts to see Mr. Jenkins fail, she pocketed a brace of pistols, returned to his house, and, receiving the usual answer that he was not at home, she seated herself on the steps of the door, and declared her determination there to remain until he returned, were it for a week, a month, or a year. She knew that business would compel his return, and, finding it impracticable any longer to elude an interview, Mr. Jenkins appeared. As the duchess possessed that gift of utterance for which ladies of spirit are sometimes so eminent, it may be supposed that the conversation with the

banker was not of the mildest kind. Money was demanded, not asked. A little prevarication ensued; but the production of a pistol served as the most powerful mode of reasoning; the necessary sum was instantly obtained, and the duchess quitted Rome. Her journey was retarded before she reached the Alps; a violent fever seemed to seize on her vitals: but she recovered, to the astonishment of her attendants. An abscess then formed in her side, which rendering it impossible for her to endure the motion of the carriage, a kind of litter was provided, in which she slowly travelled. In this situation nature was relieved by the breaking of the abscess; and, after a tediously painful journey, the duchess reached Calais. At that place she made a pause, and there it was that her apprehension got the better of her reason. In idea she was fettered and incarcerated in the worst cell of the worst prison in London. She was totally ignorant of the bailable nature of her offence, and by consequence expected the utmost that can be imagined. Colonel West, a brother of the late Lord Delaware, whom the duchess had known in England, became her principal associate; but he was not lawyer enough to satisfy her doubts. By the means of former connexions, and through a benevolence in his own nature, the Earl of Mansfield had a private meeting with the duchess. The venerable peer conducted himself in a manner which did honour to his heart and character.

Her spirits being soothed by the interview, the duchess embarked for Dover, landed, drove post to Kingston House, and found friends displaying both zeal and alacrity in her cause. The first measure taken was to have the duchess bailed:

this was done before Lord Mansfield; the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Mountstuart, Mr. Glover, and other characters of rank, attended. The manner of adjusting this disagreeable matter was such as to soother the mind, and prepare it for a greater encounter. The prosecution and consequent trial of the duchess becoming objects of magnitude, the public curiosity and expectation were proportionably excited. The duchess had through life distinguished herself as a most eccentric character. Her turn of mind was original, and many of her actions were without a parallel: even when she moved in the sphere of amusement, it was in a style peculiarly her own. If others invited admiration by a partial display of their charms at a masquerade, she at once threw off the veil, and set censure at defiance. Thus, at midnight assemblies, where Bacchus revelled, and the altars of Venus were encircled by the votaries of Love, the duchess, then Miss Chudleigh, appeared almost in the unadorned simplicity of primitive nature.

The dilemma, therefore, into which she was thrown by the pending prosecution, was, to such a character, of the most perplexing kind. She had in a manner invited the disgrace, by neglecting the means of preventing it. Mrs. Cradock, the only existing evidence against her, had personally solicited a maintenance for the remaining years of her life; and had voluntarily offered, in case a stipend should be settled on her, to retire to her native village, and never more intrude. —The offer was rejected by the duchess, who would only consent to allow her twenty pounds a year, on condition of her sequestering herself in some place near the Peak of Derbyshire. This the duchess con-

sidered as a most liberal offer ; and she expressed her astonishment that she should have the assurance to reject it. It was, however, rejected with the utmost scorn ; and she who was refused a paltry pittance, except on condition of banishing herself for life, might afterwards have received thousands to abscond.

Under the assurances of her lawyers, the duchess was as quiet as the troublesome monitor in her bosom would permit her to be. Reconciled, therefore, in some measure, to the encounter, her repose was on a sudden interrupted by an adversary from a different quarter. This was the celebrated Foote, who, mixing in the first circles of fashion, was perfectly acquainted with the leading transactions of the duchess's life. Besides this he had received much private information from some person who had been intimate with her, and resolved to turn it to his advantage. As, in the opinion of Mandeville, private vices are public benefits, so Foote deemed the crimes and vices of individuals lawful game for his wit. On this principle he proceeded with the Duchess of Kingston. He wrote a piece entitled 'A Trip to Calais.' The scenes were humorous, the character of the duchess admirably drawn, and the object was accomplished, namely, to make her ashamed of herself. The real design, however, of Foote, was to obtain money for suppressing the piece, and with this view he contrived to have it communicated to the duchess that the Haymarket theatre would open with an entertainment in which she was taken off to the life. Alarmed at this, she sent for Foote, who attended with the piece in his pocket ; and, being desired to read part of it, he proceeded in the character of Lady Kitty Crocodile, until, no longer able to forbear, she rose in a violent

passion, and exclaimed 'This is scandalous, Mr. Foote ! Why, what a wretch you have made me !'— 'You !' replied the humorist : 'this is not designed for your grace ; it is not you !' After a few turns about the room the duchess became more composed, and, assuming a smile, entreated as a favour that Mr. Foote would leave the piece for her perusal, engaging at the same time to return it on the ensuing morning. He readily complied, and took his leave. Being thus left to consider her own picture, so much did her grace dislike it, that she determined, if possible, to prevent its exposure to public view. As the artist had no objection to sell it, she was inclined to be the purchaser. This was the next morning made known to Foote, who was questioned as to the sum which would satisfy him for suppressing the piece. Proportioning his expectations to her power of gratifying them, he demanded two thousand pounds, and a certain sum in compensation for a loss which he pretended would be sustained by the scenes, designed for the 'Trip to Calais,' being appropriated to other uses.—The magnitude of this demand staggered the duchess. She intimated her extreme surprise, and a wish that the request was moderated within the boundary of reason. Concluding that she must at last comply, Foote would not abate one guinea. She offered fourteen, then sixteen hundred pounds, and had actually signed a draft on Messrs. Drummond and Co. for that sum, for his acceptance. This compliance induced Foote to think he should finally succeed, till, by grasping at too much, he overstood his market, and lost every thing.

The demand of Foote might, at any other time, have passed among the indifferent events of the hour, as

wholly undeserving of the public notice. Those long connected with the duchess, and in habits of intimacy, felt the attack made on her as directed by a ruffian hand at a moment when she was least able to make resistance. His grace the Duke of Newcastle was consulted. The chamberlain of the household was apprized of the circumstance; and his prohibitory interference was earnestly solicited. He sent for the manuscript copy of 'The Trip to Calais,' perused and censured it. This occasioned a remonstrating letter from Foote to the Earl of Hertford, at that time in office.

Besides these, and other powerful aids, the duchess called in professional advice. The sages of the robe were consulted, and their opinions were that the piece was a malicious libel; and that, should it be represented, a short-hand writer ought to be employed to attend on the night of representation, to minute each offensive passage, as the groundwork of a prosecution. This advice was followed, and Foote was intimidated: he denied having made a demand of two thousand pounds; but the Rev. Mr. Foster contradicted him in an affidavit.

Thus defeated in point of fact, Foote found himself baffled also in point of design. The chamberlain would not permit the piece to be represented. Foote now had recourse to another expedient. He caused it to be intimated to her 'That it was in his power to publish, if not to perform; but, were his expenses reimbursed (and the sum which her grace had formerly offered would do the business), he would desist.' This being communicated to the duchess, she in this, as in too many cases, asked the opinion of her friends, with a secret determination to follow her own. Foote, finding that she began to yield, pressed his desire

incessantly; and she had actually provided bills to the amount of one thousand six hundred pounds, which she would have given Foote but for the Rev. Mr. Jackson, who, being asked his opinion of the demand of Foote, returned this answer: 'Instead of complying with it, your grace should obtain complete evidence of the menace and demand, and then consult your counsel whether a prosecution will not lie for endeavoring to extort money by threats. Your grace must remember the attack on the first Duke of Marlborough, whom a stranger, who had formed a design either on his purse or his interest, endeavored to menace into a compliance.'

This answer struck the Earl of Peterborough and Mr. Foster very forcibly, as in perfect coincidence with their own opinions. Mr. Jackson was then solicited to wait on Mr. Foote; Mr. Foster, the chaplain of the duchess, professing himself to be too far advanced in years to enter into the field of literary combat. Mr. Jackson consented to be the champion on the following condition, that the duchess would give her honour never to retract her determination, nor to let Foote extort from her a single guinea. Her grace subscribing to this condition, Mr. Jackson waited on Mr. Foote at his house in Suffolk Street, to whom he intimated the resolution of the duchess.

Foote, however, still wished to have matters compromised. To this end he addressed a letter to the duchess, which began with stating 'that a member of the privy council and a friend of her grace (by whom he meant the Duke of Newcastle; had conversed with him on the subject of the dispute between them; and that, for himself, he was ready to have every thing adjusted.' This

letter afforded the duchess a triumph. There was a concession in every line. She sent for Mr. Jackson; thanked him ten thousand times for his interference; and declared that he had saved her one thousand six hundred pounds. She showed him the letter which she had received from Foote, and desired him, in her name, to answer it, and publish both. This he declined, alleging that a newspaper controversy would degrade her. She, however, thought otherwise. Foote's letter, her grace's answer, and the rejoinder of the wit, appeared. In the latter Foote compared the duchess to the weeping widow renowned in ancient story, converting her weeds into canonicals for Mr. Jackson, and applied the following line, as applicable to her supposed amorous condition :—

'So mourned the dame of Ephesus her love.'

This farce served to turn, for a time, the current of attention into a different channel: but it becoming necessary, in the progress of events, to adopt some serious measures, either to evade or meet the pending prosecution, the duchess openly affected an earnest desire to have the trial, if possible, accelerated. Secretly, however, she was employed in trying every stratagem which art could devise to elude the measures taken against her. A very favorable opportunity offered, which, had she embraced it, her purpose would have been accomplished. It became a matter of debate in the House of Peers whether the trial of her grace should or should not be carried on in Westminster Hall. The expense to be incurred by the nation was, by several peers, considered as introducing a burden wholly unnecessary. Lord Mansfield endeavored to avail himself of this objection in favour of the duchess, whom it was his private

wish to have saved from the exposure of a trial, and the ignominy of what he well knew must follow, a conviction. Here then was the critical instant in which the duchess might have extricated herself. A hint was privately conveyed to her that the sum of ten thousand pounds would satisfy every expectation, and put an end to the prosecution. This hint was improved into an authoritative proposal. The duchess was entreated by her friends to embrace the measure; but through a fatal confidence, either in her legal advisers, her own machinations, or in both, she refused the proposal with an air of insult. This was folly in the extreme; and yet it was deserving pity, because it was folly misguided. Under every assurance of safety, the duchess assumed an air of indifference about the business, which but ill accorded with her situation. She talked of the absolute necessity of setting out for Rome; affected to have some material business to transact with the Pope; and took, in consequence, every measure in her power to accelerate the trial, as if the regular pace of justice were not swift enough to overtake her. She did not, however, abandon her manœuvring. On the contrary, at the moment in which she had claimed her privilege as a peeress, and petitioned for a speedy trial, she was busied in a scheme to get rid of the principal evidence, Mrs. Cradock, and prevail on her to quit the kingdom. A near relation of this woman was a deliverer of penny-post letters. He was spoken to, and he engaged to let the duchess have an interview with Mrs. Cradock; but her grace was to be disguised, and to reveal herself only after some conversation. The stratagem was adopted: the duchess changed her sex in appearance, and waited at the appointed

hour and place without seeing either Mrs. Cradock or the person who had promised to effect the meeting. The fact was, that every particular of this business had been communicated to the prosecutors, who instructed the letter-carrier to pretend an acquiescence in the scheme.

Thus baffled in a project which had a plausible appearance of success, the only method left was the best possible arrangement of matters preparatory to the trial. On the 15th day of April, 1776, the business came on in Westminster-hall, when the queen was present, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, princess-royal, and others of the royal family. Many foreign ambassadors were also present, as well as several of the nobility. These having taken their seats, the duchess came forward, attended by Mrs. Egerton, Mrs. Barrington, and Miss Chudleigh, three of the ladies of her bedchamber, and her chaplain, physician, and apothecary; and as she approached the bar she made three reverences, and then dropped on her knees, when the lord high steward said, 'Madam, you may rise.' Having risen, she courtesied to the lord high steward and the house of peers, and her compliments were returned.

Proclamation being made for silence, the lord high steward mentioned to the prisoner the fatal consequences attending the crime of which she stood indicted, signifying that, however alarming and awful her present circumstances, she might derive great consolation from considering that she was to be tried by the most liberal, candid, and august assembly in the universe.

The duchess then read a paper, setting forth that she was guiltless of the offence alleged against her, and that the agitation of her mind arose, not from the consciousness

of guilt, but from the painful circumstance of being called before so awful a tribunal on a criminal accusation; begging, therefore, that, if she was deficient in the observance of any ceremonial points, her failure might not be understood as proceeding from wilful disrespect, but be attributed to the unfortunate peculiarity of her situation. It was added, in the paper, that she had travelled from Rome in so dangerous a state of health, that it was necessary for her to be conveyed in a litter; and that she was perfectly satisfied that she should have a fair trial, since the determination respecting her cause, on which materially depended her honour and fortune, would proceed from the most unprejudiced and august assembly in the world.

The lord high steward desired the lady to give attention while she was arraigned on an indictment for bigamy. Proclamation for silence being made, the duchess (who had been permitted to sit) arose, and read a paper, representing to the Court that she was advised by her counsel to plead the sentence of the ecclesiastical court in the year 1769 as a bar to her being tried on the present indictment. The lord high steward informed her that she must plead to the indictment; in consequence of which she was arraigned; and, being asked by the clerk of the crown whether she was guilty of the felony with which she stood charged, she answered, with great firmness, 'Not guilty, my lords.' The clerk of the crown then asking her how she would be tried, she said, 'By God and her peers;' on which the clerk said, 'God send your ladyship a good deliverance.'

Four days were occupied in arguments of counsel respecting the admission or rejection of a sentence

of the spiritual court, which being decided in the negative, the trial proceeded. The first witness was Anne Cradock, who deposed as follows :—

‘I have known her grace the Duchess of Kingston ever since the year 1742, at which time she came on a visit to Mr. Merrill’s, at Lainston, in Hampshire, during the Winchester races. At that time I lived in the family of Mrs. Hammer, Miss Chudleigh’s aunt, who was then on a visit at Mr. Merrill’s, where Mr. Hervey and Miss Chudleigh first met, and soon conceived a mutual attachment towards each other. They were privately married one evening, about eleven o’clock, in Launceston church, in the presence of Mr. Mountney, Mrs. Hammer, the Reverend Mr. Ames, the rector, who performed the ceremony, and myself. I was ordered out of the church to entice Mr. Merrill’s servants out of the way. I saw the bride and bridegroom put to bed together, and Mrs. Hammer obliged them to rise again: they went to bed together the night following. In a few days Mr. Hervey was under the necessity of going to Portsmouth, in order to embark on board Sir John Danvers’s fleet, in which he was a lieutenant; and, being ordered to call him at five o’clock in the morning, I went into the bedchamber at the appointed hour, and found him and his lady sleeping in bed together, and was unwilling to disturb them, thinking the delay of an hour or two would not be of any consequence. My husband, to whom I was not married till after the time I have mentioned, accompanied Mr. Hervey in the capacity of his servant. When Mr. Hervey returned from the Mediterranean, his lady and he lived together. I then thought her in a state of pregnancy. Some months

after Mr. Hervey went again to sea; and, during his absence, I was informed that the lady was brought to bed. She herself told me she had a little boy at nurse, and that his features greatly resembled those of Mr. Hervey.’

The Duke of Grafton asked the witness whether she had seen the child; and she answered in the negative. His grace also asked, whether, as the ceremony was performed at night, there were any lights in the church? In answer to which she said Mr. Mountney had a wax light fixed to the crown of his hat. In reply to questions proposed by Lord Hillsborough, the witness acknowledged that she had received a letter from Mr. Fossard, of Piccadilly, containing a promise of a sinecure place on condition of her appearing to give evidence against the lady at the bar; and expressing that, if she thought proper, she might show the letter to Mr. Hervey.

On Saturday, the 20th of April, Anne Cradock was further examined. The Lords Derby, Hillsborough, Buckinghamshire, and others, questioning her whether she had not been promised a reward by the prosecutor on condition of her giving evidence to convict the prisoner, her answers were evasive; but she was at length brought to acknowledge that pecuniary offers had been made to induce her to give evidence in support of the prosecution.

Mrs. Sophia Pettiplace, sister to Lord Howe, was next examined; but her evidence was of no consequence. She lived with her grace at the time when her supposed marriage took place with Mr. Hervey, but was not present at the ceremony; and she only believed that the duchess had mentioned the circumstance to her.

Cæsar Hawkins, Esq. deposed that he had been acquainted with the duchess several years, he believed not less than thirty. He had heard of a marriage between Mr. Hervey and the lady at the bar, which circumstance was afterwards mentioned to him by both parties, previous to Mr. Hervey's last going to sea. By the desire of her grace he was in the room when the issue of the marriage was born, and once saw the child. He was sent for by Mr. Hervey soon after his return from sea, and desired by him to wait upon the lady, with proposals for procuring a divorce, which he accordingly did; when her grace declared herself absolutely determined against listening to such terms; and he knew that many messages passed on the subject. Her grace some time after informed him, at his own house, that she had instituted a jactitation suit against Mr. Hervey in Doctors' Commons. On another visit she appeared very grave, and, desiring him to retire into another apartment, said she was exceedingly unhappy in consequence of an oath, which she had long dreaded, having been tendered to her at Doctors' Commons, to disavow her marriage, which she would not do for ten thousand worlds. Upon another visit, a short time after, she informed him that a sentence had passed in her favour at Doctors' Commons, which would be irrevocable, unless Mr. Hervey pursued certain measures within a limited time, which she did not apprehend he would do. Hereupon he inquired how she got over the oath; and her reply was, that the circumstance of her marriage was so blended with falsities, that she could easily reconcile the matter to her conscience; since the ceremony was a business of so scrambling and shabby a nature, that she could as

safely swear she was *not* as that she *was* married.

Judith Philips, being called, swore that she was the widow of the Reverend Mr. Ames; that she remembered when her late husband performed the marriage ceremony between Mr. Hervey and the prisoner; that she was not present, but derived her information from her husband; that, some time after the marriage, the lady desired her to prevail upon her husband to grant a certificate, which she said she believed her husband would not refuse; that Mr. Merrill, who accompanied the lady, advised her to consult his attorney from Worcester; that, in compliance with the attorney's advice, a register-book was purchased, and the marriage inserted therein, with some late burials in the parish. The book was here produced, and the witness swore to the writing of her late husband.

The writing of the Reverend Mr. Ames was proved by the Reverend Mr. Inchin and the Reverend Mr. Dennis; and the entry of a caveat to the duke's will was proved by a clerk from Doctors' Commons. The book, in which the marriage of the Duke of Kingston with the lady at the bar was registered on the 8th of March, 1769, was produced by the Reverend Mr. Trebeck, of St. Margaret's, Westminster; and the Reverend Mr. Samuel Harpur, of the Museum, swore that he performed the marriage ceremony between the parties on the day mentioned in the book produced by Mr. Trebeck.

Monday, the 22d of April, after the attorney-general had declared the evidence on behalf of the prosecution to be concluded, the lord high steward called upon the prisoner for her defence, which she read; and the following are the most material arguments it contained to invalidate the evidence adduced by

the prosecutor:—She appealed to the Searcher of all hearts, that she never considered herself as legally married to Mr. Hervey; she said that she considered herself as a single woman, and as such was addressed by the late Duke of Kingston; that, influenced by a legitimate attachment to his grace, she instituted a suit in the ecclesiastical court, where her supposed marriage with Mr. Hervey was declared null and void; but, anxious for every conscientious as well as legal sanction, she submitted an authentic state of her case to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who, in the most decisive and unreserved manner, declared that she was at liberty to marry, and afterwards granted, and delivered to Dr. Collier, a special license for her marriage with the late Duke of Kingston. She said that, on her marriage, she experienced every mark of gracious esteem from their majesties, and her late royal mistress, the Princess Dowager of Wales, and was publicly recognised as Duchess of Kingston. Under such respectable sanctions, and virtuous motives for the conduct she pursued, strengthened by a decision that had been esteemed conclusive and irrevocable for the space of seven centuries, if their lordships should deem her guilty, on any rigid principle of law, she hoped, nay, she was conscious, they would attribute her failure as proceeding from a mistaken judgment and erroneous advice, and not censure her for intentional guilt.

She bestowed the highest encomiums on the deceased duke, and solemnly assured the Court that she had in no one instance abused her ascendancy over him; and that, so far from endeavoring to engross his possessions, she had declared herself amply provided for by that fortune for life which he was extremely

anxious to bequeath in perpetuity. As to the neglect of the duke's eldest nephew, she said it was entirely the consequence of his disrespectful behaviour to her; and she was not dissatisfied at a preference to another nephew, whose respect and attention to her had been such as the duke judged to be her due on her advancement to the honour of being the wife of his grace.

The lord high steward desired Mr. Wallace to proceed with the evidence. The advocate stated the nature of the evidence he meant to produce to prove that Anne Cradock had asserted to different people that she had no recollection of the marriage between Mr. Hervey and the lady at the bar; and that she placed a reliance on a promise of having a provision made for her in consequence of the evidence she was to give on the present trial: and, to invalidate the depositions of Judith Philips, he ordered the clerk to read a letter, wherein she supplicated her grace to exert her influence to prevent her husband's discharge from the duke's service; and observed, that Mrs. Philips had, on the preceding day, sworn that her husband was not dismissed, but voluntarily quitted his station in the household of his grace.

Mr. Wallace called Mr. Berkley, Lord Bristol's attorney, who said his lordship told him he was desirous of obtaining a divorce, and directed him to Anne Cradock, saying she was the only person then living who was present at his marriage; and that, a short time previous to the commencement of the jactitation suit, he waited upon Anne Cradock, who informed him that her memory was bad, and that she could remember nothing perfectly in relation to the marriage, which must have been a long time before.

Anne Pritchard deposed that about three months had elapsed since being informed by Mrs. Cradock that she expected to be provided for soon after the trial, and of being enabled to procure a place in the custom-house for one of her relations.

The lord high steward addressed himself to the Court; saying, that their lordships had heard the evidence on both sides, and that the importance and solemnity of the occasion required that they should severally pronounce their opinions in the absence of the prisoner, observing that the junior baron was to speak first.—Their lordships declared the prisoner to be guilty.

Proclamation being made for the usher of the black rod to bring the prisoner to the bar, she no sooner appeared than the lord high steward informed her that the lords had maturely considered the evidence adduced against her, and likewise all that had been advanced in her favour, and had pronounced her guilty of the felony for which she was indicted. He then requested whether she had any thing to urge against judgment being pronounced. Hereupon the lady delivered a paper, containing the following words, to be read by the clerk:—

‘I plead the privilege of the peerage.’

After this the lord high steward informed her grace that the lords had considered the plea, and agreed to allow it; adding words to this effect: ‘Madam, you will be discharged on paying the usual fees.’

The lady appeared to be perfectly composed and collected during the greatest part of her long and important trial; but when sentence was pronounced she fainted, and was carried out of court.

Sentence was pronounced upon

Elizabeth, Duchess of Kingston, on Monday, the 22d of April, 1776.

The solemn business being concluded, the prosecutors had a plan in embryo to confine the Countess of Bristol (for so, after conviction, she in reality was) to this country, and to have her deprived of her personal property. A writ of ‘*Ne execat regno*’ was preparing, of which the lady received private notice; and, being advised instantaneously to leave the kingdom, she caused her carriage to be driven about the most public streets of the metropolis, and invited a select party to dine at Kingston House, the better to cover her design, while in a hired post-chaise she travelled to Dover. Mr. Harding, the captain of her yacht, was there, and he conveyed her, in the first open boat that could be obtained, to Calais.

During her absence some incidents had happened at Rome, of which she received advice, and which rendered it necessary for her once more to visit that renowned city. In the public bank she had deposited her plate for safety when she set out for England; and in her palace she had left a Spanish friar, and an English girl, whom she had carried with her to Italy. The friar found means to seduce the girl, and to convert great part of the moveables to his own advantage, after which he absconded.

Of these transactions the duchess was informed by letter, on the receipt of which she set out for Rome, and, having withdrawn her plate out of the public bank, she returned to Calais.

The expeditions communication between that place and England afforded the earliest intelligence relative to the proceedings of her opponents. Their business was now to set aside, if possible, the will of the Duke of Kingston. There was

not a probability of their succeeding in the attempt; but still the attempt was to be made. This kept alive the apprehension of danger in the mind of the duchess: and, so long as that apprehension subsisted, it was necessary, in policy, to affect a particular regard for certain persons in England, who had the power of rendering her a service. Among these was Dr. Schomberg, who, in return for the zeal he manifested in her cause, was presented in her name with a ring, brilliantly encircled, the stone a deep blue, and upon it the words '*Pour l'Amitié.*' The intrinsic value was never once considered by Schomberg; it was the presumable tribute of gratitude which affected the mind. He wore the ring, and almost in every company he proclaimed the donor. But a short portion of time elapsed before one of the encircling brilliants fell out, and then he discovered it to be a mere bauble, which did not originally cost more than six-and-thirty shillings. The indignant Doctor threw it out of the window.

The will of his grace of Kingston receiving every confirmation which the courts of justice could give, to dissipate, rather than expend, the income of his estates, appeared to be the leading rule of her life. A house which she had purchased at Calais was not sufficient for the purpose of perplexities; a mansion at Mont Martre, near Paris, was fixed on, and the purchase of it negotiated in as short a time as the duchess could desire. There were only a few obstacles to enjoyment, which were not considered until the purchase was completed. The house was in so ruinous a condition as to be in momentary danger of falling. The land was more like the field of the slothful than the vineyard of the industrious. These evils were not perceived by the duchess till she

was in possession of her wishes. A lawsuit with the owner of the estate was the consequence of the agreement. The duchess went to Petersburg, and returned to France before it was finished. The manner in which this suit was decided proved the ultimate cause of her death.

Besides this trivial purchase, another was made by the duchess, the scale of which was truly grand. The brother of the then French monarch was the owner of a domain, according in every respect with his dignity. This was the territory of St. Assize, at a pleasant distance from Paris, abounding in game of different species, and rich in all the luxuriant embellishments of nature. The mansion was fit for the brother of a king; it contained three hundred beds. The value of such an estate was too considerable to be expected in one payment: she therefore agreed to discharge the whole of the sum demanded, which was fifty-five thousand pounds, by instalments. The purchase on the part of the duchess was a good one. It afforded not only game, but rabbits in plenty; and, finding them to be of superior quality and flavour, the duchess, during the first week of her possession, had as many killed and sold as brought her three hundred guineas. At Petersburg she had been a distiller of brandy; and now at Paris she turned rabbit-merchant.

Such was her situation, when one day, while she was at dinner, her servants received the intelligence that judgment respecting the house near Paris had been awarded against her. The sudden communication of the news produced an agitation of her whole frame. She flew into a violent passion, and burst an internal blood-vessel: even this, however, she appeared to have surmounted, until a few days after-

wards, when preparing to rise from her bed, a servant, who had long been with her, endeavored to dissuade her from it. The duchess addressed her thus: 'I am not very well, but I will rise.' On a remonstrance being attempted, she said, 'At your peril disohey me: I will get up and walk about the room; ring for the secretary to assist me.' She was obeyed, dressed, and the secretary entered the chamber.—The duchess then walked about, complained of thirst, and said, 'I could drink a glass of my fine Madeira, and eat a slice of toasted bread. I shall be quite well afterwards; but let it be a large glass of wine.' The attendant reluctantly brought, and the duchess drank, the wine. She then said, 'I am perfectly recovered; I knew the Madeira would do me good. My heart

feels oddly. I will have another glass.' The servant here observed that such a quantity of wine in the morning might intoxicate rather than benefit. The duchess persisted in her orders, and, the second glass of Madeira being produced, she drank that also, and pronounced herself to be charmingly indeed. She then walked a little about the room, and afterwards said, 'I will lie down on the couch; I can sleep, and after that I shall be entirely recovered.' She seated herself on the couch, a female having hold of each hand. In this situation she soon appeared to have fallen into a sound sleep, until the women felt her hands colder than ordinary, and the duchess was found to have expired, as the wearied laborer sinks into the arms of rest. She died August 26, 1796.

THOMAS AIKNEY AND ELIZABETH BROADINGHAM,
EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THOUGH a more wicked and premeditated murder has not presented itself in the course of our researches than that we are about to report, yet we can find no connected narrative, in any legal form, of the horrid case: from detached communications, however, we have gleaned the following particulars:—

John Broadingham was a smuggler, and had been a prisoner in York Castle for offences against the excise laws.

During his confinement his wife, Elizabeth Broadingham, basely cohabited with Thomas Aikney; and, soon after the husband's release, she went off with her paramour, and continued to live with him, in open adultery, upwards of three months.

During this time she proposed the murder of her husband to Aikney, who, struck with horror at her words, declared he never would im-

brue his hands in innocent blood. Upon this, for a time, she refrained from naming the subject: yet the horrid purpose remained fixed in her mind; and so powerfully did her evil genius work upon her, that she could no longer rest without again mentioning her determination to Aikney, and which she took an opportunity to do after supplying him with liquor until he was nearly intoxicated. When his brain was thus heated, he heard her without interruption; and she urged him, at every future opportunity, to assist her in the murder of her husband.

To effect this she returned to the unsuspecting and too-forgiving man, who received her rather with kindness than upbraidings.

Aikney lodging hard by, she still pressed him to fix a time for executing the horrible deed; but he endeavored to persuade her once

more to elope with him: nothing, however, but the blood of her husband would satisfy this wicked woman; and, finding no cessation from her importunity, he at length gave a reluctant consent, and the woman planned the dreadful work.

On the 13th of February, eight days only after her husband had taken her back to his little home, and while yet enjoying the hope of the partner of his heart being fully reclaimed, and that she had returned from a sense of duty alone, she, in the dead hour of the night, awoke her slumbering husband, and told him there was a knocking at the door. The unsuspecting man, conjecturing that some acquaintance, perhaps pressed by custom-house officers, required a temporary hiding-place, opened the door, when the villain Aikney, who was waiting his coming, rushed upon him, stabbed him first in the thigh, and then cut him across the belly, leaving the knife which gave the wounds in his body.

Broodingham made to the street, crying out 'Murder!' Some neigh-

hours came to his assistance, who found in one hand the bloody instrument which he had just drawn out of his body, and the other supporting his bowels, which were dropping to the ground.

This miserable man languished until next day, and then expired.

On the trial the principal proof against the murderers was the bloody knife, which was proved to have been the property of Aikney. But can conscience long permit such heinous offenders to conceal their crimes? Oh no! awhile they may evade justice, at the expense of torment of mind; but murder will be discovered.

Under these irresistible impulses both these wretches made a full confession, not only of the crime itself, but they also related the above particulars.

The woman was first strangled, and then her body was burnt to ashes. The man was hanged, and his body sent to the surgeons of the infirmary at Leeds for dissection.

These malefactors suffered March the 20th, 1776, at York.

CHARLES PIPKINS,

EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

THIS was a villain of the lowest and worst description of thieves. In order to carry on his depredations, he vagabondized through the country as a drummer to a puppet-show, and in this character he gained information where and whom to plunder.

In the night of the 7th of August, 1776, in company with another vagabond showman, who escaped justice, he broke open the house of Mrs. Watson, of Finchley, near London.

That lady was suddenly awoke from her sleep by the screams of

her maid-servant, who slept in the same room; and immediately, by the light of one of the lamps used to dance the puppets with, which Pipkins had in his hand, perceived him entering at the chamber window, from which he descended and came to her bed-side, with horrid imprecations demanding her money. Another ruffian followed, calling out "Damn her, blow her brains out." She entreated them not to use her ill, and offered them money. They took from her sixteen guineas, and then examined every part of the chamber, taking what articles were

most portable, and among them a gold watch; with which they went out the way they came in.

Both Mrs. Watson and her maid, having seen Pipkins drumming up the ignorant to attend the paltry show, immediately knew him, and, giving information at the public office in Bow-street, he was soon apprehended with part of the property, brought to trial, condemned, and executed at Tyburn, October the 23d, 1776.

At the same time with Pipkins suffered William Wood, for breaking into the house of the late Solomon

Fell, Esq. in Lincoln's Inn Fields, in the absence of the family, who were then in the country, and robbing it of a quantity of silver plate, wearing apparel, &c.; and Robert Walker, for coining.

Wood appeared full dressed; Pipkins in a beggarly suit; and Walker as became his unhappy situation.

Wood addressed the spectators, acknowledged his guilt, and warned them to avoid evil company, which had been the means of bringing him to an untimely and ignominious death.

PETER LE MAITRE,

CONVICTED OF ROBBERING THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM, AT OXFORD.

WHEN Lord Thurlow was Chancellor of England some villains broke into his house, in Great Ormond Street, and stole the Great Seal of England, which was never recovered, nor were the thieves known. We have heard also of a valuable diamond being stolen from the late Duke of Cumberland, when pressing into the theatre in the Haymarket, to see the bubble of the bottle-conjurer. It is also a fact that the Duke of Beaufort was robbed of his diamond Order of St. George, as he went to Court on a royal birthday; but we have yet to tell that a Museum was robbed of its curious medals.

Peter Le Maitre.—This singular robber was a French teacher at Oxford, and, being supposed a man of industry and good morals, he was indulged with free admission to the Ashmolean Museum. There he frequently went, and appeared very studious over the rare books, and other valuable curiosities, there deposited. He was frequently left alone to his researches. At one of such times he stole two medals, and

at another he secreted himself until the doors were locked for the night.

When all had retired he came from his lurking-place, and broke open the cabinet where the medals were locked up, and possessed himself of its contents; then wrenched a bar from the window, and, unsuspected, made his escape.

The college was thrown into the utmost consternation on finding their Museum thus plundered. Some were suspected, but least of all Le Maitre, until it was discovered that he had privately left the city in a post-chaise and four, and that he had pledged two of the stolen medals to pay the post-boys. This left little doubt that he was the ungrateful thief. He was advertised and described, and by this means apprehended in Ireland.

He was conveyed back to Oxford, in order to take his trial; and it appeared that two of the stolen medals were found in a bureau in his lodgings, of which he had the use; and two more were traced to the persons to whom he had sold them.

He had little to offer in his defence; and, on the clearest evidence, the jury found him guilty, March the 7th, 1777.

Upon argument it was found that no punishment adequate to the crime could be inflicted; and Monsieur Le Maître paid the penalty of his offence by five years' hard labour at ballast-heaving on the river Thames.

Whether the ungrateful depredation of Peter Le Maître stimulated

other villains to rob public depositories, or that they were still bolder thieves by being ignorant of his robbery and punishment, certain it is that, not long afterwards, Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford, was broke open by two thieves, namely, Thomas Gerring and Miles Ward, who stole from the altar a pair of large silver candlesticks and a silver dish, which they carried off undiscovered.

DAVID BROWN DIGNUM,

CONVICTED OF PRETENDING TO SELL PLACES UNDER GOVERNMENT.

THE first public complaint which we trace to have been made against this offender was at the police office in Bow Street by a Mr. John Clarke, who deposed that between the 18th of June and the 8th of July, 1777, he paid Dignum one hundred pounds, two shillings, and ten pence, for investing him with the office of clerk of the minutes in his majesty's custom-house in Dublin; that the above-mentioned sum was paid at different times in cash and drafts; and that the drafts were duly honored by the parties on whom they were drawn.

Mr. Clarke produced a stamped paper, bearing the signature of Lord Weymouth, and countersigned 'Thomas Daw,' which he deposed to have received from the prisoner as a legal warrant, appointing him to the office in question.

Mr. Daw proved that both signatures were counterfeited; and it evidently appeared that the seals had been taken from some instrument, and affixed to the pretended warrant.

Dignum was charged with a similar offence by Mr. Brown, from whom he obtained one thousand pounds, under pretence of causing him to be appointed writer of the London Gazette.

Mr. Brown produced a warrant bearing the similar marks of im-

sition with those exhibited in the former charge:—this gentleman likewise produced a letter, given to him by the prisoner, ordering Mr. Harrison, the printer of the Gazette, to act under the direction of Mr. Brown; and likewise an oath of qualification taken by him in presence of the prisoner.

After a very deliberate consideration of these circumstances, the magistrates were of opinion that Dignum's offence was not within the description of the laws respecting forgery: he was therefore committed to Tothillfields' Bridewell, to take his trial for the frauds.

The prisoner, by way of defence, said that, on suspicion of his having been guilty of high treason, his papers had been seized, and were in the possession of Sir Alexander Leith; adding that some writings among them would fully exculpate him from the charges adduced against him. Sir Alexander ordered his trunk to be brought into the office, and all such papers as were not considered as matter of evidence were returned to him.

On the 5th of April, 1777, David Brown Dignum was indicted at Guildhall, Westminster, for defrauding Mr. Clarke, under pretence of appointing him clerk of the minutes

in the custom-house at Dublin, by means of a forged warrant, pretended to be signed by Lord Weymouth and Mr. Daw.

The evidence against him was in substance what we have already related; and the jury found him guilty, without leaving the court.

The magistrates hesitated a long time on the punishment which should be inflicted on such an offender, and at length sentenced him to work five years on the river Thames.

On Wednesday, the 23d of April, 1777, Mr. Smith, governor of Tothillfields' Bridewell, requested the advice of the magistrates at Bow Street as to the disposal of Dignum. He said he had received an order for removing the prisoner to the ballast-lighter, pursuant to the sentence passed on him by the magistrates of Middlesex and Westminster at the Guildhall; but that the solicitor in a prosecution cognizable by the magistrates usually presiding at Hicks's Hall had given him notice to detain the prisoner in custody till an habeas corpus should be procured to bring him for trial before the last-mentioned magistrates.

The Bench agreed in opinion that, as Tothillfields' Bridewell was a county gaol, the Middlesex magistrates would have been justifiable in claiming the appearance of the prisoner without the authority of an habeas corpus; and they commissioned Mr. Smith to remove Dignum on the first opportunity.

Mr. Smith said, on the same evening, or the next morning, he would endeavour to get rid of so troublesome

a guest, who had suggested a variety of stratagems to obtain his liberty; adding that, on the Saturday morning preceeding, he had offered to bribe an attendant in the prison with a bank-note of ten pounds, to favour his escape in a large chest.

No time was now lost in conveying Dignum on board the ballast-lighter. Being possessed of plenty of money, and having high notions of gentility, he went to Woolwich in a post-chaise, with his negro servant behind, expecting that his money would procure every indulgence in his favour, and that his servant would be still admitted to attend him: but in this he was egregiously mistaken; the keepers of the lighter would not permit him to come on board, and Dignum was immediately put to the duty of the wheelbarrow.

On Monday, the 5th of May, Dignum sent a forged draft for five hundred pounds for acceptance to Mr. Drummond, banker, at Charing Cross, who, discovering the imposition, carried the publishers before Sir John Fielding: but they were discharged; and it was intended to procure an habeas corpus to remove Dignum to London for examination.

This plan, however, was soon seen through; for, on consideration, it seemed evident that Dignum, by sending the forged draft from on board the lighter, preferred death to his situation; so that no farther steps were taken in the affair, and he remained for the period to which he was sentenced by the equitable laws of his country.

JOHN HARRISON,

CONVICTED OF FORGERY.

MR. HARRISON was accountant to the London Assurance Corporation; and it was his peculiar misfortune to be acquainted with a Mr.

Angus Mackey, a merchant in the city, in an extensive way of trade, who, by urgent solicitations, prevailed upon the unsuspecting and

good-natured man to lend him several sums belonging to the company, solemnly promising to return the money before he would have occasion to make up his accounts.

When the time appointed for the first payment arrived, instead of returning what he had already got into his possession, Mackey urged Harrison for a further supply, assuring him that he was in daily expectation of remittances, on the receipt of which he would return the whole sum that Harrison was deficient in his account with the company; adding that, if he met with a refusal, he must inevitably stop payment, which would necessarily occasion an exposure of Harrison's violation of the trust reposed in him by the company.

In this manner was the unfortunate man amused for several months, during which time he supplied Mackey with different sums, amounting in the whole to seven thousand, five hundred, and fifty pounds; and, to prevent detection, he inserted figures in the book containing the account between the Bank of England and the London Assurance Company, so that the Bank appeared to be debtor for seven thousand, five hundred, and fifty pounds more than had been paid there.

He sent a clerk with two hundred and ten pounds to the Bank; and, when the book was returned to him, he put a figure of 3 before the 2, which made the sum appear three thousand pounds more than was really paid; and similar alterations were made in other parts of the book.

A committee of the company being appointed to meet on Wednesday, the 9th of July, 1777, Mr. Harrison mentioned the circumstance to Mackey, and told him that he must be utterly ruined unless the deficiency in the company's cash

was made good before that day: but, notwithstanding the life and reputation of his generous and imprudent friend were at stake, he neglected to return the money.

About eleven in the forenoon of the day on which the committee was to be held Harrison placed several account-books on the table of the committee-room, and had some conversation with Alexander Aubert, Esq. the deputy-governor. When the committee was about to be opened Harrison absconded; and, in about ten minutes after, the following letter was received by Mr. George Hall, secretary to the company:—

‘DEAR SIR,—I am distressed beyond expression, having forfeited every thing that is dear to me by an act of kindness to a friend who has deceived me. Enclosed is a state of my account with the company, which it tortures my very soul to think of. I know the treasury will not forgive me, therefore don't care what becomes of me, as I dare not see them any more. God Almighty knows what will become of me, or where I shall fly for succour: indeed, Mr. Hall, I am one of the most miserable wretches living; but I have betrayed my trust, for which I never can forgive myself. When I parted with the money it was but for a few days, or I would sooner have died than have parted with it; but, alas! I shall now severely pay by suffering myself to be drawn in to serve a friend, who knew it was not my own, and saw the distress of mind it cost me when I did it. Please to present my humble duty to the gentlemen; tell them I can meet any death after this, sooner than I can see them again, and am determined not to survive the shame. I am, dear sir, a lost unhappy being; I am so bewildered that I scarce know what I

am doing, but believe the enclosed account is right, as I don't recollect that I am any way short of cash; but in truth I am not myself.

' J. H.'

When Mr. Harrison absconded he left upwards of nineteen hundred pounds in his desk, and among his papers were found securities on behalf of the company to a great amount, besides a bond given to him by Mackey for seven thousand, five hundred, and fifty pounds.

Notice being given at the office that Harrison was at a friend's house at Wapping, Mr. Aubert went there in the evening, and found him in a state of mind little short of distraction. Mackey's bond was produced by Mr. Aubert, and Harrison assigned it over to him as a security on behalf of the company. He accompanied Mr. Aubert to the office, where two persons were ordered to attend him, and prevent his putting an end to his life, which there was sufficient reason to suppose he would attempt: and the next morning he was taken before Sir John Fielding, who committed him to Tothillfields' Bridewell. He was re-examined the following Wednesday, and committed to Newgate, in preparation for his trial.

Harrison was tried at the Old Bailey, in the September sessions, 1777, on an indictment for forgery, consisting of twenty-four counts, on twelve of which the jury pronounced him guilty. The prisoner's counsel objected to judgment being passed, on account of a supposed inaccuracy in the indictment, and the matter was left to be argued by the judges.

Having remained in Newgate some months after his trial, Mr. Harrison petitioned for the judges to meet, and that he might be heard by counsel. He was advised by an illustrious personage to waive the plea on which his petition was

founded, and in consequence thereof the petition was immediately withdrawn. In a few days a messenger came to Newgate, and delivered Mr. Harrison the agreeable news that his majesty had been graciously pleased to grant him an unconditional pardon; and the same evening an order was delivered to Mr. Akerman for his immediate enlargement.

Mr. Harrison was brought up in a merchant's counting-house, and soon after the expiration of his apprenticeship he began business on his own account, and had a line and a coal wharf at Limehouse, where he carried on an extensive trade; but, failing in that business, he engaged himself as a clerk to Mr. Smithen, previous to that gentleman's undertaking to construct the Eddystone Light-house, and was intrusted with the care and management of all the money employed in that important work. His conduct under Mr. Smithen was in every respect unexceptionable; and that gentleman and many other respectable persons used their interest to procure him the office of accountant to the London Assurance Company, in whose service he would in all probability have continued till his death but for his unhappy connexion with Mackey.

Harrison had been accountant to the London Assurance Company nineteen years and a half when it was discovered that he had betrayed the confidence reposed in him; and till that period his character was without a blemish, and he was held in the highest esteem by all his acquaintance.

May the case of this man prove a warning to others who are employed in offices of trust! Let them remember that in such men as can be guilty of persuading them to violate the confidence reposed in

them no reliance can with safety be placed; and that, if they once give reason for an impeachment of their integrity, they will be constantly under the tormenting apprehensions

of a discovery, which, if they happen to escape an ignominious death, will reduce them to poverty and disgrace, with all their attendant calamities.



Hill setting Fire to the Rope-House in Portsmouth Dock-Yard.

**JAMES HILL, COMMONLY CALLED JOHN THE PAINTER,
EXECUTED FOR SETTING FIRE TO PORTSMOUTH DOCK-YARD.**

So dangerous an individual to the kingdom as this man perhaps never existed, and whose confession and repentance can hardly soften the abhorrence felt on the contemplation of the extent of his crimes.

James Hill, that universally detested character, during the progress of his public ruin and desolation, had gone by several names—a plan generally adopted in a long course of villany.

He was once a journeyman to Mr. Golden, a painter, at Titchfield, whence he procured the familiar title of 'John the Painter.' During a

residence of some years in America he imbibed principles destructive to the interests of this country. Transported with party zeal, he formed the desperate resolution of committing a most atrocious crime, which he, in some degree, effected. About four o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th of December, 1776, a fire broke out in the round-house of Portsmouth dock, which entirely consumed that building. The fire was wholly attributed to accident; but on the 5th of January three men who were employed in the hemp-house found a tin machine, some-

what resembling a tea-canister, and near the same spot a wooden box, containing various kinds of combustibles. This circumstance being communicated to the commissioner of the dock, and circulated among the public, several vague and indefinite suspicions fell upon Hill, who had been lurking about the dock-yard, whose surname was not known, but who had been distinguished by the appellation of 'John the Painter.'

In consequence of advertisements in the newspapers, offering a reward of fifty pounds for apprehending him, he was secured at Odiham. On the 17th of February the prisoner was examined at Sir John Fielding's office, Bow Street, where John Baldwin, who exercised the trade of a painter in different parts of America, attended, by the direction of Lord Temple. The prisoner's discourse with Baldwin operated very materially towards his conviction, as it was brought in corroboration of a variety of evidence on the trial. He said he had taken a view of most of the dock-yards and fortifications about England, the number of ships in the navy, and observed their weight of metal and their number of men, and had been to France two or three times to inform Silas Dean, the American, of his discoveries; and that Dean gave him bills to the amount of three hundred pounds, and letters of recommendation to a merchant in the city, which he had burnt, lest they should lead to a discovery. He informed Baldwin that he had instructed a tinman's apprentice at Canterbury to make him a tin canister, which he carried to Portsmouth, where he hired a lodging at one Mrs. Boxall's, and tried his preparations for setting fire to the dock-yard.

After recounting the manner of preparing matches and combustibles, he said that, on the 6th of the pre-

ceding December, he got into the hemp-house, and, having placed a candle in a wooden box, and a tin canister over it, and sprinkled turpentine over some of the hemp, he proceeded to the rope-house, where he placed a bottle of turpentine among the loose hemp, which he sprinkled with turpentine; and having laid matches, made of paper painted over with powdered charcoal and gunpowder diluted with water, and other combustibles, about the place, he returned to his lodgings. These matches were so contrived as to continue burning for twenty-four hours, so that by cutting them into proper lengths he provided for his escape, knowing the precise time when the fire would reach the combustibles. He had hired lodgings in two other houses, to which he intended to set fire, that the engines might not be all employed together in quenching the conflagration at the dock. On the 7th he again went to the hemp-house, intending to set it on fire; which he, however, was unable to effect, owing to a halfpenny-worth of common house matches that he had bought not being sufficiently dry. This disappointment, he said, rendered him exceedingly uneasy, and he went from the hemp-house to the rope-house, and set fire to the matches he had placed there. He said his uneasiness was increased because he could not return to his lodging, where he had left a bundle containing an 'Ovid's Metamorphoses,' a 'Treatise on War and making Fire-works,' a 'Justin,' a pistol, and a French passport, in which his real name was inserted.

When he had set fire to the rope-house he proceeded towards London, deeply regretting his failure in attempting to fire the other building, and was strongly inclined to fire into the windows of the women who had sold him the bad matches. He

jumped into a cart, and gave the woman who drove it sixpence, to induce her to drive quick ; and, when he had passed the sentinels, he observed the fire to have made so rapid a progress that the elements seemed in a blaze. He might have added, with Chaos to the Devil,

‘ Havoc, and spoil, and ruin, are my gain.’

About ten the next morning he arrived at Kingston, where he remained until the dusk of the evening, and proceeded to London in the stage. Soon after his arrival he waited upon the gentleman in the city, and informed him of having been under the necessity of burning the bills upon, and letters to, him from Silas Dean. The gentleman behaved to him with shiness, but appointed to meet him at a coffee-house. At the coffee-house the gentleman seemed to be doubtful as to the story told by Hill, who therefore went away displeased, and as soon as he reached Hammersmith wrote to the merchant, saying he was going to Bristol, and that the ‘ handy works he meant to perform there would be soon known to the public.’* A short time after his arrival at Bristol he set fire to several houses, which were all burning with great rapidity at one time, and the flames were not extinguished till damage was sustained to the amount of fifteen thousand pounds. He also set fire to combustibles that he had placed among a number of oil-barrels upon the quay, but happily without effect. He related to Baldwin a great number of other circumstances, which were confirmed by a variety of evidence on his trial, which came on, Thursday, March 6, 1777, at Winchester Castle, when witnesses were produced from different parts of the

country, who proved the whole of his confession to Baldwin to be true, and gave other proofs of his guilt.

When called upon for his defence, he complained of the newspapers and reports circulated to his prejudice ; and observed that it was easy for such a man as Baldwin to feign the story he had told, and for a number of witnesses to be collected to give it support.

He declared that God alone knew whether he was, or was not, the person who set fire to the dock-yard of his Britannic Majesty at Portsmouth ; and begged it might be attended to, how far Baldwin ought to be credited : that if he had art enough, by lies, to insinuate any thing out of him, his giving it to the knowledge of others was a breach of confidence ; and if he would speak falsely to deceive him, he might also impose upon a jury. Upon this head the prisoner, with some ingenuity, dwelt for some time, and concluded by begging the judge to repeat his defence in proper terms to the jury, as he was not endowed with the gift of oratory, which they might easily perceive.

The prisoner had no counsel.

The jury, after a clear and impartial charge from Baron Hotham, in an instant agreed upon their verdict—‘ Guilty.’

The learned judge then proceeded to pass the sentence of the law upon the prisoner. He told him that he had a long and fair trial ; that he had been found guilty upon the fullest and clearest evidence ; that he could not have any thing to complain of in the candour of the Court, and that his crime was of a nature so enormous, that it was not in the power of words to aggravate it.

The judge then said that he would not increase the prisoner’s

* It is to be regretted that this merchant was not apprehended.

present unhappy moments, nor add to his distress, by dwelling upon the horrors attending the crime of which he was convicted; but was sorry to say that he felt, he feared, much more for him than his appearance bespoke him feeling for himself: yet would he earnestly recommend him to consider his case, and prepare to meet his God; for that he was bound—and it was by much the most disagreeable part of his duty—to pass the sentence of the law upon him; and he accordingly adjudged him to be hanged by the neck until he was dead. Further, he said, he thought it right to advise him, that, as his offence was of such a nature as might not only have proved fatal to every person present, but have involved the whole British nation in universal ruin, there was not any probability of his receiving mercy; and concluded by strongly urging the prisoner to repentance, and preparation for that pardon in the world to come which upon earth could not be granted to him.

He was allowed for this purpose four days, and suffered at Portsmouth March the 10th, 1777, in sight of the ruins which he had occasioned.

His body, for several years, hung in chains on Blockhouse Point, on the opposite side of the harbour to the town.

To these particulars we shall present his confession. On the morning after his condemnation he informed the turnkey, of his own spontaneous accord, that he felt an earnest desire of confessing his crime, and laying the history of his life before the public; and that, by discovering the whole of his unaccountable plots and treasonable practices, he might make some atonement to his most injured coun-

try for the wrongs he had done, of which he was now truly sensible, and a repentant sinner.

This request being made known to the Earl of Sandwich, then first lord of the admiralty, that nobleman directed Sir John Fielding to send down proper persons to take and attest his confession.

He began by saying that he was by birth a Scotchman, and had left Scotland in order to embark for America, where he resided the greater part of his life. The diabolical scheme of setting fire to the dock-yards and the shipping, he said, originated in his own wicked mind, on the very breaking out of the rebellion in America; and he had no peace until he proceeded to put it in practice. The more he thought of it, the more practicable it appeared; and with this wicked intent he crossed again the great Atlantic.

He had no sooner landed than he proceeded to take surveys of the different dock-yards; which done, he went to Paris, and had several conferences with Silas Dean, the rebel minister to the court of France.

Dean (as well indeed he might) was astonished at Hill's proposals, which embraced the destruction of the English dock-yards and the shipping,

Finding the projector an enthusiast in the cause of America, and a man of daring spirit, he gradually listened to his schemes; and such was the cunning of the first Congress to the mother country, that Dean supplied this traitor with money, to enable him to carry them into execution; procured him a French passport; and gave him a letter of credit on a merchant in London, who, as we have already observed, escaped detection.

He then confirmed the evidence

given against him, and in particular his confessions to Baldwin. He was, he further declared, to have been rewarded by a commission in

the American army for setting fire to the dock-yard at Plymouth; and fully admitted the justice of his sentence for a crime so heinous.

FRANCIS MERCIER, OTHERWISE LOUIS DE BUTTE, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS malefactor was a Frenchman, and was convicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, on the 6th of December, 1777, of the murder of Mons. Jaques Mondroyte, his countryman, attended by singular circumstances of treachery and premeditated cruelty.

The unfortunate Jaques Mondroyte was a jeweller and watchmaker of Paris, and had made a journey to London, in order to find a market for different articles of his manufacture. His stock consisted of curious and costly trinkets, worth, as was computed, a few thousand pounds. He took lodgings in Prince's Street, and engaged Mercier, who had resided some time in London, as his interpreter, on a liberal gratuity, and treated him as a friend.

It appeared that the ungrateful villain had long determined upon murdering his employer, in order effectually to possess himself of the whole of his valuable property.

To this diabolical end, he gave orders for an instrument to be made of a singular construction, and which—so surely does the evil genius, after tempting mortals to sin, leave a clue for their detection—was a principal means of leading thereto. It was shaped somewhat like an Indian tomahawk, and this instrument of death he concealed until an opportunity offered to effect his detestable purpose.

One day, his employer, Mondroyte, invited him to spend the evening: they played at cards, sang some French songs, and took a

cheerful glass, but with that moderation from which Frenchmen seldom depart. Thus the time passed until it grew late, when the interpreter was asked to stay the night, to which, after pretending to hesitate, he assented.

As soon as the inhabitants were wrapped in sleep Mercier took from the lining of his coat, where he constantly carried it, the fatal weapon, with which he struck the unconscious victim repeatedly on the head until he killed him. He then thrust the body into one of the trunks in which the owner had brought over his merchandise, and, after plundering the apartments, locked the doors, and made his escape.

On the next day he had the effrontery to return to the house, and to inquire whether Mons. Mondroyte had set off; pretending that he had proposed a journey into the country; and the people of the house, concluding that he had let himself out before they had risen, and which accounted for their finding the street door on the latch, replied that he must have departed, giving that circumstance as a reason for such belief. This audacious farce was acted by the murderer for some days, during which time he frequently called to know whether his friend had returned.

The family, however, beginning to entertain suspicions of some foul play, procured a ladder, entered the chamber window, and soon discovered the body crammed into the trunk, being only two feet four inches long, and beginning to pu-

trefy. There appeared on the head several deep wounds.

A warrant was granted to apprehend Mercier, who was taken just as he was alighting from a post-chaise, in which he had been jaunting with a woman of the town. In his lodgings, and on his person, were found sixteen gold watches, some of great value; a great number of brilliant diamond and other rings; a variety of gold trinkets; and seventy-five guineas.

On his examination he confessed the fact, which added to the proof that the manufactured articles had been the property of Mondroyte; and, after a patient trial, he was convicted, and sentenced to be hanged on the following Monday.

He was carried to execution opposite the place where he committed the murder, and no man ever met death with more dread. He used

every evasion to prolong the fatal hour, repeatedly craving time for his devotions, until the sheriff, perceiving his motive, gave signal, and he was turned off, on the 8th of December, amidst the execrations of the surrounding spectators.

This wretch, who, as we have observed, showed the utmost fear in meeting his deserved fate, was perhaps, of all criminals whom we have recorded, the least cautious in concealing himself from the hands of Justice. Could he, who had long lived in London, suppose that so horrid a crime could remain concealed? Did he suppose that, when the mangled body was found, no suspicion would attach to him? But, happily, as we have often shown, murder, under the most artful concealment, sooner or later, will bring down vengeance on the head of the perpetrator.

THE REVEREND BENJAMIN RUSSEN,

EXECUTED FOR A RAPE.

THIS man was master of the subscription charity-school at Bethnal Green, in which had been bred up a poor girl named Anne Mayne.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in October, 1777, Benjamin Russen, clerk, was indicted for having committed a rape on the said Anne Mayne, on the 18th of June preceding. The girl deposed that, when Mrs. Russen lay in, the prisoner desired that she (Mayne) might stay below stairs with him, while he went to sleep after dinner, lest he should fall into the fire; and that he took this opportunity to perpetrate the fact with which he was charged; and, after it was committed, said that, if she told her mother, sister, or any body of it, he would flog her severely.

She proved a second commission of a similar fact, during which he

looked out at the door, in apprehension that somebody was coming; but this did not happen to be the case. It appeared, likewise, that the crime was committed a third time; but it would be indelicate in the highest degree to recount the particulars of a fact of this nature.

A surgeon, who was present when Mr. Russen was carried before Justice Wilmot, deposed that, on examination of the girl, he did not discover that any absolute violence had been committed.

There were three other indictments against Russen of a similar nature, but he was acquitted of them all. He now proceeded to call several persons to his character, who spoke well of him as far as they knew.

In his defence he denied the fact, and pleaded the malice of his ene-

mies, who, he said, had charged him with those offences to deprive him of his place. He urged the favorable representation of the surgeon, who had sworn that the child had not been materially injured; and insisted that, at the time the fact was charged to have been committed, he was so ill as to keep his chamber.

By endeavoring to prove this he proved too much; for the witness swore that he kept his chamber two months successively, contrary to the tenor of all the other witnesses; so that the jury were induced to think that he had not kept his chamber even one month.

The counsel for the prisoner labored hard to adduce some proofs of his innocence; but the jury brought in a verdict that the prisoner was guilty; in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

After conviction the behaviour of Mr. Russen was exceedingly proper for a man in his unhappy situation. No very extraordinary exertions were made to obtain a pardon for him, because it was presumed it would not have been granted.

On the morning of execution Mr. Russen was taken from Newgate to Tyburn in a mourning-coach. Just before he left the prison, seeing a number of people about him, he made use of this emphatical expression, 'Stand clear! look to yourselves! I am the first hypocrite in Sion!' The parting scene between himself and his son was extremely affecting.

He was attended in the coach by the Ordinary of Newgate (the Reverend Mr. Hughes), a sheriff's officer, and an undertaker, who had engaged to conduct the funeral.

At the place of execution Russen seemed to have a proper sense of his past wicked life; but, in regard to the crime for which he suffered, he

thought himself ill treated, as he always asserted that he had never been guilty of a rape, though he acknowledged, a day or two before his death, that he had taken liberties with the child which were highly unbecoming. Previous to the prayers commonly used at the place of execution he made a long extempore prayer, and earnestly exhorted the surrounding multitude to take warning by his fate. He likewise censured the indecency of the people, who stood near the gallows with their hats on, and with apparent unconcern, during the time of prayer; and observed that the place where unhappy victims are to suffer the sentence of the law should be held as sacred as a church. He therefore requested the spectators to be uncovered, and to join in their supplications for him to Almighty God, which accordingly several of them complied with; and, after having prayed for his wife and helpless children, he once more recommended his soul to the mercy of God, and was then launched into eternity.

On the way to execution the mob insulted Russen: but the propriety of his behaviour at the fatal tree had an evident effect on the spectators; and, when his body was cut down, it was put into a hearse, and delivered to his friends for interment.

Benjamin Russen was executed at Tyburn on the 12th of December, 1777.

It is with pain that the pen of delicacy touches a subject of this nature; and this pain is increased when we consider that the object of our remarks was in a line of life that ought to have induced him to set the best example to others. A clergyman who is a schoolmaster is bound by a double tie to exhibit every mark of his attention to the duties of religion and morality; and, when he fails of this duty, his ex-

ample is presumed to have a worse influence than that of a man differently situated.

Mr. Russen had a wife and six children, which was no slight aggravation of his crime.

JOHN HOLMES AND PETER WILLIAMS,

WHIPPED FOR STEALING DEAD BODIES.

THESE impious robbers are vulgarly termed, in London, resurrection men, but should rather be called sacrilegious robbers of our holy Church, not even confining the unnatural crime to men alone, for the gentler sex are connected in this horrid traffic, whose business it is to strip off the shroud, or whatever garments in which the body may have been wrapped, and to sell them, while the men, through the darkness of night, drag the naked bodies to be anatomized.

Though it matters little where we return to our original dust, yet there is something offensive to the living to hear of graves being violated for this base purpose; and to know that the remains of a parent, a wife, or a child, have been thus removed, is shocking to our nature.

When Hunter, the famous anatomist, was in full practice, he had a surgical theatre behind his house in Windmill Street, where he gave lectures to a very numerous class of pupils. To this place such numbers of dead bodies were brought, during the winter season, that the mob rose several times, and were upon the point of pulling down his house. He had a well dug in the back part of his premises, in which was thrown the putrid flesh, and with it alkalis, in order to hasten its consumption.

Numberless are the instances of dead bodies being seized on their way to the surgeons. Hackney coachmen, for an extra fare, and porters with hampers, are often employed by these resurrection men for this purpose.

A monthly publication, in March, 1776, says, 'The remains of more than twenty dead bodies were discovered in a shed in Tottenham Court Road, supposed to have been deposited there by traders to the surgeons; of whom there is one, it is said, in the Borough, who makes an open profession of dealing in dead bodies, and is well known by the name of the 'Resurrectionist.'

Still more shocking is it to be told that men who are paid for protecting the sacred deposit of the mortal remains of their fellow-parishioners are often confederates, as the present case will demonstrate.

Holmes, the principal villain in this case, was grave-digger of St. George's, Bloomsbury. Williams was his assistant; and a woman, named Esther Donaldson, an accomplice. They were all indicted for stealing the body of Mrs. Jane Sainsbury, who departed this life on the 9th of October then last past, and the corpse was interred in the burying-ground of St. George's, above mentioned, on the Monday following. They were detected before they could secure their booty; and the widower, however unpleasant, determined to prosecute them. In order to their conviction, he had to undergo the mental pain of viewing and identifying the remains of his wife!

The grave-digger and his deputy were convicted at the Middlesex court of quarter-sessions for December, 1777, on the fullest evidence; and the acquittal of the woman was much regretted, as no doubt remained of her equal guilt. She

therefore was released, but Holmes and Williams were sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and to be whipped twice, on their bare backs, from the end of Kingsgate Street,

Holborn, to Dyot Street, St. Giles's, being half a mile, and which was inflicted, with the severity due to so detestable an offence, through crowds of approving spectators.



Dr. Dodd composing his 'Thoughts in Prison.'

DR. WILLIAM DODD,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

This unfortunate man was the eldest son of a clergyman, who held the vicarage of Bourne, in the county of Lincoln, where he died in the year 1756, at the age of fifty-four. His son was born at Bourne on the 29th day of May, 1729, and, after finishing his school education was admitted a Sizer of Clare Hall, Cambridge, in 1745, under the tuition of Mr. John Courtail, afterwards Archdeacon of Lewes. At the university he acquired the notice of his superiors by a close application to his studies, and in the year 1749-50 took his first degree of

Bachelor of Arts with considerable reputation, his name being in the list of Wranglers on that occasion. It was not, however, only in his academical pursuits that he was emulous of distinction. Having a pleasing form, a genteel address, and a lively imagination, he was equally celebrated for accomplishments which seldom accompany a life of learned retirement. In particular, he was fond of the elegancies of dress, and became, as he ludicrously expressed it, a zealous votary of the God of Daucing, to whose service he dedicated much of

that time and attention which he could borrow from his more important avocations.

The talent which he possessed he very early displayed to the public; and, by the time he had attained the age of eighteen years, prompted by the desire of fame, and perhaps also to increase his income, he commenced author, in which character he began to obtain some degree of reputation. At this period of his life, young, thoughtless, volatile, and inexperienced, he precipitately quitted the university, and, relying entirely on his pen, removed to the metropolis, where he entered largely into the gaieties of the town, was a constant frequenter of all places of public diversion, and followed every species of amusement with the most dangerous avidity. In this course, however, he did not continue long. To the surprise of his friends, who least suspected him of taking such a step, without fortune, and destitute of all means of supporting a family, he hastily united himself, on the 15th of April, 1751, in marriage with Miss Mary Perkins, daughter of one of the domestics of Sir John Dolben, a young lady then residing in Frith Street, Soho, who, though endowed with personal attractions, was deficient in those of birth and fortune. To a person circumstanced as Mr. Dodd then was, no measure could be more imprudent, or apparently more ruinous and destructive of his future prospects in life. He did not, however, seem to view it in that light, but, with a degree of thoughtlessness natural to him, immediately took and furnished a house in Wardour Street. Thus dancing on the brink of a precipice, and careless of to-morrow, his friends began to be alarmed at his situation. His father came to town in great distress upon the occasion, and by parental in-

junction he quitted his house before winter. By the same advice he probably was induced to adopt a new plan for his future subsistence. On the 19th of October, in that year, he was ordained a deacon, by the Bishop of Ely, at Cains College, Cambridge; and, with more prudence than he had ever shown before, devoted himself with great assiduity to the study and duties of his profession. In these pursuits he appeared so sincere, that he even renounced all attention to his favorite objects—Polite Letters. At the end of his preface to the ‘*Beauties of Shakspeare*,’ published in this year, he says: ‘For my own part, better and more important things henceforth demand my attention; and I here with no small pleasure take leave of Shakspeare and the critics. As this work was begun and finished before I entered upon the sacred function in which I am now happily employed, let me trust this juvenile performance will prove no objection, since graver, and some very eminent, members of the Church, have thought it no improper employ to comment, explain, and publish, the works of their own country poets.’

The first service in which he was engaged as a clergyman was to assist the Reverend Mr. Wyatt, vicar of West Ham, as his curate: thither he removed, and there he spent the happiest and more honorable moments of his life. His behaviour was proper, decent, and exemplary. It acquired him the respect and secured him the favour of his parishioners so far, that, on the death of their lecturer, in 1752, he was chosen to succeed him. His abilities had at this time every opportunity of being shown to advantage; and his exertions were so properly directed, that he soon became a favorite and popular preacher. Those

who knew him at this period bear testimony to the indefatigable zeal which he exerted in his ministry, and the success which crowned his efforts. The follies of his youth seemed entirely extinguished, his friends viewed his conduct with the utmost satisfaction, and the world promised itself an example to hold out for the imitation of his brethren.

At this early season of his life he entertained favorable sentiments of the doctrine of Mr. Hutchinson, and was suspected to incline towards Methodism. In 1752 he was appointed lecturer of St. James, Garlick Hill, which, two years afterwards, he exchanged for the same post at St. Olave, Hart Street. About the same time he was appointed to preach Lady Moyer's lectures at St. Paul's; where from the visit of the three angels to Abraham, and other similar passages from the Old Testament, he endeavored to prove the commonly received doctrine of the Trinity. On the establishment of the Magdalen House, in 1758, he was amongst the first and most active promoters of that charitable institution; which received great advantage from his zeal for its prosperity, and, even to the conclusion of his life, continued to be materially benefitted by his labours. He was also the promoter of many other charitable institutions, and founder of the Society for the Relief of Poor Debtors; and of the Humane Society, for the recovery of persons apparently drowned.

From the time Mr. Dodd entered into the service of the Church he resided at West Ham, and made up the deficiencies of his income by superintending the education of some young gentlemen who were placed under his care. In 1759 he took his degree of Master of Arts. In the year 1763 he was appointed

chaplain in ordinary to the king, and about the same time became known to Dr. Squire, Bishop of St. David's, who received him into his patronage, presented him to the prebend of Brecon, and recommended him to the Earl of Chesterfield, as a proper person to be intrusted with the tuition of his successor in the title. The next year saw him chaplain to his majesty. In 1766 he took the degree of Doctor of Laws at Cambridge. He had some expectations of succeeding to the rectory of West Ham; but, having been twice disappointed, he resigned his lectureship both there and in the city, and quitted the place; 'a place,' says he to Lord Chesterfield, 'ever dear and ever regretted by me, the loss of which, truly affecting to my mind, (for there I was useful, and there I trust I was loved,) nothing but your lordship's friendship and connexion could have counterbalanced.*' From a passage in his 'Thoughts in Prison' it may be inferred that he was compelled to quit this his favorite residence; a circumstance which he pathetically laments, and probably with great reason, as the first step to that change in his situation which led him insensibly to his last fatal catastrophe.

On his leaving West Ham he removed to a house in Southampton Row, and at the same time launched out into scenes of expense, which his income, by this time not a small one, was unequal to support. He provided himself with a country house at Ealing, and exchanged his chariot for a coach, in order to accommodate his pupils, who, besides his noble charge, were in general persons of family and fortune.—About the same time it was his misfortune to obtain a prize of one thousand pounds in the state lot.

* See dedication to a Sermon, entitled 'Popery inconsistent with the natural Rights of Men in general, and Englishmen in particular.' 8vo. 1768.

tery. Elated with this success, he engaged with a builder in a plan to erect a chapel ear the palace of the queen, from whom it took its name. He entered also into a like partnership at Charlotte Chapel, Bloomsbury; and both these schemes were for some time very beneficial to him, though much inferior to his then expensive habits of living. His expectations from the former of these undertakings were extremely sanguine. It is reported that, in sitting up his chapel near the palace, he flattered himself with the hopes of having some young royal auditors, and in that expectation assigned a particular pew or gallery for the heir-apparent. But in this, as in many other of his views, he was disappointed.

In the year 1772 he obtained the rectory of Hockliffe, in Bedfordshire, the first cure of souls he ever had. With this also he held the vicarage of Chalgrove; and the two were soon after consolidated. An accident happened about this time, from which he narrowly escaped with his life. Returning from his living, he was stopped near Pancras by a highwayman, who discharged a pistol into the carriage, which happily, as it was then thought, only broke the glass. For this fact the delinquent was tried, and, on Mrs. Dodd's evidence, convicted and hanged. Early in the next year Lord Chesterfield died, and was succeeded by Dr. Dodd's pupil, who appointed his preceptor his chaplain.

At this period Dr. Dodd appears to have been in the zenith of his popularity and reputation. Beloved and respected by all orders of people, he would have reached, in all probability, the situation which was the object of his wishes, had he possessed patience enough to have waited for it, and prudence sufficient to keep himself out of difficulties

which might prove fatal to his integrity. But the habits of dissipation and expense had acquired too much influence over him. He had by their means involved himself in considerable debts. To extricate himself from them, he was tempted to an act which entirely cut off every hope which he could entertain of rising in his profession, and totally ruined him in the opinion of the world. On the translation of Bishop Moss, in February, 1774, to the see of Bath and Wells, the valuable rectory of St. George, Hanover Square, fell to the disposal of the crown, by virtue of the king's prerogative. Whether from the suggestion of his own mind, or from the persuasion of some friend, is uncertain; but on this occasion he took a step of all others the most wild and extravagant, and least likely to be attended with success. He caused an anonymous letter to be sent to Lady Apsley, offering the sum of three thousand pounds if by her means he could be presented to the living. The letter was immediately communicated to the chancellor, and, after being traced to the writer, was laid before his majesty. The insult offered to so high an officer by the proposal was followed by instant punishment. Dr. Dodd's name was ordered to be struck out of the list of chaplains. The press teemed with satire and invective; he was abused and ridiculed in the papers of the day; and, to crown the whole, the transaction became a subject of entertainment in one of Mr. Foote's pieces at the Haymarket.

As no explanation could justify so absurd a measure, so no apology could palliate it. An evasive letter in the newspapers, promising a justification at a future day, was treated with universal contempt. Stung with remorse, and feelingly alive to the disgrace he had brought on himself,

he hastily quitted the place where neglect and insult attended him, and went to Geneva to his pupil, who presented him to the living of Winge, in Buckinghamshire, which he held with Hockliffe, by virtue of a dispensation. Though encumbered with debts, he might still have retrieved his circumstances, if not his character, had he attended to the lessons of prudence; but his extravagance continued undiminished, and drove him to schemes which overwhelmed him with additional infamy. He descended so low as to become the editor of a newspaper, and is said to have attempted to disengage himself from his debts by a commission of bankruptcy, in which he failed. From this period every step led to complete his ruin. In the summer of 1776 he went to France, and, with little regard to decency, paraded it in a phaeton at the races on the Plains of Sahlons, dressed in all the foppery of the kingdom in which he then resided. He returned to England about the beginning of winter, and continued to exercise the duties of his function, particularly at the Magdalen Chapel, where he still was heard with approbation, and where his last sermon was preached February 2, 1777, two days only before he signed the fatal instrument which brought him to an ignominious end.

Pressed at length by creditors, whose importunities he was unable longer to sooth, he fell upon an expedient, from the consequences of which he could not escape. He forged a bond from his pupil, Lord Chesterfield, for the sum of four thousand two hundred pounds.

The method adopted in this forgery is remarkable. He pretended that the noble lord had urgent occasion to borrow four thousand pounds, but did not choose to be his own agent, and begged that the matter

might be secretly and expeditiously conducted.

The doctor employed one Lewis Robertson, a broker, to whom he presented a bond, not filled up or signed, that he might find a person who would advance the requisite sum to a young nobleman who had lately come of age. After applying to several persons who refused the business, because they were not to be present when the bond was executed, Mr. Robertson, absolutely confiding in the doctor's honour, applied to Messrs. Fletcher and Peach, who agreed to lend the money. Mr. Robertson returned the bond to the doctor, in order to its being executed; and on the following day the doctor produced it as executed, and witnessed by himself. Mr. Robertson, knowing Mr. Fletcher to be a particular man, and who would consequently object to one subscribing witness only, put his name under the doctor's. He then went and received the money, which he paid into the hands of Dr. Dodd, four thousand pounds, and produced the bond.

Lord Chesterfield was surprised, and immediately disowned it. Upon this Mr. Manly went directly to Mr. Fletcher, to consult what steps to take. Mr. Fletcher, a Mr. Innis, and Mr. Manly, went to Guildhall, to prefer an information respecting the forgery against the broker and Dr. Dodd. Mr. Robertson was taken into custody, while Fletcher, Innis, Manly, and two of the lord mayor's officers, went to the house of the doctor in Argyle Street.

On their opening the business he was, of course, very much struck and affected. Manly told him that, if he would return the money, it would be the only means of saving him, and he instantly returned six notes of five hundred pounds each, making three thousand pounds; he drew on his

banker for five hundred pounds; the broker returned one hundred pounds, and the doctor gave a second draft on his banker for two hundred pounds, and a judgment on his goods for the remaining four hundred pounds. All this was done by the doctor in full reliance on the honour of the parties that the bond should be returned to him cancelled; but, notwithstanding this restitution, he was taken before the lord mayor, and charged as above mentioned.* The doctor declared he had no intention to defraud Lord Chesterfield or the gentleman who advanced the money, and hoped that the satisfaction he had made in returning it would atone for his offence. He was pressed, he said, exceedingly, for three hundred pounds, to pay some bills due to tradesmen; and took this step as a temporary resource, and would have repaid it in half a year. 'My Lord Chesterfield,' added he, 'cannot but have some tenderness for me, as my pupil. I love him, and he knows it. There is nobody wishes to prosecute. I am sure my Lord Chesterfield don't want my life.—I hope he will show clemency to me. Mercy should triumph over justice.' Clemency, however, was denied; and the doctor was committed to the Compter, in preparation for his trial. On the 19th of February, Dr. Dodd, being put to the bar at the Old Bailey, addressed the Court in the following words:—

'My Lords,—I am informed that the bill of indictment against me has been found on the evidence of Mr. Robertson, who was taken out of Newgate, without any authority or leave from your lordships, for the purpose of procuring the bill to be found. Mr. Robertson is a subscribing witness to the bond, and,

as I conceive, would be swearing to exculpate himself, if he should be admitted as a witness against me; and as the bill has been found upon his evidence, which was surreptitiously obtained, I submit to your lordships that I ought not to be compelled to plead on this indictment; and upon this question I beg to be heard by my counsel.

'My Lords,—I beg leave also further to observe to your lordships, that the gentlemen on the other side of the question are bound over to prosecute Mr. Robertson.'

Previous to the arguments of the counsel, an order, which had been surreptitiously obtained from an officer of the Court, dated Wednesday, February 19, and directed to the keeper of Newgate, commanding him to carry Lewis Robertson to Hicks's Hall, in order to his giving evidence before the grand inquest on the present bill of indictment—likewise a resolution of the Court, reprobating the said order—and also the recognizance entered into by Mr. Manly, Mr. Peach, Mr. Innis, and the Right Hon. the Earl of Chesterfield, to prosecute and give evidence against Dr. Dodd and Lewis Robertson for the said forgery—were ordered to be read; and the Clerk of the Arraigus was directed to inform the Court whether the name 'Lewis Robertson' was indorsed as a witness on the back of the indictment, which was answered in the affirmative.

The counsel now proceeded in their arguments for and against the prisoner. Mr. Howarth, one of Dr. Dodd's advocates, contended that not any person ought to plead or answer to an indictment, if it appears upon the face of that indictment that the evidence upon which the bill was found was not legal, or

* This was, at least, hard treatment: a conviction obtained through such means greatly diminishes its value to the public.

competent to have been adduced before the grand jury.

Mr. Cooper, counsel on the same side, followed this idea, and hoped that Dr. Dodd might not be called on to plead to the bill of indictment, and that the bill might be quashed. Mr. Buller likewise argued on the same side.

The counsel for the prosecution replied to these arguments with equal ingenuity and professional knowledge. It was now agreed that the trial should proceed, and the question respecting the competency of Robertson's evidence be reserved for the opinion of the twelve judges. Dr. Dodd was indicted for forging a bond for the payment of four thousand two hundred pounds, with intent to defraud, &c. and the facts already stated were sworn to by the respective witnesses. When the evidence was gone through, the Court called upon the doctor for his defence, which was as follows:—

‘My Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury,—Upon the evidence which has been this day produced against me I find it very difficult to address your lordships. There is no man in the world who has a deeper sense of the heinous nature of the crime for which I stand indicted than myself. I view it, my lords, in all its extent of malignancy towards a commercial state, like ours; but, my lords, I humbly apprehend, though no lawyer, that the moral turpitude and malignancy of the crime always, both in the eye of the law and of religion, consists in the intention. I am informed, my lords, that the act of parliament on this head runs perpetually in this style, ‘*with an intention to defraud.*’ Such an intention, my lords, and gentlemen of the jury, I believe, has not been attempted to be proved upon me; and the consequences that have happened, which have appeared be-

fore you, sufficiently prove that a perfect and ample restitution has been made. I leave it, my lords, to you, and the gentlemen of the jury, to consider, that, if an unhappy man ever deviates from the law of right, yet if, in the first single moment of recollection, he does all that he can to make a full and perfect amends, what, my lords, and gentlemen of the jury, can God and man desire further?

‘My Lords,—There are a variety of little circumstances, too tedious to trouble you with, with respect to this matter. Were I to give a loose to my feelings, I have many things to say which I am sure you would feel with respect to me: but, my lords, as it appears on all hands—as it appears, gentlemen of the jury, in every view—that no injury, intentional or real, has been done to any man living, I hope that, therefore, you will consider the case in its true state of clemency. I must observe to your lordships, that, though I have met with all candour in this Court, yet I have been pursued with excessive cruelty; I have been prosecuted after the most express engagements, after the most solemn assurances, after the most delusive soothing arguments of Mr. Manly; I have been prosecuted with a cruelty scarcely to be paralleled. A person avowedly criminal in the same indictment with myself has been brought forth as a capital witness against me; a fact, I believe, totally unexampled. My lords, oppressed as I am with infamy, loaded as I am with distress, sunk under this cruel prosecution, your lordships and the gentlemen of the jury cannot think life a matter of any value to me. No, my lords, I solemnly protest that death, of all blessings, would be the most pleasant to me after this pain. I have yet, my lords, ties which call upon

me—ties which render me desirous even to continue this miserable existence. I have a wife, my lords, who, for twenty-seven years, has lived an unparalleled example of conjugal attachment and fidelity, and whose behaviour during this trying scene would draw tears of approbation, I am sure, even from the most inhuman. My lords, I have creditors, honest men, who will lose much by my death. I hope, for the sake of justice towards them, some mercy will be shown to me. If, upon the whole, these considerations at all avail with you, my lords, and you gentlemen of the jury—if, upon the most impartial survey of matters, not the slightest intention of injury can appear to any one—(and I solemnly declare it was in my power to replace it in three months—of this I assured Mr. Robertson frequently, and had his solemn assurances that no man should be privy to it but Mr. Fletcher and himself)—and if no injury was done to any man upon earth—I then hope, I trust, I fully confide myself in the tenderness, humanity, and protection, of my country.

The jury retired for about ten minutes, and then returned with a verdict that ‘the prisoner was guilty;’ but at the same time presented a petition, humbly recommending the doctor to the royal mercy.

The opinion of the judges was, that he had been legally convicted.

On the last day of the sessions Dr. Dodd was again put to the bar, when the clerk of the arraigns said,

‘Dr. William Dodd, you stand convicted of forgery—what have you to say why this Court should not give you judgment to die according to law?’

In reply Dr. Dodd addressed the Court as follows:—

‘My Lord,—I now stand before you a dreadful example of human infirmity. I entered upon public life with the expectations common to young men whose education has been liberal, and whose abilities have been flattered; and, when I became a clergyman, I considered myself as not impairing the dignity of the order. I was not an idle, nor, I hope, an useless minister: I taught the truths of Christianity with the zeal of conviction and the authority of innocence.

‘My labours were approved—my pulpit became popular—and I have reason to believe, that, of those who heard me, some have been preserved from sin, and some have been reclaimed.—Condescend, my lord, to think, if these considerations aggravate my crime, how much they must embitter my punishment! Being distinguished and elevated by the confidence of mankind, I had too much confidence in myself; and, thinking my integrity—what others thought it—established in sincerity, and fortified by religion, I did not consider the danger of vanity, nor suspect the deceitfulness of mine own heart. The day of conflict came, in which temptation seized and overwhelmed me! I committed the crime, which I entreat your lordship to believe that my conscience hourly represents to me in its full bulk of mischief and malignity. Many have been overpowered by temptation, who are now among the penitent in heaven! To an act now waiting the decision of vindictive justice I will now presume to oppose the counterbalance of almost thirty years (a great part of the life of man) passed in exciting and exercising charity—in relieving such distresses as I now feel—in administering those consolations which I now want. I will not otherwise extenuate my offence than by de-

claring, what I hope will appear to many, and what many circumstances make probable, that I did not intend finally to defraud: nor will it become me to apportion my own punishment by alleging that my sufferings have been not much less than my guilt. I have fallen from reputation, which ought to have made me cautious; and from a fortune, which ought to have given me content. I am sunk at once into poverty and scorn: my name and my crime fill the ballads in the streets; the sport of the thoughtless, and the triumph of the wicked! It may seem strange, my lord, that, remembering what I have lately been, I should still wish to continue what I am! but contempt of death, how speciously soever it may mingle with heathen virtues, has nothing in it suitable to Christian penitence. Many motives impel me to beg earnestly for life. I feel the natural horror of a violent death, the universal dread of untimely dissolution. I am desirous to recompense the injury I have done to the clergy, to the world, and to religion; and to efface the scandal of my crime by the example of my repentance: but, above all, I wish to die with thoughts more composed, and calmer preparation. The gloom and confusion of a prison, the anxiety of a trial, the horrors of suspense, and the inevitable vicissitudes of passion, leave not the mind in a due disposition for the holy exercises of prayer and self-examination. Let not a little life be denied me, in which I may, by meditation and contrition, pre-

pare myself to stand at the tribunal of Omnipotence, and support the presence of that Judge who shall distribute to all according to their works—who will receive and pardon the repenting sinner, and from whom the merciful shall obtain mercy. For these reasons, my lords, amidst shame and misery, I yet wish to live; and most humbly implore that I may be recommended by your lordship to the clemency of his majesty.'

Here he sunk down overcome with mental agony; and some time elapsed before he was sufficiently recovered to hear the dreadful sentence of the law, which the Recorder pronounced upon him in the following words:—

' Doctor William Dodd,—You have been convicted of the offence of publishing a forged and counterfeit bond, knowing it to be forged and counterfeited;* and you have had the advantage which the laws of this country afford to every man in that situation—a fair, an impartial, and an attentive trial. The jury, to whose justice you appealed, have found you guilty; their verdict has undergone the consideration of the learned judges, and they found no ground to impeach the justice of that verdict: you yourself have admitted the justice of it; and now the very painful duty that the necessity of the law imposes upon the Court, to pronounce the sentence of that law against you, remains only to be performed. You appear to entertain a very proper sense of the enormity of the offence which you

* The following extract from Dr. Dodd's sermons will show the unfortunate man's opinion on this subject, while, perhaps, contemplating the very crime for which he suffered. He says—

' It would be easy to show the injustice of those laws which demand blood for the slightest offences; the superior justice and propriety of inflicting perpetual and laborious servitude; the greater utility hereof to the sufferer, as well as to the state, especially wherein we have a variety of necessary occupations, peculiarly noxious and prejudicial to the lives of the honest and industrious, and in which they might be employed who had forfeited their lives and their liberties to society.'

have committed : you appear, too, in a state of contrition of mind, and, I doubt not, have duly reflected how far the dangerous tendency of the offence you have been guilty of is increased by the influence of example, in being committed by a person of your character, and of the sacred function of which you are a member. These sentiments seem to be yours : I would wish to cultivate such sentiments ; but I would not wish to add to the anguish of a person in your situation by dwelling upon it. Your application for mercy must be made elsewhere ; it would be cruel in the Court to flatter you ; there is a power of dispensing mercy, where you may apply. Your own good sense, and the contrition you express, will induce you to lessen the influence of the example by publishing your hearty and sincere detestation of the offence of which you are convicted ; and that you will not attempt to palliate or extenuate, which would indeed add to the degree of the influence of a crime of this kind being committed by a person of your character and known abilities. I would therefore warn you against any thing of that kind. Now, having said this, I am obliged to pronounce the sentence of the law, which is—" That you, Doctor William Dodd, be carried from hence to the place from whence you came ; that from thence you are to be carried to the place of execution, when you are to be hanged by the neck until you are dead." To this Dr. Dodd replied, ' Lord Jesus receive my soul !'

Great exertions were now made to save Dr. Dodd. The newspapers were filled with letters and paragraphs in his favour. Individuals of all ranks exerted themselves in his behalf, the members of several charities which had been benefitted by him joined in application to the

throne for mercy ; parish officers went in mourning from house to house, to procure subscriptions to a petition to the king ; and this petition, which, with the names of nearly thirty thousand persons, filled twenty-three sheets of parchment, was actually presented. Even the lord mayor and common council went in a body to St. James's, to solicit mercy for the convict. These were, however, of no avail. On the 15th of June the privy council assembled, and deliberated on the cases of the several prisoners then under condemnation ; and in the end a warrant was ordered to be made out for the execution of Dr. Dodd, with two others (one of whom was afterwards reprieved), on the 27th of the same month.

Having been flattered with the hopes of a pardon, he appeared to be much shocked at the intimation of his approaching destiny ; but resumed in a short time a degree of fortitude, sufficient to enable him to pass through the last scene of his life with firmness and decency. On the 26th he took leave of his wife and some friends, after which he declared himself ready to atone for the offence he had given to the world. His deportment was meek, humble, and devout, expressive of resignation and contrition, and calculated to inspire sentiments of respect for his person, and concern for his unhappy fate.

He was attended to the fatal spot, in a mourning-coach, by the Rev. Mr. Vilette, Ordinary of Newgate, and the Rev. Mr. Dobey. Another criminal, named John Harris, was executed at the same time. It is impossible to give an idea of the immense crowds of people that thronged the streets from Newgate to Tyburn. When the prisoners arrived at the fatal tree, and were placed in the cart, Dr. Dodd ex-

horted his fellow-sufferer in so generous a manner as testified that he had not forgotten the duty of a clergyman, and was very fervent in the exercise of his own devotions. Just before the parties were turned off the doctor whispered the executioner. What he said is not ascertained; but it was observed that the man had no sooner driven away the cart than he ran immediately under the gibbet, and took hold of the doctor's legs, as if to steady the body, and the unhappy man appeared to die without pain.

Of his behaviour before execution a particular account was given by Mr. Villette, Ordinary of Newgate, in the following terms:—

‘On the morning of his death I went to him, with the Rev. Mr. Dobey, Chaplain of the Magdalen, whom he had desired to attend him to the place of execution. He appeared composed; and, when I asked him how he had been supported, he said he had had some comfortable sleep, by which he should be the better enabled to perform his duty.

‘As we went from his room in our way to the chapel, we were joined by his friend, who had spent the foregoing evening with him, and also by another clergyman. When we were in the vestry adjoining to the chapel, he exhorted his fellow-sufferer, who had attempted to destroy himself, but had been prevented by the vigilance of the keeper. He spoke to him with great tenderness and emotion of heart, entreating him to consider that he had but a short time to live, and that it was highly necessary that he, as well as himself, made good use of their time, implored pardon of God under a deep sense of sin, and looked to that Lord by whose merits alone sinners could be saved. He desired me to call in the other gentlemen, who likewise

assisted him to move the heart of the poor youth: but the doctor's words were the most pathetic and effectual. He lifted up his hands, and cried out “O Lord Jesus! have mercy upon us! and give, O give unto him, my fellow-sinner, that, as we suffer together, we may go together to heaven!” His conversation to this poor youth was so moving, that tears flowed from the eyes of all present.

‘When we went into the chapel to prayer and the holy communion, true contrition and warmth of devotion appeared evident in him throughout the whole service. After it was ended, he again addressed himself to Harris in the most moving and persuasive manner, and not without effect; for he declared that he was glad he had not made away with himself, and said he was easier, and hoped he should now go to heaven. The doctor told him how Christ had suffered for them; and that he himself was a greater sinner than he, as he had sinned more against light and conviction, and therefore his guilt was greater; and that, as he was confident that mercy was shown to his soul, so he should look to Christ, and trust in his merits.

‘He prayed God to bless his friends who were present with him, and to give his blessing to all his brethren the clergy; that he would pour out his Spirit upon them, and make them true ministers of Jesus Christ, and that they might follow the divine precepts of their heavenly Master. Turning to one who stood near him, he stretched out his hand, and said, “Now, my dear friend, speculation is at an end; all must be real! What poor ignorant beings we are!” He prayed for the Magdalens, and wished they were there, to sing for him the 23d Psalm.

‘After he had waited some time for the officers, he asked what o'clock

it was; and, being told that it was half an hour after eight, he said "I wish they were ready, for I long to be gone." He requested of his friends, who were in tears about him, to pray for him; to which he was answered, by two of them, "We pray more than language can utter." He replied "I believe it."

'At length he was summoned to go down into a part of the yard which is enclosed from the rest of the gaol, where the two unhappy convicts and the friends of the doctor were alone. On his seeing two prisoners looking out of the windows, he went to them, and exhorted them so pathetically, that they both wept abundantly. He said once, "I am now a spectacle to men, and shall soon be a spectacle to angels."

'Just before the sheriff's officers came with the halters, one who was walking with him told him that there was yet a little ceremony he must pass through before he went out. He asked "What is that?" "You will be bound." He looked up, and said, "Yet I am free; my freedom is there," pointing upwards. He bore it with Christian patience, and beyond what might have been expected; and, when the men* offered to excuse tying his hands, he desired them to do their duty, and thanked them for their kindness. After he was bound, I offered to assist him with my arm in conducting him through the yard, where several people were assembled to see him; but he replied, with seeming pleasure, "No, I am as firm as a rock."

As he passed along the yard, the spectators and prisoners wept and bemoaned him; and he, in return, prayed God to bless them.

'On the way to execution he consoled himself in reflecting and speaking on what Christ had suffered for him; lamented the depravity of human nature, which made sanguinary laws necessary; and said he could gladly have died in the prison-yard, as being led out to public execution tended greatly to distress him. He desired me to read to him the 51st Psalm, and also pointed out an admirable penitential prayer from "Rossell's Prisoner's Director." He prayed again for the king, and likewise for the people.

'When he came near the street where he formerly dwelt he was much affected, and wept. He said, probably his tears would seem to be the effect of cowardice, but it was a weakness he could not well help; and added, he hoped he was going to a better home.

'When he arrived at the gallows he ascended the cart, and spoke to his fellow-sufferer. He then prayed, not only for himself, but also for his wife, and the unfortunate youth that suffered with him; and, declaring that he died in the true faith of the Gospel of Christ, in perfect love and charity with all mankind, and with thankfulness to his friends, he was launched into eternity, imploring mercy for his soul for the sake of his blessed Redeemer.†

His corpse, on the Monday fol-

* 'It was done in the passage leading to the chapel, by order of Mr. Akerman, the keeper, to prevent his being gazed at; to whom he desired I would return his sincere thanks for all his civilities to him, even to the last.'

† The following paper was intended to have been read by Mr. Villette at the place of execution, but was omitted, as it seemed not possible to communicate the knowledge of it to so great a number of persons as were then assembled:—

'To the words of dying men regard has always been paid. I am brought hither to suffer death for an act of fraud, of which I confess myself guilty with shame, such as my former state of life naturally produces, and I hope with such sorrow as He, to whom the heart is known, will not disregard. I repent that I have violated the laws

lowing, was carried to Cowley, in Buckinghamshire, and deposited in the church there.

During the doctor's confinement in Newgate (a period of several months) he chiefly employed himself in writing various pieces, which show at once his piety and talent. The principal of these were his 'Thoughts in Prison,' in five parts, from which we cannot doubt but that our readers, in finishing our life of so eminent, yet unfortunate, a man, will be gratified in a few short extracts. 'I began these Thoughts,' says the unhappy man, writing in Newgate, under date of the 23d of April, 1777, after his condemnation, 'merely from the impression of my mind, without plan, purpose, or motive, more than the situation of my soul.

'I continued thence on a thoughtful and regular plan; and I have been enabled wonderfully, in a state which, in better days, I should have supposed would have destroyed all power of reflection, to bring them nearly to a conclusion. I dedicate

them to God, and the reflecting serious among my fellow-creatures; and I bless the Almighty for the ability to go through them amidst the terrors of this dire place (Newgate), and the bitter anguish of my disconsolate mind! The thinking will easily pardon all inaccuracies, as I am neither able nor willing to read over these melancholy lines with a curious or critical eye. They are imperfect, but in the language of the heart; and, had I time and inclination, might, and should be, improved.—But——

(Signed) 'W. D.'

The unfortunate author's Thoughts on his Imprisonment are thus introduced:—

'My friends are gone! harsh on its sullen hinge
Grates the dread door: the massy bolts respond
Tremendous to the surly keeper's touch:
The dire keys clang, with movement dull and slow,
While their behest the pond'rous locks perform:
And, fasten'd firm, the object of their care
Is left to solitude—to sorrow left.

by which peace and confidence are established among men; I repent that I have attempted to injure my fellow-creatures; and I repeat that I have brought disgrace upon my order, and discredit upon religion: but my offences against God are without number, and can admit only of general confession and general repentance. Grant, Almighty God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, that my repentance, however late, however imperfect, may not be in vain!

'The little good that now remains in my power is to warn others against those temptations by which I have been seduced. I have always sinned against conviction; my principles have never been shaken; I have always considered the Christian religion as a revelation from God, and its divine Author as the Saviour of the world; but the laws of God, though never disowned by me, have often been forgotten. I was led astray from religious strictness by the delusion of show and the delights of voluptuousness. I never knew or attended to the calls of frugality, or the needful minuteuess of painful economy. Vanity and pleasure, into which I plunged, required expense disproportionate to my income; expense brought distress upon me; and distress, importunate distress, urged me to temporary fraud.

'For this fraud I am to die; and I die declaring, in the most solemn manner, that, however I have deviated from my own precepts, I have taught others, to the best of my knowledge, and with all sincerity, the true way to eternal happiness. My life, for some few unhappy years past, has been dreadfully erroneous; but my ministry has been always sincere. I have constantly believed; and I now leave the world, solemnly avowing my conviction that there is no other name under Heaven by which we can be saved but only the name of the Lord Jesus; and I entreat all who are here to join with me in my last petition, that, for the sake of that Lord Jesus Christ, my sins may be forgiven, and my soul received into his everlasting kingdom.

'June 27, 1777.'

'WILLIAM DODD.'

' But wherefore fasten'd ? Oh ! still
stronger bonds
Than bolts or locks, or doors of molten
brass,
To solitude and sorrow could consign
His anguish'd soul, and prison him, tho'
free !
For whither should he fly, or where pro-
duce,
In open day and to the golden sun,
His hapless head ? whence every laurel
torn,
On his bald brow sits grinning Infamy :
And all in sportive triumph twines around
The keen, the stinging, arrows of disgrace.'

After dwelling on the miseries of
that dreary confinement, at sight of
which he formerly started back with
horror, while his bosom partner
(his wife) armed him with antidotes
when Christian calls brought him
to that den of death, he adds,

' O dismal change ! now not in friendly
sort
A Christian visitor to pour the balm
Of Christian comfort in some wretch's
ear !—
I am that wretch myself ! and want, much
want,
That Christian consolation I bestow'd ;
So cheerfully bestowed !—want, want, my
God,
From thee the mercy, from my fellow-man
The lenient mercy, which, thou know'st,
my gladsome soul
Ever sprang forth with transport to im-
part.

' Why then, mysterious Providence,
pursued
With such unfeeling ardour ! Why
pursued
To death's dread bourn, by men to me
unknown ?
Why ?—Stop the deep question ; it o'er-
whelms my soul ;
It reels, it staggers ! Earth turns round ;
my brain
Whirls in confusion ! My impetuous
heart
Throbs with pulsations not to be restrain'd.
Why ?—Where ?—O Chesterfield, my son,
my son !'

Whether the writer was warranted
in adopting the last words of David
on Absalom, considering the wide
difference of their situations, may
be questioned ; yet great allowance
is to be made for him, circumstanced
as he was ; and, so soon after his
trial, he must have been more than
man not to have retained some
resentment against his prosecutors,
especially his pupil, Stanhope, Earl
of Chesterfield, however innocent,
however justifiable. If his lordship
felt as a man, his situation as an
evidence was truly pitiable.—We
hope he did.

The unfortunate divine thus pro-
ceeds :—

' Nay, talk not of composure ! I had
thought,
In older time, that my weak heart was
soft,
And Pity's self might break it. I had
thought
That marble-eyed Severity would crack
The slender nerves which guide my reins
of sense,
And give me up to madness ! 'Tis not
so ;
My heart is callous, and my nerves are
tough :
It will not break ; they will not crack ; or
else
What more, just Heaven ! was wanting
to the deed,
Than to behold—Oh ! that eternal night
Had in that moment screened me from
myself !
My Stanhope to behold ! Ah ! piercing
sight !
Forget it ; 'tis distraction. speak who
can !
But I am lost ! a criminal adjudged !'

This was pleading that would
have operated most sensibly in his
favour, had not the writer com-
mitted a crime rarely to be forgiven
in a commercial country.

PETER CEPPI,

EXECUTED FOR MALICIOUSLY SHOOTING AT HENRIETTA KNIGHTLEY.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in February, 1778, Peter Ceppi, otherwise Scipio, was in-
dicted for maliciously, &c. shooting

at Henrietta Knightley, with a pistol loaded with gunpowder and a leaden bullet, in the dwelling-house of James Draper, &c.

The prisoner, being a foreigner, was allowed a jury of half foreigners and half Englishmen; and, not perfectly understanding our language, an interpreter was sworn.

Henrietta Knightley deposed that the prisoner came to her lodgings between ten and eleven in the morning of the 18th of January, and, entering her room, while she was in bed, said '*he was come to do her business,*' or words to that effect. He desired her to get out of bed. She did so; he pulled two pistols from his pocket, but returned one: she went towards the door, with a view to get out. He stood with his back to the door; she asked him to go out and eat some breakfast with her: he answered '*he would have no breakfast; he would give her a good one.*' She then called to Mrs. Robinson, who was in care of the house, and told her that the man had a pistol. The prisoner immediately cocked his pistol, which the prosecutrix desired him to put away; for, if any one saw it, he would be hanged. She then drew as close to the curtain as she could. The prisoner, running towards her, fired the pistol; she was sensible of the stroke of the ball, and fell against the wainscot. The prisoner then threw himself on the bed; and she heard another pistol go off, but did not see it in his hand. On this a washerwoman came up, and, breaking the lower panel of the bed-chamber door, dragged her through the aperture; and the prisoner, following by the same way, quitted the house.

Sarah Collings deposed that she lived in the house; that she saw Mrs. Knightley standing at the chamber door; that her breast was

naked; that the blood was running down, and that she helped her to a chair.

Elizabeth Robinson proved that she had the care of Mr. Draper's house;—that the prisoner came thither, and, running to Mrs. Knightley's bed-chamber, fastened the door;—that, finding the door fast, she tried to open it, but, not being able, called to the prisoner to do so; but that he answered '*he would not, for she was his wife.*'

After reciting other particulars, she deposed that she saw Mrs. Knightley on the landing-place, who exclaimed '*See how the villain has murdered me!*'—Mrs. Robinson deposed that, on Mrs. Knightley's opening her handkerchief, she saw the blood running down.

Mr. Williams, a surgeon, deposed that he found the lady sitting in a chair with a wound in her breast; that it looked like a gun-shot wound; that the ball passed through the cavity of the thorax, and lodged about eight inches distant in the side; that he presumed it missed the lungs, and he found it lodged in the integuments; and that, making an incision, and extracting the ball, he found some linen or wadding after enlarging the wound.

The prisoner, in his defence, said that he had lived ten months with the prosecutrix in the house of Mrs. Cross, and that she had promised him marriage; but that she moved from her lodgings, and cohabited with a Jew;—that in her last lodgings she promised him marriage the day before the unfortunate affair took place;—that she had frequently supplied him with money; and that he went to her lodgings with a view to kill himself rather than her; and he even appealed to her for the truth of this circumstance.

The prosecutrix being interrogated as to this particular, she said

'she did not know what he meant to do, but that he shot her with a pistol.' Being asked if she believed he came with intent to kill himself, she said 'she did not know whether he might, or might not, with the other pistol.'

Louisa Cross proved that the prisoner and the prosecutrix lodged together in her house; that they cohabited till within a month of the unfortunate transaction; and that Mrs. Knightley had spoken to the prisoner in her house only two days before the affair happened. She added that she understood they were married, and knew not to the contrary till the prosecutrix told her so after they had left her house.

On consideration of the whole matter the jury gave a verdict of 'guilty,' and the prisoner received sentence of death. He was executed at Tyburn, May 22, 1778.

The crime of this man, although very enormous, is not without some slight mitigation, when we consider him as actuated by the madness of ungovernable passion. He certainly loved the prosecutrix to distraction, and found his life a burden without the possession of her. From this tale then, beyond almost any one in our Calendar, we are taught the necessity of keeping a strict guard over our passions if we would wish to pass through life agreeably to the laws of religion and virtue.

MARY KNIGHT,

1. EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HER CHILD.

THOUGH we have before had the painful task of relating instances of women murdering their offspring, yet the commission of such unnatural barbarity has generally happened with such unfortunate females as have been seduced and betrayed, and, in that wretched situation, vainly hoped to conceal their shame. But the case of Mary Knight seems without any motive; on the contrary, nothing short of wanton brutality appears to have led her on; and, to add to the horror of the tale, she was convicted chiefly on the evidence of her younger son, a child not nine years old.

The story of the child was credible. He said that his mother sent his brother into the stubble-fields to glean; that when he came home his mother beat him in a most cruel manner with a great stick, for not bringing more corn; that he cried sadly, and she shut him up in the pantry; that some time after the witness called to him to come and play, but he made no answer;

that he opened the pantry door, took hold of his hand, and it felt cold.

Then the child farther said that he went to his mother, and told her that Roger (the deceased) felt cold, and begged her to let him come to the fire. His mother then went into the pantry, and brought Roger, wrapped up in her apron, and carried him out of doors: she shut the door after her, but he looked under it, and saw her throw him into the well; that, when she came in again, she put the stick she had beat him with into the fire; that, before it was entirely consumed, the neighbours came in, who immediately took the deceased out of the well, and the stick out of the fire.

The latter part of the child's evidence, respecting the dead body and the stick with which his brother had been beaten, was corroborated by the neighbours, and the burnt stick was produced in court. On this evidence she was convicted, and executed at Warwick on the 24th of August, 1778.



Roach and his Companions stealing a Leaden Coffin.

GEORGE ROACH, ROBERT ELLIOT, AND JONAS PARKER,
CONVICTED OF ROBEING A GRAVE.

THE robbing of churches has ever been deemed sacrilegious by all who have professed any veneration for the duties and obligations of religion. The idea of disturbing the ashes of the dead has something in it abhorrent to the feelings of human nature and to the dictates of Christian piety. When the clay-cold body is committed to the tomb, we presume that it is to rest in peace till the final renovation of all things; nor can the surviving friends and relations easily pardon those who violate the mansions of the dead, and make a jest of the rites of sepulture.

These men were indicted at the Old Bailey in April, 1778:—the two former for stealing a leaden coffin, of three hundred pounds' weight, value

five pounds, the property of William Thornton Asten, Esq.; and Parker for receiving fifty pounds' weight of the lead, value five shillings, knowing the same to have been stolen. The second count in the indictment laid the lead to be the property of the parishioners of Aldermanbury, and stolen by Roach and Elliot; and the third count charged Jonas Parker with receiving it, being the property of the parishioners of Aldermanbury, well knowing it to have been stolen.

William Thornton Aston, Esq. deposed that, on the 1st of January preceding, his brother was interred in a leaden coffin in the church of Aldermanbury; that the coffin was stolen out of the church, and was missed on the 7th of March.

James Gould, who had been admitted an evidence, deposed that Roach, Elliot, and himself, were journeymen carpenters, working under Mr. Augurs in the repair of the church. He said that on Friday, the 6th of March, he and Roach went into the vault, and unscrewed all the screws of Mr. Thornton's coffin except two, after which they returned to the work; and that, afterwards, themselves and Elliot agreed to work again on the coffin.

On the Saturday morning they went to the church, and about five o'clock a watchman followed them in, and desired a door to be planed, which was done by Gould. The accomplices then loosened the other screws, and turned the coffins bottom upwards, taking off the outside coffin, and leaving only the shell. They then cut the leaden coffin in pieces, and, replacing the other coffin on the shell, screwed it down again.

These transactions occupied them till near eight in the morning, when they took the pieces of the coffin, and, having concealed them under the children's gallery, they conferred on selling what they had stolen; when Elliot mentioned Parker, in Grub Street, as a likely purchaser.

The lead being in two pieces, Gould put one of them in a bag, and took it away, and the other was put in a basket, and carried by one of the accomplices. When they got to London Wall, Elliot beckoned Gould, and they went to a shop, where they offered the lead to sale to a person who refused to be the purchaser. They then went to Parker's, who weighed the lead, without asking them any questions; said it was forty-two pounds, and paid them three shillings and sixpence for it, being at the rate of a penny a pound. When they were going away with the empty bag,

Mr. Augurs's apprentice came in and seized on Gould, desiring Parker, who was a constable, to assist in conveying him and Elliot to Mr. Augurs's. Parker said, 'You had better go to your master, and try to make the matter up.' They went, and were all charged with the felony. Parker said 'Give them a *trevalle* for it.'

Gould, being asked what he understood by that term, said he did not exactly know what it meant, but supposed it was a hint to attempt making their escape; on which they made a run for it (to use his own words), and Parker likewise ran away; but they were stopped, and taken into custody, before they had got to any considerable distance.

John Brotherous, apprentice to Mr. Augurs, confirmed so much of the former testimony as related to himself. He said that, passing by London Wall about eight in the morning, he saw Roach coming down Wood Street with a basket on his back; and that Roach, seeing him, crossed over the street. Brotherous demanded what he had with him: he said his tools, and turned round, as if to prevent his looking in his basket; but he did look in, and saw there was lead; on which he seized Roach, and sent for a constable to take him into custody. This was the occasion of his going to the house of Parker, whom he knew to be a constable. On his arrival at Parker's, he met with Gould and Elliot coming out of the house with empty sacks; on which he supposed they had sold something there.

He charged Parker with the prisoners; but he said, 'You had better go to your master quietly, and make the affair up.' Brotherous told his master what had passed; and he caused all the prisoners to be ap-

prehended, who endeavored to make their escape as the proper officer was conveying them to the Compter.

Mr. Reynolds, an undertaker, deposed that he buried Mr. Thornton in a leaden coffin; that he surveyed the vault on the 7th of March, when the coffin was missing; that he compared the pieces that were found at Parker's with the rest of the coffin, that was found under the gallery of the church; and, when all were beaten together into the same form, they made out the shape and quantity of Mr. Thornton's coffin. The plate, with Mr. Thornton's name on it, was found in Roach's chest; the lead, to the weight of fifty-two pounds, was found under the counter in Parker's shop; and this deponent added that it was a sort of lead worked in a fashion peculiar to coffins, and that people in the trade knew very well that it was coffin lead.

Isaac Mather deposed that old lead was worth about thirteen shillings and sixpence the hundred weight, or three halfpence the pound.

By way of defence, Roach said that Gould put the lead into his basket, but that he knew nothing of its being stolen. Elliot likewise

denied all knowledge of the stealing of the lead, and said he never received any money or other thing on account of it, but was in Parker's shop buying a hinge for his own use, and was astonished when he saw Gould there, and still more at his master's apprentice giving charge of him.

Parker's defence was, that the evidence came into his shop to sell some lead, which he did not know was stolen;—that when he had weighed, and was paying for it, Mr. Angurs's apprentice entered, and gave him charge of the prisoners; and that, when at the master's house, he charged him likewise; but that he immediately mentioned where the two pieces were which he had bought; in consequence of which they were found.

All the prisoners called persons who gave them good characters; but the jury, having fully considered the nature of the evidence, gave a verdict that they were guilty, in consequence of which, at the close of the sessions, Roach and Elliot were sentenced to labour three years on the Thames, and Parker to be imprisoned for a like term.

FRANCIS LEWIS, OTHERWISE GRIMISON,

EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey in April, 1778, Francis Lewis, otherwise Grimison, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Thomas Edmondson, Esq. on the night of the 14th of March preceeding, and stealing a gold ring set with diamonds, value forty pounds, and a variety of plate, and other valuable articles, to a very large amount.

The prisoner was butler in the family; his master was out of town, and had discharged the footman be-

fore he went. Grimison and three maids were all the servants that were left in the house with Mrs. Edmondson. The prisoner, who was a married man, had asked for permission to go and see his wife. He returned about ten at night. Mary Giles, the cook, fastened the door of the area a little before one in the morning. The prisoner slept in the pantry; so that she went to bed, and left him in the kitchen.

About three in the morning, as the watchman was passing, he heard

a pistol fired in Mr. Edmond's house, on which he rattled with his stick against the iron bars of the area, near which the prisoner lay; but, receiving no answer, he cried the hour; and at half past three, as he was going his rounds, he heard the prisoner cry out '*O Lord! I shall be dead!*' The watchman called out to know what was the matter; and the prisoner answered 'there were rogues, villains, in the house, and he should be dead.' The watchman then asked why he did not open the door. He said 'he could not, for he was tied.'

On this the watchman knocked till two servant-maids came down, who found the prisoner tied in his bed, both his hands being tied to his ancles. He said that the house had been broken open;—that 'there were three men came in;—that the age of two of them was from thirty to six-and-thirty, and the other from twenty to four-and-twenty;—that they had great coats on, and flapped hats;—that one held a knife to him, and stood over him all the time, while the other two robbed the house.'

Mary Robson, one of the above-mentioned servant-maids, deposed that the prisoner said 'three men came in, and he fired a pistol at one; and then they tied his hands and legs, and asked where his mistress's jewels were, and where his mistress lay. That then they took the plate out of the closet.' She farther deposed 'that he said that the plate was all carried away;—that they insisted on having the key, and he gave it to them out of his pocket;—that they doubled a silver tea-board together, tied it up in a table-cloth, and carried it away.'

Information of this transaction having been given at Bow Street, three persons were apprehended,

supposed to be those that the prisoner had described; but they were discharged, on his saying they were not the men who robbed his master.

On the day after the robbery was committed, Mr. Clarke went from Sir John Fielding's office, to examine how the burglary had been committed. When he came to Mr. Edmond's house, he saw the prisoner sitting by the fire, and having two marks, as if cut with a knife. Mr. Clarke took him to the area, on the outside of which was a brick a little broken, on which the robbers were supposed to have stepped. Clarke desired the cook to put up the shutters as they were on the preceding night. She did so. He asked if they were bolted or barred: she said she would not swear that she bolted the place, but would swear that she barred it.

Clarke observed that the bar was a little broke, and that it went into a tenter-hook, which must have been wrenched if the place had been forced open: but the most remarkable circumstance was this:—a pane of glass was broken, on the inside of which was a cobweb, which was in such a direction that it must have been carried away if any one had come through the window.

Clarke now examined the door, and, finding that all the force which had been used was on the inside, he had no doubt but that the robbery had been committed by some person within the house; on which he told Mr. and Mrs. Edmond his opinion of the affair; but the latter seemed very unwilling to admit even a suspicion to the prejudice of the prisoner.

Mr. Clarke then showed the lady the place, and asked her if she had given the prisoner leave to go out on the preceding night. She said she had permitted him to go and see his wife. Clarke, finding that

he was married, said, 'Depend on it the things are at his wife's;' and having obtained a direction where she had lodged, he dispatched Charles Jealous and another person to the house of a grocer in Goswell Street. There they learned that she was removed to Holywell Street, Clare Market, where they found her, having in her possession a large trunk, with a quantity of plate and clothes in it.

The woman, being taken before Sir John Fielding, acknowledged that she was wife to the prisoner; that they were his lodgings; and that he himself had taken them.

In the interim the husband was taken into custody by Clarke, who desired him to acquaint him where

the rest of the plate was, that no imputation might lay against the characters of the other servants. On this he acknowledged that he had thrown it into the cistern of his master's house. Hereupon Clarke went to the house, and found the plate at the bottom of the cistern; and, among other articles, a large waiter, bent double.

This, and many other pieces of plate, were produced in court, and sworn to by the prosecutor; on which the jury gave a verdict that the prisoner was guilty of stealing the goods in the dwelling-house; and at the close of the sessions he received sentence of death. He was executed at Tyburn on the 24th of June, 1778.

THOMAS HORNER AND JAMES FRYER,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

ABOUT one o'clock in the night between the 1st and the 2d of March, 1778, Thomas Horner, James Fryer, Henry Jordan,* and two other villains, forced the bolts and locks of the back door of Mr. Clewen's house, which they entered, and robbed of twenty-two guineas, a twenty and a thirty pound bank-note, a quantity of plate, several gold rings, a silver watch, and other property, to a considerable amount. They were a long time in the house, and, though they had disguised themselves, several of the family so exactly described their persons, that Sir John Fielding's officers readily concluded by whom the robbery was committed, and pursued speedy and successful measures for their apprehension.

At the first sessions held at the Old Bailey after the commission of the robbery, the prisoners were brought to trial; and, at their re-

quest, the witnesses were examined apart.

William Quick, servant to Mr. Clewen, swore that between twelve and one o'clock at night, between the 1st and 2d of March, he and the other men-servants were alarmed by the maid calling 'William Carter, for God's sake, get up!' That he heard a noise upon the stairs, and leaped out of bed, when four or five armed men rushed into the room, and, by threats of instant death, compelled them all to cover their heads with the bed-clothes; that for some time after he heard the voices of two men, who remained in the room to watch them (as they supposed) while the others rifled the house; and that, when these men went away, they said they were going for some victuals, and should return in a quarter of an hour.

Richard Clewen deposed that, hearing a terrible noise in the house,

* This man was convicted with Turner and Davis for the burglary at Copenhagen House.

he rose from his bed, almost at which instant three men entered his room, and, having thrown the clothes over his head, one of them struck him on the back with something which he supposed to be an iron bar; that the villains then went into all the other rooms on the same floor, after which two of them forced him to get out of bed, and to hold his hands before his eyes, while they conducted him to his father's bed in an adjoining room; that, after lying about half an hour, during which time he believed his father and himself were watched by two of the men, he was told he might return to his own bed, and that 'he need not hold his hands before his eyes, as there was no person present whom they were afraid of his seeing';—that, upon returning to his own bed, he saw a man in the passage, whom he believed to be Fryer, who had a handkerchief tied across his face, but not so as entirely to conceal his features. This deponent added that a man, whom he believed to be Horner, afterwards came to his bed-side, and said that, if he would declare where the money was concealed, his watch, which had been taken from under his pillow, and laid on a chair, should not be taken from him; that about a quarter of an hour after the villains were gone he went down stairs, and found the door at the foot of the stairs fastened, by a staple being driven over the latch; that this door being forced open by himself and the servants, they discovered that the robbers had entered by the back door, the staple for receiving the bolt of which had been forced off, and was lying at some distance from the door.

Anne Clewen deposed that three men entered her room, and obliged her to cover her head with the bed-clothes, and that Jordan was one of them: and Elizabeth Goodman,

Mr. Clewen's maid-servant, who lay on the first floor, in the room where her mistress slept, confirmed that young lady's evidence as to the number of the men, and the threats they used; and she positively swore to the person of Condon.

This witness further said, that, being alarmed by an uncommon noise in the house, she went out of the chamber, and saw three men rushing up stairs; upon which she called to the men-servants, who lay in the garret.

John Parsons deposed that he and three other men-servants to Mr. Clewen lay in the fore garret, which was entered by five men, who threatened to murder them if they attempted resistance; and that Condon struck William Quick on the head, saying 'Lie still, you bloody thief!' and covered him over with the bed-clothes.

William Carter and Thomas Gregory, the other servants, swore that five men entered the room: the former was positive that Fryer and Condon were two of the villains; and the other swore to the person of Condon only.

Mr. Clewen's daughter and maid saw only three of the robbers; but his son and all the men servants saw five.

John Bardolph swore that on the general fast, two days preceding that on which Mr. Clewen's house was broke open, he saw Fryer at a public house near Finchley Church, and that he asked several questions concerning Mr. Clewen's family and circumstances; and Robert Dodd deposed that he saw the last witness and Fryer in conversation on the fast-day at the public house near the church; and that the next evening he saw Fryer in company with another man upon Finchley Common.

Fryer occupied a small house in

the City Road, where he was apprehended; and in the house were found a number of picklock keys, and a hanger. Horner was apprehended at his lodgings in Perkins's Rents, Westminster, and a cutlass found concealed in his bed. In the room where Jordan was apprehended, at an inn in the Borough, were found two hangers. Condon was taken at an alehouse in King Street, Gravel Lane, but nothing was found upon him of a suspicious nature.

The prisoners, in general terms, declared themselves innocent of the charge alleged against them; but

the jury brought in their verdict 'guilty.' Jordan received sentence of death for the burglary at Copenhagen House, and the others for that at Mr. Clewen's. Upon the sacrament being administered to Horner and Fryer, they declared that Condon was not concerned with them in the fact of which they had been convicted, and therefore a respite was granted him on the evening preceding the day appointed for his execution.

On Wednesday, the 24th of June, 1773, James Fryer and Thomas Horner were executed at Tyburn, agreeably to their sentence.

MARY WEST, *ALIAS* GROVES,

CONVICTED OF STEALING.

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in July, 1778, Mary West, otherwise Groves, was indicted for stealing a silk purse, two crown pieces, and four shillings and sixpence, the property of John Bastin.

The fact was this:—Mrs. Bastin was the wife of a glover in the Strand. Curiosity had led her among the crowd that had assembled to see the Earl of Chatham lie in state. On the 8th of June, about four in the afternoon, she was in Old Palace Yard, when the prisoner, and a woman whom she called her aunt, stood near her. The prisoner offered her assistance in her getting in to see his lordship lying in state; but Mrs. Bastin said she had been there on the preceding day.* Almost immediately she felt the prisoner's hand in her pocket, and could have seized it in that situation, but that, waiting to pull off her glove, Miss West had in the mean time conveyed away her purse. She was charged with the robbery, but denied it.

Mr. Lucas, high constable of Westminster, who well knew Miss West, came up at this juncture, and inquired what was the matter. Mrs. Bastin told him that the prisoner had got her purse; on which he secured her, and took her to the lobby, where Mrs. Bastin saw her put the purse on a ledge, whence Mr. Lucas took it, and the prosecutrix claimed it as her property, mentioned the money that was in it, and likewise that it contained a baker's bill for bread for the family for a week.

On this Miss West was taken into custody, and lodged in prison till the succeeding Wednesday, when she was conveyed to the office in Bow Street, where the purse was produced, the facts were sworn to, and the offender was committed for trial.

At the Old Bailey Mrs. Bastin positively swore to a crown-piece which had a particular ent in it, and which she had carried in her pocket several years.

* Does not this circumstance strongly mark the curiosity of the people of England? If Mrs. Bastin had been there on the preceding day, what business could she have to revisit the crowd?

Mr. Lucas proved that he saw the prisoner lay the purse containing the pieces of money on a corner of a kind of ledge, at a door-way that leads into the Board of Works; that he immediately seized the prisoner, whom he had before seen in the Painted Chamber, where Lord Chat-ham lay in state. He likewise said that he had told her she had no business there, and desired the officer to turn her out; and, farther, that if she came there any more he should order the officer to take her into custody. He added that, upon hearing a contest between the prosecutrix and the prisoner, he took the latter into a corner, that she might not get near any person till the officer came.

The prisoner denied that she laid the purse on the ledge, or even ever had it in her hand; and said that she had a material witness who was not come to town: but no credit could be given to any thing that she averred; her character was notorious; the evidence against her was conclusive, and the jury gave a verdict that she was guilty; in consequence of which, at the close of the sessions, she received sentence to be branded, and imprisoned two years.

Miss West was one of the most notorious and artful pickpockets of the day. She used to go by the name of Elizabeth, though, on her last commitment, she chose that of Mary, and called herself Groves, when she was examined at Bow Street, which occasioned the *alias* to her surname; for she was too well known to be permitted to go to trial with Groves as her *first* name instead of West.

This woman had long been an atrocious offender: her usual places of plying for business were the play-houses, where she was amazingly successful; and, though often apprehended, and conveyed to Sir John Fielding's office, she was repeatedly discharged, because, as she generally stole money only, the injured parties would not swear to their property.

She had been repeatedly tried at the Old Bailey, and acquitted, in defect of such evidence as could convince the jury of her guilt: and it was a very short time before she picked Mrs. Bastin's pocket that she was discharged from Newgate, after six months' confinement for another offence, during which she was delivered of a child in the prison.

FRANCES PEARCE, ANNE ARROGANY, AND CATHARINE DAVIS, OTHERWISE SIMPSON,

TRIED FOR A STREET ROBBERY.

THE following case, though not capital, we insert in order to show that, as well as the numerous gangs of *men* depredating upon the public, *females* also associate for the same purpose.

This woman, along with Anne Arrogany and Catharine Davis, were tried for robbing Henry Kitchen, Esq. of bank-notes to the amount of five hundred and fifty pounds, and other bills and securities to a considerable amount.

Mr. Kitchen, in October sessions, 1778, deposed that he was passing on foot along the Strand, about ten o'clock at night, and that near the New Church he was surrounded by three women, who picked his pocket of his pocket-book, containing bank-notes, and other securities, to the value of fourteen or fifteen thousand pounds. He saw four hands held up: he cried '*Watch!*' and '*Stop thief!*' and instantly secured Pearce, but did not see the pocket-book in

her hand. The other women ran away.

Elizabeth Mills, an unhappy woman of the town, deposed that she saw Simpson and Arrogany near Mr. Kitchen; that there was one on each side of him. This deponent saw there only two women at that time. When Mr. Kitchen came near the New Church, Davis ran away, and the other fell down in attempting to run off. Mr. Kitchen cried out 'Stop thief! I am robbed.' Five or six women standing near the church, he seized one, and said 'I have got you—I have got you.'

On the cross-examination, this evidence said that the woman had walked with Mr. Kitchen from St. Clement's Churchyard, arm in arm; and that, when he came near the New Church, five or six women were standing together, and he said 'I have got you all.'

To invalidate the testimony of this witness, Samuel Price, a bailiff, was sworn, who deposed that he had known her ten years, and that

he did not believe she was such a woman as deserved credit on her oath. Mary Hayes likewise deposed that she was a very abandoned woman—that she had assumed several names, and ought not to be believed even on her oath.

Amelia Burchell swore that she saw the prosecutor seize Pearce, and that he said he was robbed; and Elizabeth Thompson deposed that she had likewise heard him say he was robbed; that she saw Davis having hold of his arm; that Arrogany was four yards behind him, but at what distance Pearce was she did not know.

The jury, having considered the whole evidence, acquitted Arrogany and Davis, and found Pearce guilty of the charge, in consequence of which she received sentence to be imprisoned three years.

The notes thus stolen from Mr. Kitchen were passed into the hands of some Jews; but, by the diligence of the peace officers, about half of them were recovered.

WILLIAM FLINT,

SENTENCED TO HARD LABOUR FOR PRIVATELY STEALING.

THIS man's crimes were marked with singular ingratitude. He had been capitally condemned, and received a pardon on condition of working for the public on the river Thames for a limited time.

In consequence of a favorable report having been made of his good behaviour and apparent contrition for his past crimes, he was soon released on a general pardon.

No sooner had this ungrateful wretch regained his liberty than he commenced a still worse course of life. For this purpose, having been himself brought up to a mechanical business, he took several boys as apprentices; but, instead of instructing them in his branch, he

taught them to waylay other apprentices and errand-boys, and to rob them of the goods with which they might have been intrusted. Out of this plunder he rewarded them.

Mr. Tookie, silversmith, deposed before Sir John Fielding that he had sent a parcel, in which was a quantity of gold manufacture, and other valuable articles, to a customer in the Borough, by his errand-boy, a lad of thirteen years of age, and by the way he was met by Flint's apprentice, who, entering into conversation with him, gave him twopence to do a pretended errand for him, promising to take care of his parcel until his return; and, on

the errand-boy questioning him, he pulled out a handkerchief, and gave it to him as a security, which satisfying the boy, he parted with his parcel, and never saw it more.

Other charges of a similar nature were made against Flint, and he, with his apprentices, were committed to prison. A man who lived in high style and kept a country house, supposed to have been the receiver of the stolen goods, gave bail for their appearance, but proof could not be adduced to convict them.

Such practices, however, could not long be carried on under the strict police then established in London, as we find that, at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in September, 1778, William Flint was indicted for stealing a silver watch, value forty shillings, the property of Aaron Coats, privily from the person of the said Aaron, on the 16th of August.

Mr. Coats deposed, that being at a fire in Nicholas Lane on the evening of the 16th of August, he staid about half an hour from motives of curiosity, and that on coming from the fire he felt for his watch in Lombard Street, and missed it: but he owned that he had not seen the prisoner at the fire.

Mr. Coats advertised his watch for four days afterwards, and soon

learned that the prisoner was at Sir John Fielding's, charged with that and other offences: on which he went to Bow Street, where his watch was produced to him.

William Adley, a pawnbroker in Cow Cross, deposed that the prisoner brought the watch to him, to offer it in pledge; that he asked him two guineas; that he lent him a guinea and a half on it; and Flint took a duplicate of it in his own name.

Moses Morant, one of Sir John Fielding's officers, deposed that he went to apprehend Flint, two boys, and another person; that in Flint's parlour he found the duplicate of Mr. Coats's watch, and an old seal which had belonged to it; and the watch, being produced, was sworn to by the prosecutor.

The prisoner, by way of defence, said that a person had given him the watch to pawn for him; but the jury gave no credit to this assertion, and found him 'Guilty of stealing the watch, but not guilty of stealing it privily from the person.'

Flint was put to the bar at the close of the sessions, to receive his sentence, which was 'That he should work at ballast-heaving five years.' He was a manufacturer in the silver branch, and lived in West Smithfield. He had two apprentices, whom he trained up to the art of thieving.

JOSEPH RELPH, ESQ.

INDICTED FOR MURDER.

BEFORE we enter upon the case of Mr. Relph, we shall give a recent determination of the Court of King's Bench on the subject of the impress service, which, though not exactly in point, has some bearing on the question.

An opinion has long prevailed that impressing seamen was an illegal act, and it was justifiable de-

fence in a man killing any of a press-gang who attempted to seize him.

One commentator on criminal law, in his observations on the case now before us, says, 'The custom of impressing, let counsellors plead and senators debate till they are hoarse, is incompatible with every idea we can frame of the natural right to that freedom which God has be-

stowed equally upon us all; and which, from the very nature of the donation, it appears to be every man's duty to support.'

However we may agree in sentiment with this writer, we find that the Court of King's Bench, in the present day, has come to a very different opinion.

A seaman was impressed in Liverpool, and rescued by the populace, who were indignant at having their townsman torn from them, and deprived of liberty, the inherent right of every Englishman. This was deemed a riot by the officers of the law, and nine respectable inhabitants of Liverpool, and most of them of that useful class of men, artisans and mechanics, were prosecuted and convicted. In order to receive judgment for this offence, these men were compelled to leave their families and their work, and travel to London.

On the 22d of November, 1809, they were brought into the Court of King's Bench for that purpose.

Mr. Clarke, the deputy Recorder of Liverpool, made an elegant and feeling address to the Court for mercy, to little purpose, as Mr. Justice Le Blanc, in passing sentence on them, thus delivered the opinion of the Bench:

'The public welfare rendered both indispensable and *legal* the impressing of men for the naval service. The laws of the land recognised it in times when the necessity of the state required it, and it must be protected. The prisoners must have known that they were committing acts in open violation of the law; but nothing short of bloodshed, at the time, could deter them. Fortunately that was not resorted to, otherwise they would have had, not probably, to answer before another and more awful tribunal with their lives.

'It was truly said, "that even right should not be asserted by wrong means." But, most unfortunately, there prevailed, in some cases, opinions to the contrary. It is necessary to remove such erroneous notions; and therefore the Court, which was the guardian of the public peace, could not look with indifference on any events that tend to disturb it; and, however, individually, they regretted that circumstances called most loudly upon them to consign the defendants to a marked and severe punishment; still, the public duty being paramount to all private considerations, it imposed upon them the reluctant task of making them an example to others offending in the same way.—Their duty was peremptory.'

The Court then sentenced the whole of the nine defendants to one year's confinement in the castle of Lancaster.

To return to the case of Mr. Relph, we find that at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in December, 1778, Joseph Relph, Esq. was indicted for the wilful murder of Andrew Schultz, on the 29th of November preceding; and he likewise stood charged, on the coroner's inquisition, for feloniously killing and slaying the said Andrew.

The prisoner was employed in the impress service; and the following is the state of the evidence adduced on the trial:—John Clear swore that he was a headle of Wapping; that Mr. James Stewart, a tallow-chandler, called him from the Masons' lodge, and told him a man was murdered: that he went to the sign of the Gibraltar, where he found the prisoner leaning down in a box, having the fingers of his left hand, which were bloody, tied in a handkerchief: that, on this deponent's asking what was the matter, Relph said he had been used ill, and cut to pieces:

that he went with him quietly to the Round-house, and the next day before a magistrate, who committed him to New Prison.

John Hageman deposed that he was a servant to Mr. Compton, sugar-baker, in Brewer's Lane; there were five of his companions, all of whom were going home to Mr. Compton's; that they were all on the foot-pavement, and the deceased was running before him; that he saw a woman with a lantern in her hand crossing the way, and a girl about eight years old with her; and that Hardwicke (one of the company) lifted up the woman's petticoats behind.

The counsel now interposed, and said he should prove that the woman and child were the wife and daughter of the prisoner.

Hageman proceeded, and said that the women having walked a hundred yards, the prisoner overtook them; on which his wife pointed to Hardwicke, and said 'This is the young man that laid hold of my gown.' The prisoner crossed to Hardwicke, and asked him what business he had to meddle with the woman's gown. Hardwicke made no reply; and one Kello, coming up at the juncture, said to the lieutenant, (Relph,) 'Sir, I am your prisoner, and will go with you where you like.' This evidence farther deposed that the lieutenant took Hardwicke by the neck, and pulled his hat off.

John Kello was now sworn; but, not being perfect in the English language, an interpreter was sworn to deliver his evidence, which was to the following effect:—That Andrew Schultz was one of the party, returning with his fellow-servants to Mr. Compton's; that he himself was sober, but doubted if Hardwicke was not somewhat in liquor: that he did not see the prisoner till he

came and put a hanger to his breast; on which this deponent acknowledged himself his prisoner, and consented to go where he pleased; but that he thrust the hanger through his clothes, and slightly wounded him in the breast.

When this deponent felt the sword hurt him, he jumped aside; and then Schultz said, 'You had better put your sword by.' After some struggling, Kello took the hanger from the lieutenant, but did not observe whether Schultz was wounded or not; that the prisoner went to a public house, and afterwards heard that Schultz was wounded, and that the lieutenant was cut in the hand.

Frederick Hardwicke, being sworn, acknowledged that he had touched the bottom of the woman's gown as he was passing her;—owned that he was a little disguised in liquor, and that, after he had touched the woman's gown, he received a blow from behind on his neck, and his hat fell off; but he could not tell by whom the blow was given. When he recovered himself, and got to his companions, he observed that Schultz was wounded, and that the lieutenant was going to the public house with a drawn hanger in his hand: he followed him, and staid there two minutes: he observed that the lieutenant's hand was bloody, and immediately went home to his own lodgings.

Sarah Hoskins, an oyster-woman, wife of William Hoskins, of Bell Dock, saw four young men in the highway, and observed the lieutenant collar Hardwicke; and likewise saw a woman on the other side of the way, whom she heard say, 'You dirty fellow, how dare you meddle with my gown?' or petticoat; the deponent could not be sure which. Her husband, the lieutenant, then came up, and said, 'My dear, what is the matter?' To which

she replied, 'The dirty fellow has been pulling my gown,' or words to that purpose.

Mrs. Hoskins then saw the lieutenant collar Frederick Hardwicke, and say 'If you don't go along with me I will draw my sword and stab you.' They then struggled from the Bell alchonse door till they got between a brazier's and tin-shop, at the distance of nine or ten yards. In the mean time one of the men, who had a stick, hit the lieutenant on the back, while Hardwicke and he were struggling. During this commotion the lieutenant's wife was hanging round his neck in the highway; but this deponent did not see the sword drawn, only heard the threat that it should be done; nor did she know whether the sword was drawn before or after the lieutenant was struck.

In a few minutes after the lieutenant was struck with the stick she heard somebody cry out 'Stop him! stop him! the young man is dead in the tin-shop.' The lie-

tenant then went into the alchonse.

This was the substance of the evidence; and the judge then said to the counsel for the prisoner, 'Do you mean to make this less than manslaughter?' To which the counsel replied in the following words: 'No, my lord, we cannot make it less than manslaughter. The lieutenant was used very ill; while his wife was hanging round his neck, to prevent any further fighting, she was cut across her neck; and the lieutenant had his hand and his coat cut in two places, and was beat all over his arm and shoulders.'

The Court now observing that, if the jury were satisfied, nothing farther need to be heard—but, if not, they would proceed—the jury said, 'My lord, we are all satisfied;' and soon afterwards they gave a verdict that the prisoner was 'Not guilty of the murder, but guilty of manslaughter only;' on which he was braced and discharged.*

THOMAS BRISTOWE AND MORRIS BARNARD,

CONVICTED OF A CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in September, 1778, these offenders were indicted for a conspiracy to cheat and defraud one Thomas Orme; and for obtaining, by false pretences, five guineas, on the 28th of June preceding.

This case is inserted on account of its singularity, and to guard the unsuspecting against the artifices of

the villainous. Thomas Orme, of Castle Dunnington, in Leicestershire, being somewhat embarrassed in his circumstances, was advised by a neighbour to apply to Bristowe, who had published the following extraordinary advertisement in the newspaper printed at Leicester:—
'Whereas many persons, labouring under most grievous oppressions

* The verdict of a coroner's inquest, held on the body of Philip Avenai, on the 1st of November, 1773, who died in Worcester gaol, of the gun-shot wounds from Edward Newland, a farmer, of Horsley, fired in consequence of the said Avenai having committed felony, and refused to surrender, was 'Justifiable Homicide.'

This opinion is law. That eminent lawyer, Sergeant Hawkins, says, 'That if a person, having actually committed felony, will not suffer himself to be arrested, but stands on his own defence, or flies, so that he cannot possibly be apprehended by those who pursue him, whether private persons or public officers, with or without a warrant from a magistrate, he may be lawfully slain by them.'

from their defenceless situation, are constrained to silence and quiet submission to the atrocious robberies which are daily committed by the infamous appendages to the law.

'To remedy such evils as much as possible, a gentleman of known abilities and integrity, in conjunction with sundry able gentlemen of the law, proposes to give his assistance to such as wish to be extricated from intricate and perplexing embarrassment.

'The author is actuated by no other motives than those which tend to alleviate the affliction of the helpless; to relieve the unfortunate of every denomination against the chicanery of pettyfogging (would-be) attorneys; the shameful plunder and extortion of bailiffs and sheriffs' brokers; and to prop up such as groan beneath opulent and intolerable tyranny.

'That unhappy species of debtors, who are amenable to the bankrupt laws, will assuredly meet with such able and friendly advice as will fortify them not only against a prison, but most of those calamities attendant on bankrupts in general.

'The supporters and advisers of this address hope it will be received and esteemed to be what it really is, the dictates of benevolence, independent of any pecuniary views; as a proof of which, all persons in indigent circumstances will be entitled to every assistance, free from expense.

'Apply to Mr. Thomas Bristowe, Cavendish Bridge, Leicestershire.'

In consequence hereof Orme applied to Bristowe, who told him if he would go to London he would set him free; and, if his creditor would not stay, he might tell him he would *treat him with the butt-end of an act of parliament*. Orme inquired the expense; and Bris-

towe said seven or eight pounds, and that they should be back in four or five days. They came to London with one Simon Norton, in like circumstances with Orme; and at the Swan-with-two-Necks, in Lad Lane, they met with Barnard, who said to Bristowe, 'We must swear one has been at Calais, and the other at another place' (which Orme could not recollect). Bristowe then wrote a paper for them to sign, and told Norton he must pay Barnard five guineas. Norton hesitated, and wanted a receipt. Barnard asked him if he *disputed his being a gentleman*. On this Norton paid the five guineas; and Bristowe said that Orme must pay Barnard a like sum, which after some hesitation he complied with.

On a question asked, whether any thing was said about crossing the salt water, Orme deposed that something was said 'about crossing the salt water over a chamber-pot,' or to that effect.

It seems that the prosecutors had a confused idea that they were to be discharged by the insolvent act, but they did not understand the meaning of it.

Simon Norton deposed that he met Barnard at the Swan-with-two-Necks; that he and Bristowe asked for a private room, where Barnard pulled out a bag of writings, and said to Bristowe, 'We must fix them as fugitives.' Bristowe agreed, and the other began filling up the papers. Bristowe likewise said that Barnard was an attorney, and that he was the man that was to do the business for them.

A paper being shown to Orme in court, he said 'That is the paper I signed, and all that was done for five guineas.'

William Payne, a constable, deposed that he apprehended the prisoners at the Paul's Head Tavern.

that he seized Barnard's bag, who said 'Let it alone,' and pulled out the two schedules. Payne asked Barnard if he had received any money of the men; he said he never had:—the two men declared they paid him ten guineas. He then confessed he had received that sum, and given Bristowe five guineas. The latter at first denied the receipt of them, but afterwards confessed it.

Bristowe called three persons, who gave him a good character; and Barnard endeavored to excul-

pate himself by saying that 'he had nothing to do with the men; that Bristowe was to be his paymaster, and had told him they were to take the benefit of the act as fugitives, &c.' with other circumstances to the like effect.

The jury gave full credit to the evidence against the prisoners, and returned a verdict that they were both guilty; in consequence of which, at the close of the sessions, they were sentenced to stand in the pillory, and be imprisoned for a year.

SAMUEL BONNER,

CONVICTED OF WRITING A THREATENING LETTER.

BONNER was born at Edmonton, in Middlesex, in the neighbourhood of which place he had many years worked for different persons as a day-labourer, and bore the character of an honest, industrious, but simple man.

The following is a copy of the letter written by Bonner, and delivered by the penny post to Mr. Francis Hardeastle, landlord of the Fox, upon Winchmore Green, whom Mrs. Teshmaker had directed to receive her newspapers and letters, that the news-carriers and postmen might not be put to the trouble of going out of the public road, from which her house stood at some distance.

'Nov. 20th, 1778.

'Lady Tashmaker,—Wee dwo a blige You that you shall dwo this kindness of Charity to theas three people which wee menshon to you that his the Wheeler Wakelfield James Weave and Old Bonner & make each of them a preasant of one Gine & half to a Sist them in thear Distress. One Sunday Morning being the 22th of Nor. and send for them all three to your House between 11 and 12 & let one of you

Sarvents give them thiss gift in a peas of paper & this leater neaver to be menshoned for the safty of your Self If you dwo not dwo a Corden to what this leater menshons you may expect that your Estate shall be Broght to ashes and Your Self to the Ground with a brase of marvels throu your —

'It is not ondley you others shall be a blige to dwo the kindness of Chearity to the poor a-pou Winchmore Hill as well as you wee are men that is well wishes to the poor near neabers a short life and a meary one This from your well wishers If you act a Corden to this Leater'

The prisoner was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, in the sessions held in December, 1778. Mrs. Teshmaker produced the letter, and it was read, and found literally to correspond with the copy inserted in the indictment: the lady deposed that on her return from a visit, on the 21st of the preceeding month, she found the letter lying on her dressing-table.

Francis Hardeastle swore that he received the letter from the penny-post man, and delivered it to John

Draper, one of Mrs. Teshmaker's servants, who proved that the letter produced in court was that he received from Hardeastle.

Samuel Draper, clerk to Pearce Galliard, Esq. in the commission of the peace for the county of Middlesex, informed the Court that, on Monday, the 30th of November, he, accompanied by Mr. Day, went to Clerkenwell Bridewell, in order to postpone the re-examination of Bonner from Tuesday till Wednesday; and that, when the prisoner was let into the yard between the gates, he ran towards them, and acknowledged that he had written the letter, saying it was the first offence he had committed, and earnestly supplicating that they would intercede in his favour.

Matthew Day deposed that, by the desire of Mr. Draper, he accompanied him to Clerkenwell Bridewell on Monday, the 30th of November, and stood in an obscure part of the yard during a short conversation between Draper and the prisoner, on the conclusion of which he was perceived by the prisoner, who ran to him, clasped him in his arms, and cried 'Pray, Sir! God bless you, Sir! be my friend, and get me out of this dismal place; you was always my friend.' That he asked him on what account he was confined; on which he said, 'Oh, God knows! God bless you, Sir, get me out of it; you will, if you are my friend, get me out of it;' that in a whisper he acknowledged that his having written a threatening letter to the prosecutrix was the cause of his confinement; and said, 'Oh, Sir, it was the devil, the devil, the devil, and this leg, (putting his hand to his leg, on which he had recently received a wound,) that induced me to do it. It is true I did

write this letter, but it is the first fact I ever was guilty of.'

Being called upon for his defence, the prisoner only said that what Mr. Day had related was truth; and, upon the Court asking him whether he had any person to appear on behalf of his character, he said 'Only God and the gentleman.'

The jury pronounced him guilty of the indictment, and he received judgment of death. The jury and the prosecutrix humbly recommended the prisoner to his majesty's mercy, which he received.

If the law did not denounce very severe punishment against offenders convicted of writing threatening letters, neither life nor property would be any longer secure. Bonner's case was remarkable: there was great reason to suppose that, notwithstanding the violent threats in the letter, he would not have carried them into execution had the lady refused her compliance, and declined pursuing measures for apprehending the writer. He was a man so remarkably deficient in point of intellect, that people were divided in opinion whether he did not labour under the infirmity of natural idiotism: on these considerations alone he was recommended to mercy.

In cases of forgery the punishment is the same whether a fraud is or is not actually committed, the fact of forgery being sufficient to prove a fraudulent intention, and to constitute a breach of the law; and this doctrine holds good with regard to threatening letters.

Let it not be supposed that robberies may be committed with impunity by such means, the writers being equally liable to an ignominious death with the perpetrators of the most desperate crimes.



Mr. Hackman shooting Miss Reay and attempting Suicide.

THE REVEREND JAMES HACKMAN, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS shocking and truly lamentable case interested all ranks of people, who pitied the murderer's fate, conceiving him stimulated to commit the horrid crime through love and madness. Pamphlets and poems were written on the occasion, and the crime was long the common topic of conversation.

The object of Mr. Hackman's love renders his case still more singular.

Miss Reay had been the mistress of Lord Sandwich near twenty years, was the mother of nine children, and nearly double the age of Mr. Hackman.

This murder affords a melancholy proof that there is no act so contrary to reason that men will not commit when under the dominion of their passions. In short, it is

impossible to convey an idea of the impression it made; and the manner in which it was done created horror and pity in every feeling mind.

The Rev. James Hackman was born at Gosport, in Hampshire, and originally designed for trade; but he was too volatile in disposition to submit to the drudgery of the shop or counting-house. His parents, willing to promote his interest as far as lay in their power, purchased him an ensign's commission in the 68th regiment of foot. He had not been long in the army when he was sent to command a recruiting party; and, being at Huntingdon, he was frequently invited to dine with Lord Sandwich, who had a seat in that neighbourhood. Here it was that he first became acquainted with Miss

Reay, who lived under the protection of that nobleman.

This lady was the daughter of a staymaker in Covent Garden, and served her apprenticeship to a mantua-maker in George's Court, St. John's Lane, Clerkenwell. She was bound when only thirteen; and, during her apprenticeship, was taken notice of by the nobleman above mentioned, who took her under his protection, and treated her with every mark of tenderness. No sooner had Mr. Hackman seen her than he became enamoured of her, though she had then lived nineteen years with his lordship. Finding he could not obtain preferment in the army, he turned his thoughts to the church, and entered into orders. Soon after he obtained the living of Wiverton, in Norfolk, which was only about Christmas preceding the shocking deed which cost him his life; so that it may be said he never enjoyed it.

It is probable that Mr. Hackman imagined that there was a mutual passion—that Miss Reay had the same regard for him as he had for her. Love and madness are often little better than synonymous terms; for, had Mr. Hackman not been blinded by a bewitching passion, he could never have imagined that Miss Reay would have left the family of a noble lord at the head of one of the highest departments of the state, in order to live in an humble station. Those who have been long accustomed to affluence, and even profusion, seldom choose to lower their flags. However, he was still tormented by this unhappy, irregular, and ungovernable passion, which, in an unhappy moment, led him to commit the crime for which he suffered.

Miss Reay was extremely fond of music, and, as her noble protector was in a high rank, we need not be

surprised to find that frequent concerts were performed both in London and at Hinchinbrook: at the latter place Mr. Hackman was generally of the party, and his attention to her at those times was very great. How long he had been in London previous to this affair is not certainly known, but at that time he lodged in Duke's Court, St. Martin's Lane. On the morning of the 7th of April, 1779, he sat some time in his closet, reading 'Blair's Sermons;' but in the evening he took a walk to the Admiralty, where he saw Miss Reay go into the coach along with Signora Galli, who attended her. The coach drove to Covent Garden Theatre, where she staid to see the performance of 'Love in a Village.' Mr. Hackman went into the theatre at the same time; but, not being able to contain the violence of his passion, returned, and again went to his lodgings, and, having loaded two pistols, went to the playhouse, where he waited till the play was over. Seeing Miss Reay ready to step into the coach, he took a pistol in each hand, one of which he discharged against her, which killed her on the spot, and the other at himself, which, however, did not take effect.

He then beat himself with the butt end on his head, in order to destroy himself, so fully bent was he on the destruction of both. After some struggle he was secured, his wounds dressed, and then he was carried before Sir John Fielding, who committed him to 'Tothillfields' Bridewell, and next to Newgate, where a person was appointed to attend him, lest he should lay violent hands on himself. In Newgate, as he knew he had no favour to expect, he prepared himself for the awful change he was about to make. He had dined with his sister on the day the murder was com-

mitted; and, in the afternoon, wrote a letter to her husband, Mr. Booth, an eminent attorney, acquainting him of his resolution of destroying himself, desiring him to sell what effects he should leave behind him, to pay a small debt; but this letter was not sent, for it was found in his pocket.

On the trial Mr. Macnamara deposed that, on Wednesday, the 7th day of April, on seeing Miss Reay, with whom he had some little acquaintance, in some difficulties in getting from the playhouse, he offered his assistance to hand her to her coach; and just as they were in the Piazzas, very near the carriage, he heard the report of a pistol, and felt an impression on his right arm, which arm she held with her left, and instantly dropped. He thought at first that the pistol had been fired through wantonness, and that she had fallen from the fright, and therefore fell upon his knees to help her up; but, finding his hands bloody, he then conceived an idea of what had happened, and, by the assistance of a link-boy, got the deceased into the Shakspeare Tavern, where he first saw the prisoner, after he was secured. He asked him some questions relative to the fact and the cause; and his answer was, that neither the time nor place were proper to resolve him. He asked his name, and was told Hackman: he knew a Mr. Booth, in Craven Street, and desired he might be sent for.

He asked to see the lady; to which he (the witness) objected, and had her removed to a private room. From the impression he felt, and the great quantity of blood about him, he grew sick, and went home; and knew nothing more about it.

Mary Anderson, a fruit-woman, deposed that, just as the play was over, she saw two ladies and a gen-

tleman coming out of the playhouse, and a gentleman in black following them. Lord Sandwich's coach was called. When the carriage came up the gentleman handed the other lady into it. The lady that was shot stood behind, when the gentleman in black came up, laid hold of her gown, and pulled two pistols out of his pocket: the one in his right hand he discharged at the lady, and the other, in his left, he discharged at himself. They fell feet to feet. He beat himself violently over the head with his pistol, and desired somebody would kill him.

Richard Blandy, the constable, swore to the finding two letters in the prisoner's pocket, which he delivered to Mr. Campbell, the master of the Shakspeare Tavern, in Covent Garden.

Mr. Mahon, an apothecary, corroborated the evidence of the fruit-woman: he wrenched the pistol out of his hand, with which he was beating himself, as he lay on the ground—took him to his house, dressed his wounds, and accompanied him to the Shakspeare.

Denis O'Brian, a surgeon, examined the wound of the deceased, and found it mortal.

Being called upon for his defence, he addressed the Court in the following words:—

‘I should not have troubled the Court with the examination of witnesses to support the charge against me, had I not thought that the pleading guilty to the indictment gave an indication of contemning death, not suitable to my present condition, and was, in some measure, being accessory to a second peril of my life; and I likewise thought that the justice of my country ought to be satisfied by suffering my offence to be proved, and the fact established by evidence.

' I stand here this day the most wretched of human beings, and confess myself criminal in a high degree; yet while I acknowledge, with shame and repentance, that my determination against my own life was formal and complete, I protest, with that regard to truth which becomes my situation, that the will to destroy her, who was ever dearer to me than life, was never mine till a momentary frenzy overcame me, and induced me to commit the deed I now deplore. The letter, which I meant for my brother-in-law after my decease, will have its due weight, as to this point, with good men.

' Before this dreadful act, I trust nothing will be found in the tenor of my life which the common charity of mankind will not excuse. I have no wish to avoid the punishment which the laws of my country appoint for my crime; but, being already too unhappy to feel a punishment in death or a satisfaction in life, I submit myself with penitence and patience to the disposal and judgment of Almighty God, and to the consequences of this inquiry into my conduct and intention.'

Then was read the following letter:—

' My dear Frederic,—When this reaches you I shall be no more; but do not let my unhappy fate distress you too much: I have strove against it as long as possible, but it now overpowers me. You well know where my affections were placed: my having by some means or other lost hers (an idea which I could not support) has driven me to madness. The world will condemn me, but your good heart will pity me. God bless you, my dear Frederic! Would I had a sum to leave you, to convince you of my great regard! You was my only friend. I have hid one circumstance from you, which gives me great pain. I owe

Mr. Knight, of Gosport, one hundred pounds, for which he has the writings of my houses; but I hope in God, when they are sold, and all other matters collected, there will be nearly enough to settle our account. May Almighty God bless you and yours with comfort and happiness: and may you ever be a stranger to the pangs I now feel! May Heaven protect my beloved woman, and forgive this act, which alone could relieve me from a world of misery I have long endured! Oh! if it should ever be in your power to do her an act of friendship, remember your faithful friend, 'J. HACKMAN.'

The jury immediately returned their fatal verdict. The unhappy man heard the sentence pronounced against him with calm resignation to his fate, and employed the very short time allowed murderers after conviction in repentance and prayer.

During the procession to the fatal tree at Tyburn he seemed much affected, and said but little; and when he arrived at Tyburn, and got out of the coach and mounted the cart, he took leave of Dr. Porter and the Ordinary.

After some time spent in prayer, he was turned off, on April the 19th, 1779; and, having hung the usual time, his body was carried to Surgeons' Hall for dissection.

Such was the end of a young gentleman who might have been an ornament to his country, the delight of his friends, and a comfort to his relations, had he not been led away by the influence of an unhappy passion.

With the following lines, selected from a number of poetical essays on this melancholy subject, we conclude our account of the unfortunate Mr. Hackman:—

' Ill-fated youth! admit this funeral lay,
Which sympathetic friendship weeps to pay;

This heart, alas! the wound of love has known—

This bosom heaved with sorrow like thy own.

Thou wert whate'er is virtuous, gentle, kind;

To sweetest mirth still turned thy artless mind;

Whence hallowed Piety, with humble care,

To yon bright azure wing'd her constant prayer.

Oh! more than this thou wert, till beauty came,

And raised within a far less sacred flame;

Then thy frail feet the paths of fondness trod,

And woman rose—the rival of thy God!

But slighted fondness every comfort stole,
And to mute anguish gave thy wounded soul;

Till madness closed the agonizing strife,
And bade thy spirit burst to nobler life.

For sure nought else that brow with horror hung,

Where smiled fair Peace, and Joy for ever young:

Nought else with grief's sad plaints those accents filled,

Whence cheerful Virtue's roseate balm distilled;

Nought else congealed in death that generous blood,

Which flowed for ever for thy country's good.

Yet happier thou had Heav'n-taught Prudence reigned,

And wild Despair's ecstatic act restrained;

Then Love itself had pleaded strong to save,

And charmed thee bending o'er the tempting wave;

For, when the maid thy piteous tale shall hear,

Her softening heart must pour the frequent tear!

Then had thy soul each deed of death forgot,

In painful patience learned to bear its lot,
Hard clasped this truth my sad experience

gives,
That hopeless lover suffers most who lives.'

The dreadful effects of this passion—and well may it be termed 'love and madness'—we have found perverting reason in the lower ranks of society.

Thomas Giles, a barber, in the city of Worcester, had been 'crossed in love.' His beloved was a servant girl, who, preferring the suit of a cobbler, the rejected swain, in a fit of frenzy, went to the house of the girl's master, and with one of his razors cut her throat from ear to ear. He then turned the sharp instrument upon himself in the same manner, and both expired.

The coroner's jury brought in their verdict 'Felo de se' respecting himself, and 'Wilful murder' with regard to the girl.

Like all those who kill themselves, his body was buried in a cross road, and a stake driven through it with every mark of ignominy.

JAMES BEAN, JOHN HARTLEY, AND LAMBERT SMITH EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

THESE men, though young in years, were old in offence; and therefore it becomes necessary to insert their story, that others may take warning from their fate.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in December, 1778, James Bean, John Hartley, and Lambert Smith, were indicted for breaking open the dwelling-house of Levi Hart, on the 20th of October, and stealing sixty-eight silver watches,

value one hundred and nineteen pounds, ten shillings; a number of gold breast shirt-buckles, set with pearls and garnets; some gold rings, and other valuable articles; the property of Abraham Davis.

The prosecutor was a travelling Jew, who carries goods through the country. He had a room on the first floor at Mr. Hart's, and saw all his things safe between six and seven in the evening, when he went

to a coffee-house; and soon afterwards Hart fetched him home, informing him that his apartment had been robbed. When he came home he found two locks and his jewellery boxes broken, and missed all his property.

Levi Hart deposed that he was landlord of the house; that, some person knocking at the door, his wife opened it, and three men rushed in, who said 'they had an information against the house.' Mrs. Hart asked for what; when the candle was snatched from her, and two of them went up stairs, while the third staid below. Mr. Hart heard them break open the door; and when they had stolen Mr. Davis's property, they descended, threw the candlestick on the floor, and went away; but one of them held the door awhile, to prevent a pursuit. Mr. Hart deposed that he knew Smith, and could swear to him; but he could not swear to the other two.

Sarah Hart confirmed her husband's deposition; said that, hearing a knocking at the door, she opened it, when the three men rushed in, and said they had an information against the house, against a young man, a lodger, who dealt in French silks; that, on her asking if they had authority to come into her house, one of them produced a pistol to her husband, and said *if he stirred he was a dead man*; that she heard the closet broke open, and, on her wanting to go up stairs, the villain who was below pushed her away twice, and seized her by the throat. She deposed that she knew all the prisoners, having looked in their faces as they entered the house; and she positively swore that Smith put a pistol to her husband's breast.

Information of this robbery having

been given at Bow Street, Sir John Fielding's men soon traced the thieves; and, on the trial, Charles Jealous produced a watch, which he found on Lambert Smith, who said it was his own: but Richard Simpson proved that he made that very watch for Aaron Michael, who deposed that he left it with two other watches, &c. in the care of the prosecutor.

Richard Ward swore that he bought forty-one watches of James Bean, all of which he had sold but one, and that proved to be Mr. Davis's property.

Bean, by way of defence, said that Smith knew nothing of the robbery; and that himself had the watches to sell for another man. Smith said that he had a watch of Bean to get a glass put in it; and Hartley denied being guilty of the charge: but the jury found all the prisoners guilty, and they received sentence of death.

It may be proper to mention that, at the same sessions, Hartley and Bean were tried for being concerned in breaking open the house of Mr. Daniel Clewen, of Finchley, on the 1st of March preceding, and were convicted on the fullest evidence: but, as we have already given an account of the other parties concerned in that atrocious burglary, it will be unnecessary to enter into particulars.

Of the behaviour of these criminals after conviction we have no favorable account. They were most daring and hardened offenders; and, as they lived in constant violation of the laws, so they died almost unrepented.

James Bean, John Hartley, and Lambert Smith, were executed at Tyburn on the 12th of February, 1779.

HENRY BALL, THOMAS OSBORNE, AND WILLIAM HILSDON
CONVICTED OF BURGLARY.

EARLY in the month of November, 1778, Mr. Wood and his family moved from Hendon to his house in town, for the winter season. About two o'clock in the morning of the 18th of December, John Fuller, a watchman at Hampstead, observed a cart passing through that town heavily laden, and attended by two men on horseback; and, immediately stepping into the road, he asked what was in the cart, to which no answer was given; but, the horse being whipped, the cart was driven against the corner of a broker's shop, and overturned, when the horsemen rode off at full speed. Ball then came up, and, being questioned by Fuller, denied that he belonged to the cart, and struck him with his fist on the neck; whereupon Fuller drew a hanger, threatening to put him to instant death if he attempted any further resistance. Ball having surrendered, Fuller delivered him into the charge of two constables; and then went to the cart, and gave that and the goods it contained, and the horses, into the custody of a constable, named Muddocks, who had just found a man's hat in the road, which was supposed to have been lost by one of the prisoner's accomplices.

About noon Mr. Wood received information that his house at Hendon had been broken open and robbed; and Mrs. Wood immediately set out to examine what loss was sustained. She found that the house was almost entirely stripped of the furniture; that the cellar had been broken open, and liquor of different sorts stolen; and, from some rum being left in a tea-cup, she supposed the robbers had drank while they were in the house.

On the trial of the above offend-

ers Simon Edwards swore that he searched Ball soon after his apprehension, and found in his possession an iron crow, a chisel, three common keys, and a number of pick-lock keys.

Samuel Muddocks deposed that he had tried the three keys taken from Ball, and found them exactly to fit the locks to which Mrs. Wood had informed him they belonged; and that he had tried the pick-locks, and found that one of them would open the lock of the front door. This witness further said that he tried the chisel and the crow, and that they fitted the marks in the door and other parts of the house that were broken; that it appeared to him as if the villains had entered by the front door, and broke open the back door, for the purpose of moving the goods with the greater secrecy; and that he had traced the marks made by a cart and one horse from the back door into the road.

Denis M'Donnald swore that, in consequence of an information exhibited before the bench of magistrates sitting at the Rotation Office in Litchfield Street, he went to the house of a Mr. Davis in Fetter Lane, and in a room on the second floor found Osborne and Hilsdon lying on a bed in their clothes, and that their shoes were entirely covered with country dirt; that he found a towel with Mrs. Wood's mark on it lying upon the bed, and took two keys from Hilsdon, who was attempting to throw them away; and the next day went to Hendon, and found that the keys exactly fitted the locks belonging to the two closets in Mr. Wood's fore parlour: that he found an iron crow concealed in the chimney; and

that Davis's wife told him Osborne and Hilsdon came in about five o'clock in the morning. Charles Grubb and James Hide confirmed the evidence of M'Donald; and Grubb produced the iron crow and the towel, which latter Mrs. Wood swore to be her property.

Thomas Boyce deposed that on his way to London he stopped at Hampstead, and heard a report that a robbery had been committed; that when he reached Battle Bridge he observed a man walking in the road without a hat, and having a handkerchief tied upon his head, and remarked his person very particularly, as he entertained a suspicion of him from the circumstance of his being without a hat at that severe season of the year, and the recollection that a hat had been left on the road at Hampstead by one of the supposed robbers. Boyce said he could not positively swear to the person of Hilsdon, but he believed him to be the man he had seen without a hat at Battle Bridge.

John Fletcher, clerk in the public office in Litchfield Street, being sworn, said that, when Ball was brought before the magistracy for examination, he requested to be an evidence for the crown; which being refused on account of the notoriety of his character, he voluntarily acknowledged his guilt, and mentioned the parties who were concerned with him in the robbery, in consequence of which officers were dispatched to Davis's house in order to apprehend them.

Boyce was called a second time, and questioned as to the dress of the man he had mentioned seeing at Battle Bridge; and he described him as being dressed in a sailor's jacket much worn. Grubb swore that the description given by Boyce

exactly corresponded with the appearance of Hilsdon at the time of his being apprehended.

Mary Davis appeared on behalf of Hilsdon, and positively denied having told M'Donald, Grubb, and Hide, that Osborne and Hilsdon came to her house about five in the morning of the 18th of December, but swore that she let Hilsdon in about eight o'clock in the evening of the 17th; that he went up to his own apartment, and that she saw him no more till about six the next evening, soon after which the officers came to apprehend him. Richard Davis said Hilsdon had lodged in his house about a year and three quarters, and that he had always believed him to be an honest man. William Hall and Joseph Loe also gave him a good character; and Loe swore that Osborne declared to him in the prison that Hilsdon was not concerned in the burglary at Hendon. Mr. Lay, master of a coal-wharf, said he had employed Hilsdon as a carman twelve years, during which time he had acted as an honest, sober, and industrious man, and that he had considered him as a very valuable servant; adding that he was in his business on the 17th, but not on the 18th of December. After some consultation the jury declared the prisoners to be guilty, and they received sentence of death.

Henry Ball and Thomas Osborne were executed at Tyburn on Friday the 9th of February, 1779.*

Ball was one of the villains concerned in the daring robbery at Mr. Clewen's, at Finchley: his character had been long notorious as a housebreaker, and he had been more than once admitted an evidence for the crown: he was a man of a remarkably stout make, and of

* Hilsdon was reprieved.

an active spirit in exploits of villainy, where the danger did not seem great; but his companions frequently upbraided him for cowardice, on account of the terror by which he appeared to be affected when he supposed the officers of justice to be in search of him. Osborne had also been concerned in a great number of daring robberies,

and was considered as a most dangerous nuisance to society. A few days before his execution he told a man of his acquaintance that 'he expected to die at the gallows; but that he did not believe the hemp was then spun that was to form the rope by which his body was destined to be suspended.'

WILLIAM COOPER AND THOMAS LEWINGTON,

CONVICTED OF ROBBING A WAGGON.

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in December, 1778, these men were indicted for stealing seventy pounds' weight of raw silk, value seventy pounds, the property of Edward Hewit, on the first of the same month.

Robert Joblin, book-keeper at the White Horse Inn, Cripplegate, deposed that, on the 30th of November, one Atkins, porter to Mr. Hewit, a silk-mercier in Wood Street, brought four or five boxes to go by the waggon to Glasgow; that there was raw silk in some of them; and that they were loaded in the waggon, which waggon was afterwards robbed of a box directed to Brown, Burn, and Company, at Paisley.

William Stocker, warehouseman to Mr. Hewit, proved the packing up five boxes to go by the Newcastle waggon*; and that they were sent to the inn, directed as mentioned by the preceding witness. The book-keeper went to Mr. Stocker the following day, and told him that the waggon was robbed of one of the boxes, and desired him to attend at Bow Street, where two men and a woman were in custody, on whom had been found a quantity of silk. Mr. Stocker went accordingly, and saw a box, to the direction of

which he could positively swear. He likewise observed a mark on the silk, which the dyers put on to distinguish one person's silk from that of another; and he said the weight of the silk produced at Sir John Fielding's corresponded with that in the box; but, for his own part, he did not know the silk-dyer's mark.

George Durant, a silk-dyer, gave a very clear and conclusive evidence. He said that he sent to Mr. Hewit four hundred pounds' weight of such silk as that produced on the trial. He farther deposed that it was morally impossible to swear to silk after it was out of his hands, unless it had his private mark on it; that he went with Mr. Stocker to the Brown Bear in Bow Street, opposite Sir John Fielding's, where he was shown the silk, the whole of which he looked through, and found two, and only two, of his private marks. Before he looked at this silk, he showed the officers the mark which should be on it, if it was the same that he dyed for Mr. Hewit. His custom was to tie a particular kind of knot to distinguish one man's silk from that of another; and he said that, as far as any private mark could identify any property, he could swear that the silk in

* From this evidence, compared with the former, it should seem as if the Newcastle waggon went to Glasgow, or that there is a waggon between one town and the other.

question was the property of Mr. Hewit.

The Court, observing that he had only found two marks on the silk, asked Mr. Durant how many there ought to have been. To which he replied in the following words: 'I do not know that it ought to have more; we seldom put more than two marks if it is seventy pounds' weight; we divide certain quantities into certain parcels; we seldom put less than thirty pounds in a parcel, sometimes five, six, or seven and thirty; we put a mark upon each; therefore, I apprehend, this could have but two marks upon it. We often boil forty men's silk together; we have a different mark for every man's silk. This mark has been Mr. Hewit's as long as I have been in this way, which is ten years and upwards.'

William Lee deposed that he was a watchman in Kingsland Road; that between eight and nine at night he saw the two prisoners and another man following the Newcastle waggon; that they were at the distance of about four lamps from the waggon; that he had some suspicion of them; that the porter went out of London a little way with the waggon, and when he returned he told him of these men following the waggon. On the following morning the waggoner acquainted him with the robbery, and asked him to show him where the parties lived.

Lee, being asked if he knew the parties, replied in the affirmative, and said that he had bid them good night on their return, and that Cooper bid him good night. This deponent went with the waggoner to a house at Hoxton, where they found the prisoners, and another man, who got away from them: he said that he secured Cooper, and his companion took Lewington into custody; and on searching their room the two bags of silk were found.

George Sturton, one of Sir John Fielding's men, deposed that he was present when the room was entered, and Lewington was found asleep, with his head on the table; and that he observed a trunk, the lock of which was taken off; that the porter opened the trunk, and said 'there was some of the property.' This deponent, going into another room, saw Cooper and Woodey (a supposed accomplice) both asleep with their clothes on: Woodey was on the bed, and Cooper on the ground, with some of the property under him. Lewington rose up, and was seized, but Woodey slipped aside, and made his escape. Sturton said that the watchman seized Cooper as he was going down stairs. A constable was sent for; the room was searched; and two bags of silk, and other things, were found. This deponent swore to the bags, which had never been out of his custody.

John Read deposed that he was the driver of the Newcastle waggon, and that when he came to Hertford, about seven o'clock in the morning, he found that the ropes had been cut, that the sheet was rent to the length of about a foot, and that he missed three boxes. He said that an old gentlewoman, a passenger from the inn, was in the waggon all night, but that she was at such a distance that the boxes might easily be taken out without her knowing it.

The driver saying that he had either walked or rode by the waggon all night, and that the ropes were cut on the off side, the jury asked him if he had not stopped to drink; to which he replied that he had drank a pint of beer at the Ship, at Tottenham, but had not stayed a minute.

Cooper made an indifferent defence, and called four witnesses, who gave him a good character; but

Lewington did not pretend to set up the slightest justification of his conduct.

The jury found a verdict of guilty, and the prisoners were sentenced to work three years at ballast-heaving.

DOCTOR BARTHOLOMEW DOMINICETTI,

INDICTED FOR A PRETENDED FORGERY.

RAMPONI, being desirous of opening a tavern, consulted Doctor Dominicetti, with whom he had been some years acquainted, as to the measures he should pursue for entering into business with the most favorable prospect of success; and the doctor recommended him to Mr. Andrees, secretary to the Venetian ambassador: and, through the joint interest of that gentleman and the doctor, Ramponi was enabled to open a handsome house in Pantion Square.

Ramponi's business not proving so advantageous as was expected, he became involved in pecuniary difficulties; and his creditors being exceedingly importunate for their respective demands, the doctor offered him an asylum in his house at Chelsea. At this period a settlement of all money transactions was proposed by the doctor, who then declared that, if Ramponi would pay him one hundred pounds, he would give him an acquittance of his whole debt, amounting to upwards of three hundred and forty pounds; and John Dodsworth was employed to draw out the account current between the parties. Thus were matters situated, when the circumstance took place which gave rise to the trial, the particulars of which we shall now relate.

Mr. Michael Parys, of the hotel in Suffolk Street, deposed that in January, 1777, he received a note of hand for sixteen pounds, and eight pounds, fourteen shillings, and sixpence, in cash, of Doctor Dominicetti, in discharge of a book-debt contracted by Ramponi to his bro-

ther-in-law, Mr. Harris, of Bath; and, being shown the altered note on which the indictment was founded, proved that it was the identical note he had received from the doctor for sixteen pounds, and paid away for the same sum to Mr. Vickers.

The note being shown to Mr. Thomas Vickers, he swore that he received it of Mr. Parys; and that when it became due he presented it to Messrs. Stevenson and Gentel, to whom it was directed for payment; and that Mr. Gentel gave him in exchange for the note sixteen pounds in cash.

Mr. John Henry Gentel swore that Doctor Dominicetti authorized him to pay his note of hand for sixteen pounds; and that the note produced in court was the same he received from Mr. Vickers, and returned to the doctor as a note for sixteen pounds, in which state it was presented for payment.

The next witness examined was John Dodsworth, who deposed that he was employed by Doctor Dominicetti to draw out an account current between him and Antonio Ramponi; that he attended at the doctor's house at Chelsea, and produced the account, which was examined and approved by both parties, who ordered him to cast up the several sums, and strike the balance; that, while he was casting up the account, Ramponi went out of the room, when the doctor said, 'Hold, Dodsworth! I recollect to have a note, the amount of which I paid to Mr. Parys for Ramponi;' that he produced a note for twenty pounds, and ordered him to charge

that sum to his account against Ramponi, which he did accordingly; that presently after Ramponi returned, and the account current was signed by both parties. Being asked if he knew Mr. Craig, the Governor Advocate of Gibraltar, he replied 'Yes, to my mortification I do.' He confessed that he had committed an offence for which that judge had sentenced him to be executed; and said that 'since his enlargement he had endeavored to act the part of an honest man.' Upon the cross-examination of this accomplished villain, the calm and determined manner in which he perjured himself, his shocking ingratitude, and a thousand instances of most abominable villainy, struck the Court with astonishment and horror. He was brought to acknowledge that Doctor Dominicetti's son was present at the settlement of the account, though he had before sworn to the contrary; and that an alteration of four pounds, which appeared in the account current, was made by himself, in order to make the sum-total correspond with the alteration made in the principal sum of the note.

The Court and the jury, clearly perceiving with how iniquitous a view the prosecution was instituted, refused to hear further evidence, and honorably acquitted the doctor, advising him to prosecute the delinquents under a bill of indictment, which had been already found by the grand jury against Ramponi and Dodsworth for a conspiracy.

Ramponi and Dodsworth had experienced innumerable instances of benevolence from Doctor Dominicetti, who supplied Ramponi with several considerable sums merely on his personal security; and even gave the note of hand for sixteen pounds, on which the prosecution was founded, when he knew Ram-

poni to be in desperate circumstances, and had so little hope of recovering that or any former sums advanced for his use, that he offered to accept one hundred pounds for his whole demand.

The deplorable situation of Dodsworth excited the compassion of the doctor, who took him under his protection, and allowed him a handsome maintenance for regulating his accounts, and some other little services for which he was qualified. He committed several forgeries upon the doctor for small sums, and was guilty of many other acts of delinquency, which at length induced his generous benefactor to withdraw his patronage.

In return for the singular benevolence and liberality of the doctor, they entered into a diabolical combination to exhibit against him a felonious accusation, to which the life of a worthy man would have been sacrificed but for those excellent laws which are equally framed for the protection of the innocent and the punishment of the guilty.

Ramponi's view was evidently to free himself from a claim of upwards of three hundred and forty pounds; and the promise of a trifling gratification prevailed upon Dodsworth to join in the infernal conspiracy.

The villainy of these men was so enormous, that to dwell on the subject would perhaps be thought impertinent, because it would be to anticipate those sentiments which a perusal of the above narrative must necessarily suggest to our readers. That species of ingratitude, which consists merely in neglecting a proper acknowledgment of benefits received, is justly numbered among the vices most degrading to human nature: but what terms of reprobation can convey an adequate idea of the abhorrence that every man, not wholly abandoned to all the prin-

ciples allied to virtue, must entertain for those characters that aggravate the sin of ingratitude by deliberately concerted schemes to involve

in affliction and ignominy, such as, by repeated acts of beneficence, have entitled themselves to the warm effusions of grateful acknowledgment?

ROWLAND RIDGLEY,

EXECUTED FOR COINING.

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey in December, 1778, Rowland Ridgley was indicted 'for that he, not being a person employed in or for the Mint, knowingly, feloniously, and traitorously, had in his custody and possession a puncheon made of iron and steel, in and upon which was made and impressed the figure, resemblance, and similitude, of the head side of a shilling, without any lawful authority or sufficient excuse for that purpose, against the duty of his allegiance, and against the statute, &c. on the 19th of June.' *

The first witness called was John Clarke, who deposed that he went to the house of one Ball in Bunhill Row; that he knew the room belonged to the prisoner by the clothes that were found there, which very clothes he had seen the prisoner wear; and that, after he was apprehended and taken before a magistrate, he acknowledged that the lodgings belonged to him, and that the clothes were his property.

Moses Morant testified that he went with Clarke to Bunhill Row, where they broke open the door in presence of Ball; that he found under the chest of drawers a quantity of halfpence, and, among some litter, a leaden pot containing a parcel of puncheons and halfpence; and that under the drawers he found some shillings, and some half-crowns on the tester of the bed.

Clarke said farther, that there were some bad guineas in the pot,

and that the puncheons which were found were completely finished; that it might have been proper to have a tail side made; but that would have been attended with more trouble and expense, and therefore only the head side was represented. — Clarke would not undertake to swear that the impression on the counterfeit shillings was made from the puncheons found, but that it had all the appearance of being so.

Thomas Ball, landlord of the house, deposed that the prisoner had lodged with him about a week; that he had the key of the room in his own possession; and that he never heard him make a noise with any instruments, which he thought must have been the case if the prisoner had used any. This deponent was present when the articles above mentioned were found.

John Dixon swore that he apprehended the prisoner on the 8th of October, but found not any counterfeit money on him: however, he found a paper writing, dated the 30th of September, which imported to be a notice from him of his intention to surrender.

Mr. Pingo was next sworn.—To afford a clear idea of the force of his evidence, it will be necessary to give it in his own words:—'I am an engraver of the Mint; the prisoner is not employed by the Mint; the puncheon makes the dye, and the counter puncheon is the dye when it is made; the machines produced are puncheons, but not pun-

* He was likewise indicted for having in his possession a puncheon, upon which was impressed, &c. the figure of a guinea.

cheons made at the Mint. The method by which these are made is, that they first take a true shilling, and cut it away to the outline of the head: when they have done that, they take a piece of steel, on which they fix this outline; and then they file or cut the steel close away to that outline, till the steel is exactly the shape of the head, and that is what is called a puncheon. These particular puncheons are all ready for use, for they are all hardened, and they never are hardened till they are ready for use; that is the last operation they go through. It is impossible to say positively whether the shillings found in the prisoner's lodgings were made from these puncheons, because they are so imperfect; but they have all the appearance of it. In a new dye, or counter puncheon, the letters are always engraved in the counter puncheon after it is struck: there is no occasion to have any letters on old coin; it will pass without. The letters are put on afterwards, and a puncheon is complete without any letters at all. A puncheon may have letters made upon it, but they never use such puncheons at the Mint, from the inconvenience of them, because they would be so liable to break, and would require so much nicety to represent all the little angles and corners of the letters: that is the very reason that we engrave the letters afterwards upon the counter puncheon; but for making base shillings nothing else is necessary but this puncheon. These puncheons which are produced barely as you see them, though they might be for the making base shillings, yet they may be made use of for other purposes; namely, for making seals, buttons, medals, or other things, where such impressions are wanted.'

Anne Goodman deposed that she

was a servant to the landlord of the house where the prisoner lodged; that she went frequently up into the room next Ridgley's apartment, and his door was never locked.

Several persons deposed that he was a bookbinder by trade; that he had worked for them, and bore the character of an honest man; nor did they know any thing to impeach that character till the present accusation against him.

The jury, having considered of the whole of the evidence, gave a verdict 'That the prisoner was guilty;' but judgment against him was respited for the opinion of the judges; which opinion was delivered at the sessions held in February, 1779, and imported that his case was within the meaning of the act of parliament; in consequence of which, at the close of the sessions, he received sentence of death.

Of the behaviour of this malefactor after conviction we have nothing very favorable to say. He did not seem properly affected by the dreadful situation in which he stood.

It is remarkable of Ridgley that he had made himself so sure of acquittal, that, just before he was put on his trial, he told some persons who attended him that he should be discharged in a few minutes.

We have been informed that he had been many years a notorious coiner, and a chief instructor of several of those who came to the gallows before him:—a dreadful trade! How horrid to think of bringing up youths to the most certain fate of ignominy!

On the morning of execution this man behaved, on his quitting Newgate, and on his way to the fatal tree, with the greatest appearance of unconcern, repeatedly smiling, and shaking hands with his acquaintance as he passed; yet he evidently struggled to conceal an

anguish of mind that could *not* be concealed.

When the bell-man at St. Sepulchre's Church was speaking the admonitory words, Ridgley, who had belonged to a club with him, said, 'Remember me at the club to-night.'

When he arrived at the place of

execution his behaviour took a different turn: he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and died a penitent.

Rowland Ridgley was executed at Tyburn on the 31st of March, 1779, pursuant to his sentence, and the body delivered to his friends for interment.

FREDERIC JOHN EUSTACE,

EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

EUSTACE had been a servant to Lord Clarendon, but had quitted his lordship's service some months before the commission of the fact of which he was accused.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in February, 1779, Frederic John Eustace was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of the Right Honorable Thomas, Earl of Clarendon, on the night of the 23d of January, and stealing ten shirts, eight neckcloths, four guineas in money, and other effects, the property of Henry Johnson, in the same dwelling-house.

Mr. Johnson deposed that he was second coachman to Lord Clarendon, with whom the prisoner had lived as the upper coachman, but had quitted his service in the preceding summer; that his fellow-servant, John Cowen, had fastened the doors of the coach-house, which were broke open between eight and nine o'clock on the night mentioned in the indictment, when the above recited articles, and others, were taken away; that he did not observe any marks of violence, but that a person who was with him thought he saw the mark of a stick which had been put in to force open the door; and he added that the

persons who committed the fact went up stairs into the room over the stable, where he slept, and took his box, which contained four guineas, and several other articles.

This box was found on the following morning in Hyde Park; and within it was a smaller box, which contained the money; whereupon Eustace was suspected, and both the prisoners were taken into custody. When he visited them in prison he found one of his shirts on Eustace, who likewise wore a pair of his stockings; and in his pocket was found a letter directed to a woman to go to New Street, Carnaby Market, to fetch some linen, part of which was found at the house of his washerwoman. This deponent, being asked if the coach-house and the room where the things were was behind the house, answered in the affirmative; but said it was connected with it by walls, and that there was a passage ran from it to the dwelling-house.*

John Cowen (upper coachman) swore that he fastened the coach-house door at eight o'clock; that he was to fetch his lordship from the Opera House at ten o'clock; and that he fastened the door with a bar across it, and an iron rail over the

* On this circumstance the event of the trial seems to have turned. The connexion of the buildings made the coach-house (in a legal light) a part of the dwelling-house.

bar, as was usually done when the coach was to go out again: he added, that it was so fastened that it could not be opened with the hand, but might be by a stick, or a long knife; that, after it was fastened, he and the other coachman, and the postilion, went to a public house to drink; and that, on his return, the back door was open.

Sarah Betney deposed that she was a washerwoman employed by both the prisoners; that she received from Henry Langham two pair of stockings belonging to the prosecutor; that the prisoners asked her permission to leave some clean linen of their own on the Sunday morning, and took it away on the following day.

She added that an inventory was taken of the linen by the desire of both the prisoners, and in their presence, by Mr. Rozea, with whom this woman lived. This inventory was produced, as drawn by Rozea, and signed by the washerwoman.

John Dixon deposed that he apprehended the prisoners for a different fact than that alleged in the indictment; that he went to the washerwoman's and saw the linen, and found the inventory in Langham's pocket.

By way of defence, Eustace said that he had bought the effects in Monmouth Street, and that, meeting Langham in Compton Street, he told him he had better leave them at the washerwoman's for safety: in reply to which Dixon said that the prisoner had declared, when before the justice of peace, that he had bought them of a Jew; and that, on the justice inquiring what Jew, he said 'it might be a Turk, for what he knew.'

Hereupon Eustace declared that

he had bought them of a Jew woman for two guineas and a half, and that Langham was innocent: and the defence of Langham was that he never saw Eustace till he met him in Compton Street, when they drank a pint of purl, and then went together to the washerwoman's.

In behalf of Langham appeared his brother, who deposed that he had never known him guilty of any act of dishonesty; that he was never out of his house later than ten at night; though, in other respects, his conduct had not been so regular as might have been wished. Andrew Paterson, who had known Langham eighteen months; Mr. Dudley, who had known him two years; and Mr. Jones, one year; combined to give him a good character.

The jury, after a short consideration, found Eustace not guilty of the burglary, but guilty of stealing in the dwelling-house, and he received sentence of death; but Langham was acquitted.

The department of Eustace after conviction was exceedingly well adapted to his unhappy circumstances. He behaved with decent resignation and exemplary piety. He was executed at the same time with Rowland Ridgley, mentioned in the preceding narrative. On his way to the place of execution he employed himself incessantly in singing psalms, or in other acts of devotion. At the fatal tree he confessed that an attachment to abandoned women of the town had led to his ruin; but he died, to all appearance, a sincere penitent.

Frederic John Eustace was executed at Tyburn on the 31st of March, 1779.



The Countryman taken in by London Sharpers.

JAMES DONALLY,

CONVICTED OF HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THOUGH our descriptions of the variety of thieves constantly prowling, like the beasts of the forest, for plunder, have been numerous, and, unless we had accompanied them with proof, would almost exceed the belief of our country readers, yet have we still to add other species of robbery.

Among the finished villains of London are a gang who extort money from gentlemen, charging them with pretended crimes. These fellows are generally well dressed, and accost elegant young men, demanding money; and, on refusal, threaten to reveal a pretended abominable intercourse. Others there are who have debauched innocent girls, and, when the effects of the illicit commerce is evident, further seduce the unhappy creatures to swear some

wealthy married man as the seducer, and, in case of his resisting the false accusation, to swear that he is the father, thus at once rendering a numerous family unhappy.

Other profligate wretches, as indeed we have already shown, swear robberies against innocent men, in order to obtain the reward for the apprehension of felons. Other frauds are practised, which we shall hereafter notice, of dropping counterfeit gold articles and diamonds, and picking the parcel up in the presence of some innocent unsuspecting countryman, whom they acknowledge to be entitled to one half of the pretended prize, and thus cheat him out of whatever property he may have about him, on depositing the spurious article with him, to be valued hereafter.

Instances of some of these artful villainies we have already adduced; but the following has, on perusing the case, drawn from us these additional observations. In truth, they cannot be too often repeated, to guard countrymen against the numerous deceptions practised in the metropolis.

Mr. William Hird, of the village of Leyburne, in the North Riding of the county of York, about forty years ago, came on business to London. One day the countryman was caught in a heavy shower of rain, and sought shelter under a gateway on Holborn Hill, where others were for the same reason assembled. There he was accosted by a well-dressed man, who observed that the storm was not likely to abate, and proposed to the innocent countryman to retire to an adjoining public house, and wait for fair weather over a pot of porter. The invitation was readily accepted, and they went to the house, where they found three or four more, who declared that they came on the same errand.

The porter being drank, a bowl of punch was proposed; and the countryman, on such an occasion, determined not to be outdone in acts of courtesy, assented. While the intoxicating liquor passed quickly round, one of the strangers observed that, as the rain increased, a game at cards would pass the heavy time unnoticed; and cards were immediately placed upon the table.

Mr. Hird was, in his village club-room, thought to be expert at this amusement; and, confident of his abilities, he scrupled not to take a hand. But what are the best players, who play fairly, among London sharpers?—Mere dupes.

The game began, when Mr. Hird and his partner were for some time successful. The bets, at first small, were doubled, until the stakes be-

came high, when the poor countryman not only lost his gainings, but all his cash soon followed.

This failure being evident, a kind friend in the company advanced him money on his watch, then upon his silver buckles, and in fact every valuable article about him was thus pawned. Entirely stripped, one of the company went out to observe the weather, another disappeared on another pretence, until the countryman was left alone. Then came in the landlord, with his demand for the liquor drank, and payment for the fatal cards.

In vain did poor Mr. Hird plead his misfortune; the host insisted on being paid, alleging that the company were all strangers to him, and he must look to the last. References for payment were refused, and the poor countryman was obliged to part with his coat and hat, and, the rain still continuing, to return to his inn, wet to the skin.

The case which we have now to state was of the worst description of these robberies, and the sufferer was the Honorable Charles Fielding, second son of the Earl of Denbigh.

James Donally was examined at Bow Street, on a charge of having extorted money from this gentleman by the vilest of all insinuations; and the magistrates, deeming that the offence amounted to a robbery on the highway, committed him for trial; and Lord Denbigh was bound to prosecute on behalf of his son, who was under age.

James Donally, alias Patrick Donally, was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in February, 1779, for 'that he, on the king's highway, in and upon the Honorable Charles Fielding did make an assault, putting him in corporeal fear and danger of his life, and stealing from his person, and against his will, half a guinea, on the 18th of Ja-

mary :’ and there was a second count in the indictment, for robbing the said gentleman of a guinea, on the 20th of the same month.

This fact was so atrocious in its nature, and so clearly proved, that it will not be necessary to state the evidence in detail as it arose on the trial, but to give the story by way of narrative.

Between six and seven in the evening of the 18th of January, Mr. Charles Fielding was going from the house of a lady with whom he had dined to Covent Garden Theatre, when he was accosted in Soho Square by Donally, who desired he would give him some money. Mr. Fielding, astonished at this address, asked him for what. Donally said he had better comply, or he would take him before a magistrate, and swear that he made an attempt to commit a most foul crime.

Terrified by this insinuation, the young gentleman gave him half a guinea, which was all the money he had about him; and, returning to the house where he had dined, borrowed half a guinea of the servant, with an intention of going to the play.

Two days afterwards he again met the prisoner in Oxford Road, when he repeated his threats of carrying him before a magistrate, and to prison; saying that he knew very well what had passed in Soho Square the other night; and, unless he would give him some more money, he would take him before a magistrate, and accuse him of the same attempt which he had threatened on the other day. He added that it would go hard with him, unless he could prove an *alibi*.

Terrified by these threatenings, Mr. Fielding went to Mr. Waters, a grocer in Bond Street, to whom, under the immediate impressions of

his fear, he gave a guinea to give to the prisoner.

It happened providentially that, on Saturday, the 12th of February, Lord Fielding was going up Hay Hill; when Donally, owing to the great personal likeness to his brother, accosted him in words which he did not rightly understand. His lordship said he believed he had mistaken him for some other person, for he did not know his face. Donally said he believed he must know him, and asked if he did not remember giving him half a guinea in Soho Square. He likewise mentioned the money given him at the grocer’s; a knowledge of which his lordship, as well he might, utterly denied.

The prisoner again asking if he did not recollect having given him any money, his lordship asked him what was his present demand; and, desiring him to explain himself, some farther altercation ensued; on which Lord Fielding desired the prisoner to go before a magistrate, with which he seemed to comply, but at length stopped, and said he would not go. During this contest his lordship was somewhat terrified; and, scarcely knowing what kind of charge to make against the prisoner, he was, as he owned on the trial, ‘weak enough to loose his collar, and let him go.’ Donally then turned about, addressed him by the title of ‘My Lord,’ and said ‘he should hear from him again.’

On the Tuesday following, as Lord Fielding was walking near the same spot, he heard a voice over his shoulders saying ‘Sir, I have met you again,’ or some such expression. His lordship, recollecting his voice, turned round, and seized him by the collar. Donally complained that he had used him very ill the last time he saw him. The other replied ‘that he had used

him too well, for he had let him go, but he would take care to do better this time.'

Donally now desired to be treated like a *gentleman*, saying he would not be dragged, but would go quietly. Lord Fielding, not seeing any person that was likely to assist him, and apprehending a rescue, told him that, if he would walk along quietly to the next coffee-house, he would not drag him. They walked down Dover Street together; but the prisoner increasing his pace, Lord Fielding followed, and seized him. He fell down twice, but was again seized as soon as he arose.

By this time a crowd was assembled: Major Hartley, and two other gentlemen, happened to come by. The prisoner was seized, and conveyed to Bow Street, where the magistrates, on hearing the evidence, thought that the crime amounted to a highway robbery, and committed the prisoner for trial accordingly.

Donally, in his defence, acknowledged that he had met Lord Fielding twice; that he had addressed him with decency, and desired him to hear something respecting his brother; and that Sir John Fielding had made the Honorable Charles Fielding carry on the prosecution.

He did not deny the receipt of the guinea at the grocer's in Bond Street; but averred that he did not deserve death on account of the charge against him.

Mr. Fielding swore that he had given the same account at Bow Street as on the trial; and the jury, having considered the whole evidence, brought in a verdict of 'Guilty;' but Mr. Justice Buller, before whom the offender was tried, reserved the case for the opinion of the judges, on a point of law.

On the 29th of April, 1779, the judges met, and gave their opinion on this case, pronouncing it a new species of robbery to evade the law, but which was *not* to be evaded. He therefore underwent its sentence, which he had, with most abominable wickedness, brought upon his own head.

Another diabolical villain of this description, named John Staples, was, on the 6th of December, 1779, hanged at Tyburn, for extorting money from Thomas Harris Crosby, Esq. by threatening him with an abominable crime; and along with him suffered Timothy Fitzpatrick, for stealing money; and John Taylor, for stealing a letter, in which was a bill of exchange for thirty pounds.

MORGAN PHILLIPS,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE crime for which this man most justly suffered was attended with extraordinary acts of cruelty, and such as we have not often had occasion to describe.

The inhabitants of Narbeth, a small village in the county of Pembroke, were, in the middle of the night, alarmed with the appearance of fire, bursting from a farm-house near the turnpike. Before they could render assistance the house

was nearly reduced to the ground, and the family were missing. On examining the ruins the remains of the owner, Mr. Thomas, an old and respectable farmer, were found on a bench, in a leaning posture; but so much burnt that it was impossible to determine whether he had been first murdered, or had perished by the merciless flames.

Proceeding in the search, the next unhappy victim found was his niece,

a fine woman of about thirty years of age, whose body lay across the feet of a half-burnt bedstead, with a thigh broken, and an arm missing.

Among the ruins of another room was the body of a laboring man, much burnt, but with a large wound on the back of his head, from which much blood had issued. Mr. Thomas's servant-woman, who was very robust, was found dead at the entrance into one of the rooms, with several deep wounds in her head, and her hair clotted with blood. Her body was not so much burnt as the others; and near her was found the large kitchen spit, half bent, with which it was conjectured she had opposed the murderers.

It was now evident that the house had been broke open, the inhabitants murdered, and then set on fire. Some money was found in a drawer, which it is supposed the villains overlooked; but considerable property appeared to have been stolen.

So horrible a deed, in so peaceable a country as Wales, alarmed the whole nation, and every search was made after the murderers.

A man of the name of John Morris, a lazy suspicious character, and who had already been charged with different offences, was apprehended, under great cause of suspicion; and, while carrying him to gaol, he suddenly sprang from the constables, and threw himself into a coal-pit, and was killed.

At length suspicion fell on one Morgan Phillips, who, finding himself generally thought guilty, and apprehensive that full proof would be brought against him, confessed that he, in company with the above-mentioned John Morris, broke into the house of Farmer Thomas, murdered the family, robbed it, as they conceived, of all the cash, and different portable articles, and afterwards set it on fire.

On his trial this confession being read, and by the prisoner himself acknowledged to be true, and a variety of corroborating proofs being likewise brought forward, the jury had very little hesitation in finding him guilty; and Morgan Phillips was accordingly executed at Haverfordwest on the 5th of April, 1779, amid the execrations of every honest Welchman.

THE RIOTS OF LONDON,

BEGINNING ON THE SECOND DAY OF JUNE, 1780, WITH THE EXECUTION OF THE RIOTERS.

THE history of England, from its earliest epoch, since London became the seat of royalty, relates no calamitous domestic occurrence pregnant with so much mischief as the riots of London.

A commotion so contemptible in its rise, so rapid, daring, and destructive in its progress, was perhaps never known, under the then circumstances of the country, in any civilized nation.

The sovereignty of the king and

the property of the subject rested on laws unsupported; magistrates were confessedly intimidated, and all good citizens were seized with panic. The very existence of the state, its treasures, its splendour, its civil and military strength, for some days depended on the caprice of an incurbed multitude, seeking plunder, and committing wanton devastations in every quarter of the great metropolis.

In the latter part of the month

of May the following notice was inserted in the London papers, and posted in the streets :—

‘ PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.

‘ Whereas no Hall in London can contain forty thousand persons,

‘ Resolved,—That this association do meet on Friday next in St. George’s Fields, at ten o’clock in the morning, to consider the most prudent and respectful manner of attending their petition, which will be presented the same day to the House of Commons.

‘ Resolved,—For the sake of good order and regularity, that this association, in coming to the ground, do separate themselves into four distinct divisions, viz.—the London division, the Westminster division, the Southwark division, and the Scotch division.

‘ Resolved,—That the London division do take place of the ground towards Southwark; the Westminster division second; the Southwark division third; and the Scotch division upon the left, all wearing blue cockades, to distinguish themselves from the papists, and those who approve of the late act in favour of popery.

‘ Resolved,—That the magistrates of London, Westminster, and Southwark, are requested to attend, that their presence may overawe and control any riotous or evil-minded persons who may wish to disturb the legal and peaceable deportment of his majesty’s subjects.

‘ By order of the Association,
(Signed) ‘ G. GORDON.’

‘ London, May 29.’

The particulars of the outrages of the mob, for many days after this meeting had taken place, would fill a volume. We shall extract the account of Dr. Johnson, who was an eye-witness, and wrote it at the time in letters to Mrs. Thrale, who, with many thousand inhabitants, had fled the horrid scene which the metropolis presented. The doctor on this subject says :—

‘ On Friday, the 2d of June,* the good Protestants met in St. George’s Fields, at the summons of Lord George Gordon, and, marching to Westminster, insulted the Lords and Commons, who all bore it with great tameness. At night the outrages began by the demolishing the Mass-house near Lincoln’s Inn.

‘ On Monday, Mr. Strahan, who had been insulted, spoke to Lord Mansfield, who had been insulted too, of the licentiousness of the populace; and his lordship treated it as a very slight irregularity.

‘ On Tuesday night they pulled down Fielding’s house (the public office in Bow Street), and burnt his goods in the street.

‘ They had gutted, on Monday, Sir George Saville’s house, but the building was saved.

‘ On Tuesday evening, leaving Fielding’s ruins, they went to Newgate, to demand their companions, who had been seized for demolishing the chapel. The keeper could not release them but by the mayor’s permission, which he went to ask. At his return he found all the prisoners released, and Newgate in a blaze.

They then went to Bloomsbury,

* On the first day of the riots, when the petition was presented, Lord George Gordon came into the House of Commons with an unembarrassed countenance, and a blue cockade in his hat, after ‘ Riding in the whirlwind and directing the storm ;’ but, finding it gave offence, he took it out, and put it in his pocket; not, however, before Captain Herbert, of the navy, one of the members, threatened to pull it out; while Colonel Murry, another member, declared that, if the mob broke into the House, he (looking at Lord George) should instantly be the victim.

and fixed upon Lord Mansfield's house, which they partly pulled down; and, as for his goods, they totally burnt them. They went to Caen Wood (his lordship's country seat); but a guard was there before them. They plundered several Papists, and burnt a Mass-house, and some dwelling-houses in Moorfields, the same night.

'On Wednesday I walked with Dr. Scott, to look at Newgate, and found it in ruins, with the fire yet glowing.* As I went by, the Protestants were plundering the Sessions House at the Old Bailey. There was not, I believe, a hundred; but they did their work at leisure, in full security, without sentinels, and without trepidation, as men lawfully employed in full day. Such is the cowardice of a commercial place!

'On Wednesday they broke open the Fleet Prison, the King's Bench and Marshalsea Prisons, Wood Street Compter, and Clerkenwell Bridewell. At night they set fire to the Fleet and the King's Bench, and I know not how many other places; and one might see the glare of conflagration fill the sky from many parts.—The sight was dreadful. Some people were threatened; Mr. Strahan advised me to take care of myself. Such a time of terror you would have been happy in not seeing.

'The king said in council "That the magistrates had not done their duty, but that he would do his own;" and a proclamation was published, directing us to keep our servants within doors, as the peace was now to be preserved by force.

'The soldiers were sent out to different parts, and the town is now quiet. They are stationed so as to be every where within call; there is no longer any body of rioters, and the individuals are hunted to their holes, and led to prison: Lord George Gordon was last night sent to the Tower.

'Mr. John Wilkes was this day in my neighbourhood, to seize the publishers of a seditious pamphlet.

'Several chapels have been destroyed, and several inoffensive Papists have been plundered; but the high sport was to burn the gaols. This was a good rabble trick. The debtors and the criminals were set at liberty; but of the criminals, as has always happened, many are already retaken; and two pirates have surrendered themselves, and it is expected they will be pardoned.

'Government now acts with its proper force; and we are all now again under the protection of the king and the law. I thought it would be agreeable to you to have my testimony to the public security; and that you would sleep more quietly when I told you that you were safe.

'There has been, indeed, an universal panic, from which the king was the first that recovered. Without the concurrence or assistance of his ministers, or even the assistance of the civil magistrates, he put the soldiers in motion, and saved the town from calamities such a rabble's government must naturally produce.

'The public has escaped a very heavy calamity. The rioters attempted the Bank on Wednesday

* A message was sent by his majesty to each of the twelve judges, offering them the protection of the military; to which Judge Gould returned the following answer: 'I am grown old under the protection of the English laws; and I am persuaded, however some persons may be misled, the people in general love and respect the laws; and so great is my attachment to them, that I would rather die under them than live under the protection of any other laws.'

night,* but in no great number. Jack Wilkes headed the party that drove them away. It is agreed that if they had seized the Bank on Tuesday, at the height of the panic, when no resistance had been prepared, they might have carried away whatever they had found. Jack is always zealous for order and decency, and declares that if he had been trusted with power he would not have left a rioter alive.'

Thus far Dr Johnson's sketch of these daring rioters. At the commencement of the outrages the guards were by no means active in executing the commands of their officers; but when the regiments of militia, which had been ordered from a distance by forced marches, entered London, they kept up an incessant fire upon the lawless mob, until they were every where dispersed.

The militia were afterwards encamped in Hyde Park, Finchley Common, and various other places near the metropolis.

The number of persons killed by the military in these riots is unknown; various calculations have been made, from one hundred to one thousand. We are induced to believe that about the medium of such estimations may be admitted to come near the mark. It is true that numbers of dead bodies were carried off by their friends, and secretly buried, for fear of being implicated in their crimes.

When the militia first fired upon the rioters many innocent people fell. So panic-struck was every peaceable man, each expecting the destruction of his house, that many mingled in the mob, in order to learn their successive plans of mischief.

Of those brought to trial, we find,

from the different court records, that—

At the Old Bailey there were tried	85
Of whom were convicted	35
Tried at St. Margaret's Hill . . .	50
Convicted	24
Making 135 tried, and 59 convicted.	

—
Total 194

Lord George Gordon was indicted as the instigator of all this mischief, tried in the Court of King's Bench, and, after a very long examination of witnesses and pleadings, acquitted. The foreman of the jury, in answer to an observation which Lord George Gordon was weak enough to make, after bringing in their favorable verdict, told him that 'it was a very nice point.'

In such a case, such interest as the Duke of Gordon then possessed might have done much in favour of his half-erazed brother.

The man who was thus the means of getting London in a blaze was certainly, at intervals, deranged in his intellects; for, having, some few years after, been convicted in the King's Bench for a libel on the late Marie Antoinette, Queen of France, and Count D'Ademar, one of the French ministers of state, to avoid punishment he fled, as was supposed, to Holland; but in about six months he was discovered in a Jewish garb at Birmingham, with a long beard; and, having undergone circumcision, he had firmly embraced the faith of the unbelievers.

He was taken by a King's Bench warrant, and sent to Newgate, pursuant to his sentence, where he lived some few years in the exercise of all the Jewish rites, and at length died in that belief—a prisoner.

Such was the end of a man, once, perhaps, the most popular idol of the mob; and, for some days,

* A large party of them proceeded to the New River Head, to cut off the water-pipes; but, being met by an officer's detachment of the Northamptonshire militia, they went to do other mischief.

the terror of all peaceable citizens.

Among those tried and convicted were several women and boys; but not one individual of the smallest respectability or good fame; negroes, Jews, gipsies, and vagabonds of every description—the very refuse of society.

Among the rioters, to sum up the account of their infamy and wretchedness, was Jack Ketch himself. This miscreant, whose real name was Edward Dennis, was convicted of pulling down the house of Mr. Baggis, of New Turnstile. The keeper of 'Tothillfields' Bridewell would not suffer Jack Ketch to go among the other prisoners, lest they should tear him to pieces. In order that he might hang up his brother rioters, he was granted a pardon!

Among other deaths which resulted from these riots was that of the Rev. Robert Dillon, a pious man, who had officiated at the Roman Catholic chapel, in Moorfields, for thirty-six years. The mob pulled down his house, along with the chapel—burned his books, which he greatly valued, and his household furniture—not even leaving him a bed whereon he might rest his old bones. This barbarous treatment broke his heart. He was a younger branch of the ancient family of Prondston, in the county of Meath, in Ireland; and he was universally esteemed by a numerous acquaintance.

Of those who suffered the just sentence of the law we shall name the most principal actors in those dreadful scenes of destruction.

The first put upon their trials were Richard Roberts and William Lawrence, mere lads in appearance, hardly seventeen years of age, convicted of pulling down the house of Sir John Fielding. They were hanged in Bow Street.

Thomas Taplin, a captain-rioter, convicted of extorting money from Mr. Mahon. That gentleman deposed that a ragged little boy came first up to him, and said, 'God bless your honour, some money for your poor mob!' He bid him begone. 'Then,' replied the imp of mischief, 'I'll call my captain.' Then came up the prisoner, Taplin, on horse-back, led by two boys, and attended by forty or fifty followers, mostly mere lads. Mr. Mahon was so intimidated as to purchase his security with half a crown. This fellow was also hanged in Bow Street, where he had stopped Mr. Mahon.

George Kennedy, hanged in Bunhill Row, for pulling down the house of Mr. McCartney, a baker.

William McDonald, a cripple, who had lost an arm, and had formerly been a soldier, hanged on Tower Hill for destroying the house of J. Lebart, a publican, in St. Catharine's Lane, near thereto.

James Henry, for setting fire to the house of Mr. Langdon, on Holborn Hill.

George Bawton, a poor drunken cobbler, who meeting Mr. Richard Stone, in High Street, Holborn, stopped him, saying 'Pray remember the Protestant religion.' Mr. Stone offered twopence, but the cobbler damned him, and swore he would have sixpence, which was complied with; and for this, in times like those, he was justly hanged.

William Brown, for extorting money from Mr. Daking, in Bishopsgate Street, as for the Protestant cause, and threatening to rip him up, if he did not comply.

William Bateman, executed in Coleman Street, for pulling down the house of Mr. Charlton.

John Gray, Charles Kent, and Letitia Holland, hanged in Bloomsbury Square, for being parties to

setting fire to the mansion of Lord Chief Justice Mansfield.

Mary Roberts and Charlotte Gardener, the latter a negress, hanged on Tower Hill for assisting to demolish the house of J. Lebarty, as before mentioned.

Enoch Fleming, executed in Oxford Road, for assisting in pulling down the house of Ferdinand Schomberg.

George Staples, for being concerned in the riot in Moorfields, and assisting to pull down the Roman Catholic chapel there, and the house of James Malo.

Benjamin Waters, for a like offence on the house of one Murphy.

Samuel Solomon, a Jew, hanged in Whitechapel, for joining in the demolishing the house of Christopher Conner.

John Gamble, hanged at Bethnal Green, for assisting to pull down the house of Justice Wilmot.

James Jackson, at the Old Bailey, convicted of setting fire to Newgate.

John Burgess, hanged for aiding in pulling down the house of Mr. Lynch.

Thomas Price, James Burn, and Benjamin Waters, in Old Street, for the like offence on the house of John Bradbury.

George Staples and Jonathan Stacy, also hanged in Moorfields, for being concerned in the riot, and burning of houses there.

RIOTERS EXECUTED FOR OFFENCES COMMITTED WITHIN THE BO- ROUGH OF SOUTHWARK.

Joseph Lovell and Robert Lovell, father and son, a pair of gipsies, hanged for aiding in setting fire to the house of Thomas Conolly.

The following, convicted of setting fire to the King's Bench Prison, and houses near thereto, were executed in St. George's Fields,

viz.—Robert Lovell, Mary Cook, Edward Dorman, Elizabeth Collins, Henry Penny, and John Bridport.

The numbers who fell from the fire of the military, we have already observed, was incalculable.

The boats in which the robbers (for plunder and mischief were the only objects of the mob) were carrying off the money plundered from the toll-houses of Blackfriars Bridge were sunk by the fire of a party of the North Hampshire militia, who also threw several of the rioters over the ballustrades into the river Thames, where they perished.

A proclamation was issued, and a reward of five hundred pounds was offered for the discovery and conviction of the person or persons who demolished the houses and chapels of the foreign ambassadors; and military law was established.

The following is an extract from the king's speech to both houses of parliament, the 18th of June, soon after the riots were ended:—

‘My Lords and Gentlemen,—The outrages committed by bands of lawless and desperate men, in various parts of this metropolis, broke forth with such violence into acts of felony and treason, had so far overborne all civil authority, and threatened directly the immediate subversion of all legal power, the destruction of all property, and the confusion of every order of the state, that I found myself obliged, by every tie of duty and affection to my people, to suppress, in every part, those rebellious insurrections, and to provide for the public safety by the most effectual and immediate application of the force intrusted to me by parliament. I have directed copies of the proclamations issued upon that occasion to be laid before you.

‘Proper orders have been given for bringing the authors and abet

tors of these insurrections, and the perpetrators of such criminal acts, to speedy trial, and to such condign punishment as the laws of their country prescribe, and the vindication of public justice demands.

'Though I trust it is not necessary, yet I think it right, at this time, to renew to you my solemn assurances that I have no other object but to make the laws of the

realm, and the principles of our excellent constitution in Church and State, the rule and measure of my conduct; and that I shall ever consider it as the first duty of my station, and the chief glory of my reign, to maintain and preserve the established religion of my kingdoms, and, as far as in me lies, to secure and to perpetuate the rights and liberties of my people.'

ABRAHAM DURNFORD AND WILLIAM NEWTON,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

IN the case of these men we present a species of robbery different in the plan of its commission from every one yet described.

It was proved, on their trial at the Old Bailey, that these men hired an empty house, No. 21, Water Lane, Fleet Street; and, having a bill of exchange lying at the bank of Smith, Wright, and Gray, they directed it for payment at this house. They made preparation for cleaning, in order, as they pretended, to furnish it with dispatch; but the landlord, not liking this extraordinary haste, or his new tenants, desired Mrs. Boucher, the mistress of a public house opposite, to have an eye on their proceedings.

Accordingly, on the day this sham bill became due, being the 5th of August, 1780, she observed the new tenants, Durnford and Newton, then prisoners at the bar, enter the house, and open the parlour windows. Soon after she saw a third man knock at the door, which was open, and he entered. Watching the event, she heard an uncommon noise, and, stepping over the way to listen, heard the cry of 'Murder!' as from a hoarse faint voice, succeeded by a kind of groaning, which very much alarmed her; and, looking through the key-hole, she saw two men dragging a third down the

cellar stairs; on which she cried out loudly 'They're murdering a man!' She knocked hard at the door, and begged the people in the street to break it open; but none would interfere. Being enraged at their not assisting her, she burst open the window, and was entering the house, when Newton jumped out of the one pair of stairs' window, and was running off; but, on the cry of 'Stop thief!' he was instantly taken; and the other she seized by the throat herself, and dragged him to her own house, by which this horrid contrivance was brought to light.

The house was then immediately searched, and in a back cellar was found a man, bound, and nearly choked, to prevent his calling out. He proved to be a collecting clerk for Smith, Wright, and Gray, named James Watts. They had robbed him of his pocket-book; and would have murdered him, had not this woman saved his life.

Mr. Watts, a young Quaker, aged eighteen, the party robbed and alluded to, would not, according to the doctrines of that peculiar sect, be sworn, which is required by the law in all cases of life and death, so that their conviction rested chiefly on the evidence of Mrs. Boucher; but not a shadow of a doubt existed of their guilt.

The tale of the Quaker youth (to which he would have affirmed, considering his affirmation equal to an oath) was as follows :—

‘ On the fifth day of the eighth month (August) a bill became due, made payable at No. 21, Water Lane, Blackfriars, which he took for collection, for his employers, Smith, Wright, and Gray. When he knocked at the door it was immediately opened; and, having entered the house, he was collared and seized by two men, whom he afterwards found to be Abraham Durnford and William Newton. They

attempted to gag him, and drag him down into the cellar. Fearing their intention was to murder him, he got from them by an extraordinary effort, and ran to the street door, but found it locked. They again seized him, and attempted to drag him back. His screams providentially alarmed Mrs. Boucher, by whose means he was rescued, but not until they had robbed him of his pocket-book, containing notes and bills to the amount of about four thousand pounds.

They were executed at Tyburn November the 22d, 1780.

WILLIAM MEYER, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

WHETHER to condemn most the act of madness which prompted this man to call for his pistols, or the woman who brought them to him, we leave to the discrimination of the reader. Men who, by imprudence, throw themselves into the jaws of bailiffs, are seldom in a calm or settled state of mind, and little fit to be aggravated, or given the means of doing mischief.

It appeared on the trial of Mr. Meyer, who was of a most respectable family in Yorkshire, that he had been arrested for debt by an officer of the sheriff, named Joseph Spinke, in whose custody he remained till the morning after the caption, when the officer, by Mr. Meyer's request, was to go to Kirkhammerton, the seat of his father, for bail, or money to pay the debt. About ten at night, after the prisoner and his wife had whispered together, she went out, and brought in a pair of pistols under her apron, and gave them to her husband, saying ‘ There are your pistols, to fulfil your foolish humour.’ He ordered them to leave

the room, which they refusing to do, he fired, and shot Spinke in the neck: the ball went through the windpipe. Thomas Meyer instantly said ‘ Now, Mr. Meyer, you have done for yourself.’ The servant-maid, on hearing the pistol, ran up stairs, and met her mistress, who exclaimed ‘ By the Lord God, here is a man killed!’ Meyer was secured: Spinke died in a few hours, forgave the prisoner and his wife, but laid his death to their charge.

They were both tried for this fact at York assizes, March 20, 1781, when William Meyer, Esq. was sentenced to die for the same on the 22d of the said month; but afterwards obtained a respite, which did not avail him long, being hanged on the 6th of April, 1781.

His behaviour to the last was very unsuitable to his awful situation: he severely accused his wife, and thought his sentence hard; nor had he such an affecting sense of his crime as to repent of it as became him, but wasted his few remaining moments in a light and trifling manner.

FRANCIS HENRY DE LA MOTTE,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THIS man was long in England, unsuspected, one of its greatest enemies. He was a Frenchman, and a spy upon the government, in the service of France. He gave advice to the enemy through the medium of one Lutterlok, of the strength and destination of our fleets and armies.

Among other acts of mischief done by means of this man was the attack upon the British fleet, under Commodore Johnstone, in the neutral harbour called Port Praya Road, on its voyage to the East Indies, where it was conveying a fleet of East Indiamen.

La Motte having sent intimation to the French minister of the British commodore's strength and time of sailing, so heedlessly were the objects of our expeditions conducted in those days, that they were known long before their departure. The French sent a superior fleet in quest of him, under the command of Commodore Suffrein.

So unsuspecting were the British, that they lay in harbour, taking in water and provisions, when the enemy hove in sight.

'I was then absent,' says Commodore Johnstone in his dispatches to government, 'in a boat, giving directions for moving some ships which had driven too near each other. As soon as I saw the signal for so many strange ships I instantly returned on board the Romney, (the commodore's broad pendant flying on board that ship,) and made the signal for all persons to come from the shore, and to repair on board their respective ships, having at that time not less than fifteen hundred persons absent from the fleet, who were employed in watering, fishing, and embarking

live cattle, with other occupations necessary to the dispatch in refitting so many ships, besides a number of officers and troops, who were taking recreation, with leave of absence, on shore.'

The French, apprized of the exact strength of the British, pressed into their very centre in line of battle; a mode of attack they durst not otherwise have done. Though thus surprised, the British beat them off.

We instance this act of treason in La Motte, selected from many misfortunes in the war through the same cause, to give the reader an idea of the extent of his villainy: in this the returns of our killed and wounded amounted to two hundred and seven men; to which must be added the great damage done to the fleet, thus fighting under every disadvantage.

Other squadrons were attacked through the same means; many more lives lost; and the nation put to an enormous expense.

This traitor had elegant lodgings in Bond Street, dressed like a gentleman, kept the best company, and passed as a foreigner of fortune, spoke the English tongue, and was well acquainted with the situation of the country. At length suspicion arose that he was a French spy: a watch was accordingly set upon his actions, and he was soon apprehended, and committed prisoner to the Tower.

On his trial various acts of treason were fully proved against him, and the jury immediately found him guilty.

The judge then passed upon him the following awful sentence:—

'That he should be hanged by the neck, but not till he was dead.'

then to be cut down, and his bowels to be taken out and burnt before his face; his head to be taken off, his body cut into four quarters, and to be at his majesty's disposal.'

He was remanded to the Tower, and at the expiration of a fortnight a warrant was issued from the office of the secretary of state for his execution.

The sheriffs demanded his body, on the day appointed, of the Lieutenant of the Tower, and carried him to Newgate; from thence, in about a quarter of an hour, they set out with him to Tyburn, on the 27th of July, 1781.

La Motte was dressed in a suit of black. His deportment was manly and serious: he seemed to be totally abstracted from the surrounding multitude, as he scarcely ever took his eyes from a devotional book which he held in his hand.

Upon his arrival at the fatal tree he was immediately removed out of the sledge in which he had been conveyed. He then employed some minutes in earnest devotion; after which he twice bowed respectfully to the sheriffs, and turned to the executioner, desiring him immediately to perform his office.

After hanging fifty-seven minutes the body was cut down, and laid on a block, when (a fire having been previously kindled) the executioner severed the head from the trunk, and, making an incision from his breast, ripped out the heart, which, after being exposed to the surrounding spectators, was thrown into the flames.

The body was then scorched, together with the head, and put into a very handsome coffin, which was delivered to an undertaker for interment.

JAMES MATHISON,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THIS offender was tried on Thursday, the 20th of May, 1779. There perhaps never appeared in any court of justice so capital nor so ingenious a man in his style as this person. His practice for some time past had been to go to the Bank, and take out a note: this he counterfeited, passed the copy, and, after some time, returned the original. His frequent applications at length exciting suspicions, which were increased by his appearance in life, and other circumstances, he was taken up. When brought before Justice Fielding, he was there known to be the person charged with forgeries upon the bank at Darlington. The particular forgery now charged on him was for making and uttering a note for payment of twenty pounds, with intent to defraud Mr. Mann, of Coventry, and the Bank of Eng-

land. The note was produced in court, and the witnesses were brought to prove its having been negotiated by him.

This fact being established, the next circumstance in consideration was to prove that the note was absolutely a counterfeit one. This his prosecutors were totally unable to do by any testimony they could adduce, so minutely and so dexterously had he feigned all the different marks. The note itself was not only so made as to render it altogether impossible for any human optic to perceive a difference; but the very hands of the cashier and the entering clerk were also so counterfeited as entirely to preclude a positive discrimination even by those men themselves. The water-mark too, namely, 'Bank of England,' which the bankers had considered

as an infallible criterion of fair notes, a mark which could not be resembled by any possible means, was also hit off by this man, so as to put it out of the power of the most exact observer to perceive a difference. Several paper-makers were of opinion that this mark must have been put on in the making of the paper; but Mathison declared that he put it on afterwards by a peculiar method, and known only to himself. The extreme similitude of the fair and false notes had such an effect upon the judge and jury that the prisoner would certainly have been discharged, for want of evidence to prove the counterfeit, if his own information, taken at Fielding's, had not been produced against him, which immediately turned the scale, and he was found guilty.

He was executed at Tyburn, pursuant to his sentence, on July 28th,

1779. At the place of execution he made a speech, which took up some minutes; wherein he acknowledged his guilt, and hoped for forgiveness from the Almighty. He also warned others to avoid the crime for which he suffered, and forgave his prosecutors.

Such was the fatal and untimely end of a man who, if his talents had been laudably employed, might have proved an ornament and use to society; but which, being abused to the base and illegal purposes of fraud and injustice, made him obnoxious to that severe punishment which the laws of his country affix to a crime so highly detrimental to the public and individuals. This instance, with many others of a similar kind, prove the truth of the observation in Scripture, that 'a little which the righteous possesseth is better than all the riches of the ungodly.'

ELIZABETH BUTCHILL,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS unfortunate young woman was a native of Saffron Walden, in Essex, born of honest and industrious parents, and had lived for a considerable time with her aunt, who was a bed-maker belonging to Trinity College. Till the unhappy affair which brought her to so ignominious an end she was generally esteemed for the decency and modesty of her conduct; and it is to be lamented that a mistaken fear of shame should have induced her to commit an action at which Nature shudders—the destruction of her own offspring!

The following are the particulars of the shocking murder perpetrated by this malefactor, as they appeared on the coroner's inquest and on the trial.

On Friday, the 7th of January, 1780, about eleven in the morning,

the body of a new-born female infant was found in the river near Trinity College bogs; which was immediately taken out, and the coroner's jury summoned to sit on the body.

Mr. Bond, a surgeon, deposed that he examined the body, when he found the head swelled and bruised, the skull fractured in several places: that, on opening the body, the lungs appeared distended, and were on trial specifically lighter than water; and that he was of opinion the child was born alive, and received its death by the wounds in the head.

Esther Hall, the wife of William Hall, brewer to Trinity College, whose dwelling-house was within the College gates, at no great distance from the place where the child was found, deposed that her niece, Elizabeth Butchill, had lived about

three years with her in the capacity of a bed-maker in the said college; that, about three o'clock in the morning of the 6th instant, she heard her niece groan very much, and, getting up to inquire into the cause, found her complaining of a violent colic; that she heated some peppermint-water, &c. and gave it her, with some hot flannels, which seemed to give her ease; that, about six in the morning, the said Esther Hall went to College, leaving her niece in bed, where she found her on her return about ten o'clock.

William Hall, husband to the said witness, hearing a child had been found, suspected the said Elizabeth Butchill, and sent for a surgeon to examine her. In her voluntary confession, taken before the mayor and Dr. Ewin, and read to the jury, she confessed that she was delivered of a female child on Thursday morning, about half past six o'clock, by herself; that the child cried some little time after its birth; and that, in about twenty minutes after, she herself threw the said infant down one of the holes of the necessary into the river, and buried the placenta, &c. in the dunghill near the house. Upon this evidence the jury brought in their verdict Wilful Murder, but did not charge the said Elizabeth Butchill as the mother: she was therefore committed to the Castle, on her own confession, as soon as she could be removed with safety.

On Wednesday morning she was tried before Judge Buller, when her voluntary confession being produced, and many corroborating circumstances appearing in evidence, the jury found her guilty, and the judge passed sentence on her in a very pathetic and affecting manner. When the unhappy culprit, in extreme agony, solicited mercy, his

lordship told her that, as she had been deaf to the cries of the innocent, and, stifling the strong ties of maternal affection, had been the murderer of her child, it was impossible for mercy to be extended to her in this world; he therefore exhorted her to seek for a sincere repentance, and sentenced her to be executed the succeeding Friday, and her body to be anatomized.

From the time of her commitment she was in a bad state of health; but her behaviour was modest, patient, and penitent. A worthy clergyman visited her daily, and administered the sacrament to her, when she was perfectly resigned to her fate, and acknowledged the justice of her sentence. In the evening before her death she took an affectionate leave of her friends, and passed the night tolerably composed, except at intervals, when she seemed to be deprived of her senses.

In the morning of the fatal day the before-mentioned clergyman attended her to the place of execution, where her behaviour was firm, resigned, and exemplary. She joined with the minister in prayer, and sung the lamentation of a sinner with marks of a sincere penitent, declaring she had made her peace with God, and was reconciled to her fate. Desiring her example might be a warning to all thoughtless young women, and calling on Jesus Christ for mercy, she was launched into eternity amidst thousands of commiserating spectators, who, though they abhorred the crime, shed tears of pity for the unhappy criminal.

She was a decent plain young woman, about twenty-two years of age; and, before this unfortunate affair, bore a good character for her modest behaviour.

She was executed at Cambridge March 17, 1780.



Ryland attempting Self' Destruction.

**WILLIAM WYNNE RYLAND,
EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.**

IN this most infatuated unfortunate man the world may be said to have sustained a loss; for he was an engraver of the first abilities, in consideration of which he received a pension from both the king and queen, who held him in high estimation as an artist.

Fortune had smiled upon Mr. Ryland, even from his birth, until his evil genius prompted him, for gold, to turn his talents as an engraver to the sad purpose of committing forgery.

He was a native of Wales: his father had been patronised by the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, who jocosely said that, if ever Mr. Ryland should marry, he would be the godfather of his first son. This soon after happened; and the unfortunate subject of this melancholy

history, being the first-born of such marriage, was named William Wynne by desire of the worthy baronet.

Ryland gave early proof of his genius; for, while in the former part of his apprenticeship, he engraved a head of his godfather, Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, which was esteemed a production of singular merit for so young an artist.

Having faithfully served his time, he visited the French and Italian schools, and obtained the honorary medal in Paris.

On his return to England he introduced the admired art of engraving copper-plates to yield an impression resembling drawings in chalk; and, soon after his majesty ascended the throne, he appointed Mr. Ryland his engraver, with a

salary of two hundred pounds a year; and the queen added one hundred pounds a year more out of her privy purse, as a testimony of her approbation of his extraordinary talents.

A few years previous to the fatal act for which he suffered Mr. Ryland entered into partnership with a Mr. Bryer, and they jointly opened a shop in Cornhill, where they carried on a very extensive trade in prints, the former still continuing to exercise his abilities in the art of engraving.

Though their business was productive of great profit, several heavy losses, occurring almost at the same time, so deranged their pecuniary affairs, that a bankruptcy ensued.

Some years after this failure, Mr. Ryland, on his own separate account, opened a print-shop in the Strand, where he had every prospect of success; but, being fond of a private life, where he might have leisure to

'Pursue coy Science in her last retreat,' he declined public business, and retired to Pimlico, and thence to Knightsbridge, where, by one fatal act, he entirely ruined his reputation as a man; but his name, as an artist, will ever stand in the highest estimation.

At this time Mr. Ryland had recovered his losses in trade, and was bequeathed shares in the Liverpool Water Works, which were then deemed to be worth ten thousand pounds: his business was worth two thousand pounds a year, and his stock was valued at ten thousand pounds more. Such was his own statement of his property, in his defence on his trial; and it was supposed that, in order to engross the remaining shares in his Liverpool concern, he committed the forgery for which he suffered.

He had already obtained several sums on forgeries, Mr. Nightingale, the banker, having advanced him, on the 19th of September, 1782, three thousand pounds; and such was his opinion of Mr. Ryland, that he declared he would have lent him that sum without any deposit whatever.

The forged instruments so exactly resembled the real bills that it was scarcely possible to know one from the other; yet a series of impositions at length will lead to detection.

It was discovered that two bills of the same tenour and date were out, and consequently one of them must prove a forgery.

Suspicion now fell so strong on Ryland that he was induced to secrete himself, and a reward was offered for his apprehension. He went in disguise to Stepney, and there took an obscure lodging at the hovel of one Richard Freeman, a cobbler, accompanied by Mrs. Ryland, the wretched partner of his misfortune, passing as Mr. and Mrs. Jackson.

There he some time evaded the search after him, till one fatal step of the unfortunate woman who was watching over his safety caused his apprehension. She took, unconsciously of danger, one of her husband's shoes to the cobbler, to be mended, with the name of 'Ryland' on the inside of it. This was fatal: the cobbler, in order to obtain the reward, delivered up his lodger.

When the officers of justice went to apprehend Ryland they found him in a corner of the room on his knees, and heard a noise like a gurgling in his throat, which was occasioned by his having cut it. He had a razor in his hand, and a basin stood before him; but the wound did not prove mortal.

On the 26th of July, 1783 he

was arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey, on an indictment charging him with 'forging, and uttering, knowing it to be forged, a certain bill of exchange, for two hundred and ten pounds sterling, purporting to be a bill drawn by the gentlemen of the factory at Fort George, in Madras, on the Honorable East India Company, with intent to defraud the said company, and divers other persons, to whom he had passed the said bill.'

The solicitor to the East India Company, who prosecuted the prisoner, endeavored, by several proofs, to bring home the charge to the accused; but, though forgery was manifest, yet it was so nice a point to distinguish the true bill from the false one, that it was, during the trial, supposed that they could not convict him, until Mr. Whatman, paper-manufacturer at Maidstone, appeared as a witness. On sight of him, Ryland's heart, which till now entertained hopes, sunk within him. A bad deed is generally done in a manner that leads to detection; and, in this case, the unfortunate man who had so well counterfeited never once thought that the maker of the paper on which he committed the crime might detect him.

Mr. Whatman deposed that the paper of the forged bill was of his manufacture. He then explained to the Court his reasons for thinking so: the moulds, he said, in which the paper of the bill was made, were received by him in February, 1780, but were not used before the December following: they were then worked with; and the first paper sent to London, made by them, was on the 27th of April, 1781; but he was convinced that the paper on which the bill was wrote was not sent before the 3d of May, 1782; and the way by which he knew it was, that there were defects in it which ex-

actly agreed with those in the sheets of paper he then held in his hand, and which were manufactured by him at that period. That the blemishes in the paper he attributed to the injuries the mould had received from the great quantity of papers worked off by them. He said he never saw two sheets of paper, worked off by different moulds, so like each other; but that he could distinguish a difference.

It was on this evidence that Judge Buller, who tried this indictment, commented in his charge to the jury:—'The testimony of Mr. Whatman,' says the judge, 'in the strongest manner proved that one of the bills is forged; for he swears that the paper on which one of them was wrote was not sent to London before May, 1782, and had been just manufactured;—then, how was it possible that such a bill could be a true one, which is dated a year previous to that period?'

Ryland, who was recovered from the wound he had inflicted on himself, and of which he sincerely repented, behaved, on this trying occasion, with much composure; and, recovering the surprise of Whatman's evidence, he heard the fatal verdict given with firmness. His defence was ingenious, though entirely unavailing: he denied the charge, and urged the improbability that he, whose fortune, to use his own words, 'was a princely one,' could commit so base a crime. Great interest was made to save him; but, his crime admitting not of mercy in this world, he suffered at the hands of the executioner on the 29th of August, 1783.

Thus terminated the existence of a man whose talents commanded general admiration, and whose fate was deeply regretted.—He was the last criminal who underwent the awful sentence of the law at Tyburn.

JOHN DONELLAN, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR POISONING SIR THEODOSIUS BOUGHTON, BART.

MR. DONELLAN had been a captain in the army, and was the son of Colonel Donellan. At the age of twelve years he entered into the Royal Regiment of Artillery, with part of which he went to the East Indies in 1754. On his arrival there he changed his service into the 39th foot; but, on that regiment being ordered home, he, with many other of its officers, had his majesty's leave to remain in the service of the East India Company, without prejudice to their rank in the army. He then obtained a company, and certainly distinguished himself as a good soldier, not only having been much wounded in the service, but, if his own account may be credited, singularly instrumental to the taking of Mazulapatam. However, being appointed one of the four agents for prize-money, he condescended to receive presents from some black merchants, to whom part of their effects had been ordered to be restored, for which he was tried by a court-martial, and cashiered. In the sequel he purchased a share in the Pantheon, where he figured some time as master of the ceremonies. After a variety of applications he at length obtained a certificate from the War-office that he had behaved in the East Indies 'like a gallant officer;' in consequence of which he was put upon half-pay in the 39th regiment. But, notwithstanding the most strenuous memorials and petitions, representing his great services, and insisting that the offence for which he was broke was of a civil nature only, not cognizable by a court-martial, he never could obtain a restoration into the company's service. In June, 1777, he married Miss Boughton. On Friday, March

30, 1781, he was tried at the assizes at Warwick for the wilful murder of Sir Theodosius Edward Allesley Boughton, Bart. his brother-in-law.

Mr. Powell, apothecary, of Rugby, deposed that he had attended Sir Theodosius Boughton for two months before his death, on account of a slight venereal complaint.

On the Wednesday morning he was sent for to Lawford Hall. He arrived there a little before nine. Captain Donellan accompanied him into Sir Theodosius's room. He had been dead near an hour. The witness saw no distortion, nor any thing particular. He continued some minutes in the room. Captain Donellan said that Sir Theodosius died 'in convulsions.' Being questioned what further conversation he had then with Mr. Donellan, he said that he could not recollect his particular words, but his general intent was to make him believe that 'Sir Theodosius had taken cold.'

Lady Boughton, mother of Sir Theodosius, deposed that he was twenty years old on the 3d of August last, and, on his coming of age, would have been entitled to above two thousand pounds a year. On the event of his dying a minor the greater part of his fortune was to descend to her daughter, Mrs. Donellan, the wife of Mr. Donellan. It was known in the family that Sir Theodosius was to take his physic the next morning. He used to put his physic in his dressing-room. He happened once to forget to take it; upon which Mr. Donellan said 'Why don't you set it in your outer room? then you would not so soon forget it.' After this he had the medicines several times upon a shelf over the chimney-piece in his outer room. On the

evening of Tuesday, the 29th, about six o'clock, Sir Theodosius went out to fish, attended only by one servant, Samuel Frost. Witness and Mrs. Donellan took a walk in the garden. They were there above an hour. To the best of her recollection she had seen nothing of Mr. Donellan after dinner till about seven o'clock, when he came out of the house-door into the garden, and told them that 'he had been to see them fishing; and that he would have persuaded Sir Theodosius to come in, lest he should take cold, but he could not.' Sir Theodosius came home a little after nine, apparently very well. He went up into his own room soon after, and went to bed. He requested her to call him the next morning, and give him his physic. Accordingly she went into his room about seven that morning, when he appeared to be very well. She asked him 'Where the bottle was?' He said 'It stands there upon the shelf.'

He desired her to read the label, which she accordingly did, and found there was written upon it 'Purging-draught for Sir Theodosius Boughton.' As she was talking to him, she omitted to shake the bottle. Observing that, he said 'Pour it back again, and shake the bottle.' In doing this she spilled part of it on the table; the rest she gave him. As he was taking it he observed 'it smelled and tasted very nauseous;' upon which she said 'I think it smells very strongly like bitter almonds.' He then remarked that 'he thought he should not be able to keep the medicine upon his stomach.'

Here a bottle was delivered to Lady Boughton, containing the genuine draught, which she was desired to smell at, and inform the Court whether it smelt like the medicine Sir Theodosius took. She

answered in the negative. She was then desired to smell at another, containing the draught with the addition of the laurel-water, which she said had a smell very much like that of the medicine she gave to Sir Theodosius. Lady Boughton then proceeded with her evidence. In two minutes, or a minute and a half, after Sir Theodosius had taken the draught, he struggled very much. It appeared to her as if it was to keep the draught down. He made a prodigious rattling in his stomach, and guggling; and these symptoms continued about ten minutes. He then seemed as if he was going to sleep, or inclined to dose. Perceiving him a little composed, she went out of the room. She returned in about five minutes after, and, to her great surprise, found him with his eyes fixed upwards, his teeth clenched, and foam running out of his mouth. She instantly desired a servant to take the first horse he could get, and go for Mr. Powell. She saw Mr. Donellan in less than five minutes after. He came into the room where Sir Theodosius lay, and said to her 'What do you want?' She answered that she wanted to inform him what a terrible thing had happened; that it was an unaccountable thing in the doctor to send such a medicine, for, if it had been taken by a dog, it would have killed him; and she did not think her son would live. He inquired in what way Sir Theodosius then was; and, on being told, he asked her where the physic bottle was; on which she showed him the two draughts; when he took up one of the bottles, and said 'Is this it?' She answered 'Yes.' He then, after rinsing it, emptied it into some dirty water that was in a wash-hand basin, and on his doing so she observed that he ought not to do that. She added 'What are

you at? you shall not meddle with the bottle;' upon which he snatched up the other bottle, and rinsed it: then he put his finger to it, and tasted it. She said 'What are you about? you ought not to meddle with the bottles.' Upon which he said 'I did it to taste it.' But he did not taste the first bottle. Sarah Blundell and Catharine Amos came up into the room. The former is since dead. He desired Sarah Blundell 'to take away the bason, the dirty things, and the bottles;' and he put the bottles into her hands. Her ladyship took the bottles from her, set them down, and bid her let the things alone. He then desired 'that the room might be cleaned, and the clothes thrown into an inner room.' Her ladyship opened the door of the inner room. As soon as Sarah Blundell had put the clothes into that room, Mr. Donellan, while the witness's back was turned, put the bottles into her hand again, and bid her take them down; and was angry she had not done it at first. This circumstance Sarah Blundell told her; for all that she herself knew of it, in fact, was that the bottles were taken out of the room. Some time afterwards her ladyship went down into the parlour. Mr. and Mrs. Donellan were there. The prisoner, in the witness's presence, said to his wife that 'her mother had been pleased to take notice of his washing the bottles, and that he did not know what he should have done if he had not thought of saying he put the water into it to put his finger to it to taste.' The witness, on this, turned away from him to the window, and made no answer; upon which he repeated the same. As she still made no answer, he desired his wife to ring the bell, in order to call up a servant. When the servant came, he ordered

him to send in the coachman. When he came, the prisoner said, 'Will, don't you remember that I set out of these iron gates at seven o'clock this morning?' 'Yes, sir,' said he. 'And that was the first time of my going out; I have never been on the other side of the house this morning: you remember that I set out there this morning at seven o'clock, and asked for a horse to go to the Wells?' 'Yes, sir,' Mr. Donellan said 'Then you are my evidence.' The servant answered 'Yes, sir.' She did not recollect that the prisoner made any other observation. She then said that Mr. Donellan received a letter from Sir William Wheeler, desiring the body might be opened. He showed her his answer to this letter. She told him he had better let it alone, and not send such a letter as that; but she did not tell him the reason of her disliking it. He replied 'it was necessary to send an answer, and he would send it.' She afterwards attended before the coroner and the jury in order to be examined. Mr. Donellan was present. She mentioned to the jury the circumstance of the prisoner's rinsing the bottles. Being returned to Lawford Hall, the prisoner said to his wife, before the witness, that she had no occasion to have told the circumstance of his washing the bottles: she was only to answer such questions as were put to her, and that question had not been asked her. Being asked whether Mr. Donellan did not endeavour to account to her for her son's death, she answered that, when the things were removed, in order to be put into the inner room, he said to the maid, 'Here, take his stockings; they have been wet: he has caught cold, to be sure; and that might occasion his death.' On that she examined the stockings, and there

was no mark or appearance of their having been wet. In answer to some further questions, she denied that she or any of the family had ever declined eating of the same dishes that Sir Theodosius did.

Mr. Donellan, indeed, had recommended to her not to drink out of the same cup, because he was affected with a venereal disorder; nor to touch the bread he did, because there might be arsenic about his fingers, as he used to put arsenic for his fish.

Catharine Amos, cook to Lady Boughton, deposed that she was called up stairs to the room where Sir Theodosius lay. She confirmed her lady's evidence with respect to the effects of the draught upon the deceased. She saw Mr. Donellan the day the body was opened. He said 'there was nothing the matter: it was a blood-vessel had broke, which had occasioned Sir Theodosius's death.'

About a fortnight after Mr. Donellan brought her a still that had been washed, and desired her to put it into the oven to dry, that it might not rust.

The Rev. Mr. Newsam deposed that he saw Captain Donellan at Lawford Hall the Saturday preceding Sir Theodosius's death; that the captain informed him Sir Theodosius was in a very ill state of health; that he had never got rid of the disorder that he had brought with him from Eton, but rather, in his opinion, had been adding to it; that he had made such frequent use of mercury, inwardly and outwardly, that his blood was a mass of mercury and corruption.

Mr. Kerr, surgeon, of Northampton, deposed that he attended Sir Theodosius when he was at Mr. Jones's. He really saw no disorder. There was a small wart or excrescence, very immaterial indeed. It was so slight that he did not

think it a subject of medicine at all. He ordered him some lotion to wash it with, and dissuaded him from the use of medicine.

Dr. Rattray, of Coventry, deposed that, in consequence of an anonymous note, desiring him to bring Mr. Wilmer with him, in order to open the body of Sir Theodosius Boughton, they went together, and met Mr. Bucknell, Mr. Powell, and Mr. Snow, in Newbold Churchyard. Mr. Bucknell opened the body.

Here the witness proceeded to describe the external appearances of the body, and its appearances in the dissecting. He was then asked whether, as he had heard the evidence of Mr. Powell and Lady Boughton, he could, from that evidence, totally independent of the appearances he had been describing, form a judgment of the death of Sir Theodosius. He answered, that, exclusive of these appearances, he was of opinion, from the symptoms that followed the taking of the draught, that it was poison, and the certain cause of his death. Being desired to smell at the bottle, and asked what was the noxious medicine in it, he said it was a distillation of laurel-leaves, called laurel-water. Here he entered into a detail of several experiments on animals, tending to show the instantaneous and mortal effects of the laurel-water. He knew nothing in medicine that corresponded in smell with that mixture, which was like that of bitter almonds. He further said that the quantity of laurel-water contained in the bottle shown to him was sufficient to be the death of any human creature: and that the appearances of the body confirmed him in his opinion that the deceased was poisoned, so far as, upon the viewing a body so long after the death of the subject, one could be allowed to form a judgment upon such appearances.

Mr. Wihner confirmed the evidence of Dr. Rattray. He was clearly of opinion that Sir Theodosius's death was occasioned by the poisonous draught administered to him by his mother.

Dr. Ashe, of Birmingham, was of opinion, from the symptoms described, that the deceased died by poison. If the laurel-water were distilled strong enough to collect the essential oil, a tea-spoonful of it would destroy animal life in a few seconds; and he believed as strong a poison might be made from bitter almonds.

Dr. Parsons, professor of anatomy at Oxford, was of opinion that Sir Theodosius died by poison, and that the poison was laurel-water.

Mary Lymnes deposed that she had been servant to Lady Boughton about two or three months. She left her place about a month before Sir Theodosius died. When she lived at Lawford Hall Mr. Donellan used frequently to distil roses. He kept the still in what was called his own room, which was not the one he slept in. He only slept in that room when Mrs. Donellan lay in. At that time it was left open, but at all other times was locked.

Francis Amos, gardener to Lady Boughton, deposed that he was with Sir Theodosius the whole time he was fishing the night before he died. Mr. Donellan was not there. The evening after Sir Theodosius died the prisoner came to him in the garden, and said 'Now, gardener, you shall live at your ease, and work at your ease; it shall not be as it was in Sir Theodosius's days: I wanted to be master before, but I have got master now, and I shall be master.'

Two or three days after Sir Theodosius died he brought him a still to clean: it was full of wet lime. He said he used the lime to kill

fleas. The witness used to gather lavender for him to distil. In the garden there were laurels, bays, and laurustinus.

On the morning that Sir Theodosius died Mr. Donellan came to him, and bid him get a couple of pigeons directly. He answered, 'There were none fit to eat.' The prisoner replied 'It will make no odds if they are not, for they are for Sir Theodosius. We must have them against the doctor comes. Poor fellow! he lies in a sad agony now with this damned nasty distemper; it will be the death of him.'

As soon as the witness went into the house with the pigeons he met his lady and Mrs. Donellan at the door. They were wringing their hands, and said 'It is too late now—he is dead!'

William Crofts, one of the coroner's jury, deposed that on the examination of Lady Boughton, when she said that 'Captain Donellan rinsed the bottle, he saw the captain catch her by the gown, and give her a twitch.'

John Darbyshire deposed that he had been a prisoner in Warwick gaol for debt; that Mr. Donellan and he had a bed in the same room for a month or five weeks. He remembered to have had a conversation with him about Sir Theodosius's being poisoned. On his asking him whether the body was poisoned or not, he said 'There was no doubt of it.' The witness said 'For God's sake, captain, who could do it?' He answered 'It was amongst themselves; he had no hand in it.' The witness asked 'Whom he meant by themselves?' He said 'Sir Theodosius himself, Lady Boughton, the footman, and the apothecary.' The witness replied 'Sure Sir Theodosius could not do it himself!' He said he did not think he did—he could not believe

he would. The witness answered 'The apothecary could hardly do it—he would lose a good patient; the footman could have no interest in it; and it was unnatural to suppose that Lady Boughton would do it.' He then said: 'How covetous Lady Boughton was!' she had received an anonymous letter the day after Sir Theodosius's death, charging her plump with poisoning him; that she called him, and read it to him, and she trembled; she desired he would not let his wife know of that letter, and asked him if he would give up his right to the personal estate, and to some estates of about two hundred pounds a year, belonging to the family.' The conversation was about a month after the captain came into the gaol. At other times he had said 'That he was innocent; it was impossible he could do a thing that never was in his power.'

This being the chief evidence, the prisoner, in his defence, pleaded a total ignorance of the fact, and several respectable characters bore testimony of his integrity. The jury, however, found him guilty, and he received sentence of death.

At seven o'clock on the next day, the 2d April, 1784, he was carried to the place of execution at War-

wick, in a mourning-coach, followed by a hearse and the sheriff's officers in deep mourning. As he went on he frequently put his head out of the coach, desiring the prayers of the people around him.

On his arrival at the fatal spot he alighted from the coach, and, ascending a few steps of the ladder, prayed for a considerable time, and then joined in the usual service, with the greatest appearance of devotion: he next, in an audible tone of voice, addressed the spectators to this effect:—That, as he was then going to appear before God, to whom all deceit was known, he solemnly declared that he was innocent of the crime for which he was to suffer; that he had drawn up a vindication of himself, which he hoped the world would believe, for it was of more consequence to him to speak truth than falsehood, and he had no doubt but that time would reveal the many mysteries that had arisen in his trial.

After praying fervently some time he let his handkerchief fall—a signal agreed upon between him and the executioner—and was launched into eternity. When the body had hung the usual time it was put into a black coffin, and conveyed to the Town Hall to be dissected.

THE REVEREND BENNET ALLEN,

CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER.

THIS clergyman was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 5th of July, 1782, together with Robert Morris, Esq. for the wilful murder of Lloyd Dulany, in a duel.

The occurrence is so clearly stated in Mr. Justice Buller's charge to the jury, that a sketch of it will put our readers in full possession of the circumstances.

The case before them, his lordship

observed, consisted of two parts—law and fact. As to the law, there is not, nor ever was, a doubt, that where two persons meet together deliberately to fight a duel, and one of them is killed, the other is guilty of murder, and his second likewise.

As to the facts, he stated the quarrel arose from a circumstance of three years' standing. A paragraph, called 'Characters of prin-

incipal Men in Rebellion,' published in the 'Morning Post,' June 29, 1779, referred to the 1st and 5th of July the same year, and now recognised by the prisoner Allen, in a letter proved to be his handwriting, avowing himself the author of those characters, retorting the charge of liar and assassin upon the deceased, telling he did not mean to dispute with him, but to punish him; and if he, the deceased, harbored any resentment, or desire of revenge, the bearer (Morris) would put him in the way of putting it in an immediate execution. This brought on sundry verbal messages, and at last, on the 18th of June, a meeting of Mr. Dulany, Mr. Delancey, his second, and Mr. Morris, at the house where Mr. Allen met them; whence they went to a Mr. Wogden's, gun-maker, to get Mr. Allen's pistols charged; and about half past nine in the evening, after measuring eight yards, they discharged each

their pistols, when the deceased fell.

Mr. Delancey said that Mr. Morris repeatedly urged the deferring the duel till next day. A Lydia Lepine had proved that she saw the prisoner, Allen, shooting at a mark in a field near Blackfriars' Bridge, with pistols, between eleven and twelve on the 18th of June. Her master and his son confirmed the fact, but could not swear positively to the person. His lordship concluded with observing, that a mistaken point of honour was not to bias the judges and the jury in such a case.

The jury withdrew about twenty minutes, and brought in a verdict—Allen guilty of manslaughter; Morris not guilty.

The recorder then, after a pathetic speech, pronounced sentence on Mr. Allen of one shilling fine, and to be imprisoned six months in Newgate.

DAVID TYRIE,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THIS trial took place at Winchester, by a special commission, on the 10th of August, 1782, when the charge of traitorously sending intelligence to France during a time of war was substantiated on the following testimony:—

Maria Harvey proved that a bundle of papers, the property of Tyrie, had been delivered to her by a Mrs. Askew, about the 13th of February; that the particular charge given with them had raised her curiosity to inquire into the contents of the bundle. She had been induced in consequence to open them, and, being of opinion that the contents were of a dangerous nature, she carried them to a Mr. Page, in Westminster, who, being of the same

opinion, carried them to the secretary of state's office.

The papers were produced and proved: they consisted of copies of papers, called the 'Navy Progresses,' being a list of all the ships of the navy, the situation and state of repair of each, &c. To these were added remarks on their destination, a description of the dock-yards at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and all the public, and even of several private, docks. They also contained a plan, by which it was proposed to furnish a person in France with intelligence on very moderate terms, when the importance of the object was considered: the particulars were, an express to be employed, which would travel four hundred and fifty

miles, to be paid at thirteen pence per mile; a monthly salary of five or six guineas to a person at each of the dock-yards; and also a salary of two or three guineas to a man in the lesser yards.—There were a number of other papers produced, all going to the purpose of giving information to the enemies.

Mr. Vowell, a stationer in London, knew the prisoner; he had been a clerk to him five years: he proved most of the papers produced to be the handwriting of the prisoner.

Captain William James proved that Tyrie had bargained with him to go to Boulogne, to purchase wines. He had agreed to pay him fifteen guineas for the voyage, and also to give him a letter of credit for fifty pounds more to trade with. He likewise delivered to him a packet for the commandant of the port, and a passport for Boulogne or Cherbourg. The witness felt that carrying letters to France in time of war was improper: he had, in consequence thereof, communicated his thoughts to an acquaintance, one Captain Harrison. The captain opened the packet; it contained five letters, which gave an account of the sailing of some frigates to intercept a fleet of French transports, a particular account of the departure of the East India fleet, the same of the West India fleet, the strength and names of their respective convoys, &c.

One of those letters was signed with the prisoner's own name, and another in the name of Croix.

These papers were all proved to be in the handwriting of the prisoner.

On behalf of the prisoner one witness was produced, who said nothing as to the matter in question.

Mr. Watson, the counsel for the prisoner, made a very ingenious

speech in his behalf, which was ably replied to by Mr. Morris.

The judge then summed up the evidence in a most able charge to the jury, who, after a few minutes' deliberation, brought in their verdict—Guilty.

Mr. Justice Heath made a most excellent speech to the prisoner, advising him to prepare for that fate which the injured laws of his country exacted him to suffer. He adjured him, therefore, to prepare for appearing before that tribunal where he might only expect mercy; for such acts as these made it impossible for him to hope for any from his sovereign, who, however merciful he might be, could not, in tenderness to his subjects, permit such offenders to escape. He then proceeded to pass the following sentence:—

'The sentence that the law awards against you, and that this Court therefore adjudges, is, that you, David Tyrie, be taken back to the place from whence you came; that you be drawn from thence, on a hurdle, to the place of execution; there to be hanged by the neck, but not till you are dead; but that you be cut down while yet alive, your bowels to be taken out, and burnt before your face; that your head be severed from your body, and your body be divided into four quarters: your head and body to be disposed of as the king shall think fit; and the Lord have mercy on your soul!'

The prisoner heard this sentence without any apparent emotion; and during the whole trial was employed in writing notes to his counsel.

The prisoner was by birth a Scotchman. He went to London as a servant: he lived with Mr. Vowell as a clerk above five years, and gained the esteem and confidence of his master. He afterwards went

into business in the mercantile line with Messrs. Parker and Crowe, with whom he subsequently became a bankrupt. It is, however, supposed that, if his integrity had been equal to his abilities, he might have had very good success in busi-

ness. He offered himself a candidate for the borough of Hindon; and, having failed in his views as a merchant, procured himself a place in the Navy-office at Portsmouth, which led him to this fatal enterprise.

CHRISTOPHER TRUSTY, AND TWENTY-FOUR OTHERS, SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR RETURNING FROM TRANSPORTATION.

THE year 1783, which gave independence to America, crowded the prisons of England to a degree never before known, though the offences were not distinguished by any particular enormity, and were generally devoid of that interest which entitles them to a place in our Calendar.

Of these numerous offenders one hundred and fifty were proceeding to North America, on board the *Swift* transport, pursuant to their sentence, when they rose on the captain and crew, in the Downs, on the 30th of August, and, after confining them, got on shore at Deal, and all made their escape.

On this intelligence reaching London Mr. Justice Blackborow ordered the constables attending at his office to search for the fugitives in the different places of iniquitous resort. Having armed themselves each with a cutlass, Redgrave, Scason, and Isaacs, went to a house in Onslow Street, Saffron Hill, where, in one room, they found five returned transports, two of whom ran up stairs, and escaped by lowering themselves from a back window, by means of the bed-clothes: but the others, arming themselves, one with a poker, another with a shovel, and a third with a clasp-knife, having a blade about six inches long, as with one voice, cried out 'Cut away! we shall be hanged, if taken; and we will die on the spot, rather than submit!' All expostulation proving

fruitless, the officers attempted to seize them, upon which a dreadful conflict ensued. At length the villains surrendered, and were examined by Mr. Blackborow. Being asked by the magistrate by what means they had procured their liberty, they acknowledged that they had run the ship on shore; adding, that to recover their liberty was not difficult, as, in compassion of their sufferings, the captain permitted eighteen or twenty convicts to be upon deck at one time, unfettered: that, on the third day of being thus indulged, they (the prisoners), and others who were on deck, liberated the rest; and, having confined the captain and crew, ran the vessel on the sands, and got on shore in the two long-boats: that no cruelty was exercised upon any part of the crew, nor any property stolen from the vessel, except that some of the convicts obliged the sailors to change clothes with them: that they concealed themselves in hedges and ditches till night, and then took different routes: that they (the prisoners), and a few others, collected half a crown among themselves, which they gave to a countryman for conducting them to Rye, whence they walked up to London, where they had arrived but a very short time before they were apprehended.

In the September sessions, at the Old Bailey, Christopher Trusty, Charles Thomas, alias George Godby, Abraham Hyams, Thomas Mil-

lington, David Hart, William Matthews, alias John Bird, Thomas Limpus, William Blatherston, John Murphy, Nathan Collin, William Coombs, Andrew Dixon, Joseph Pentecross, George Nash, John White, Samuel Read, David Kilpack, John Herbert Keeling, Thomas Bryant, John Burch, Charles Wilson, William Bradbury, John Welch, Richard Partridge, and Charles Keeling, were capitally convicted of this offence, being found at large in this kingdom before the term for which they were ordered to be transported, and received judgment of death.

Six of the ringleaders, viz. Charles Thomas, William Matthews, Thomas Millington, Christopher Trusty, David Hart, and Abraham Hyams, were selected for immediate execution, and were launched into eternity on the 22d of September, sentence having been passed upon them on the 20th.

On this day no fewer than fifty-eight persons received the awful sentence; and the speech of the deputy recorder was so pathetic, humane, and judicious, that we cannot resist the opportunity of rescuing it from oblivion. His observations, while they were well calculated to rouse the criminals to a just sense of their guilt and serious situations, were tempered with a moderation of language, and an encouragement to hope for divine mercy, which did great credit both to his head and heart.

‘It gives me inexpressible pain,’ he said, ‘and it is truly alarming, to behold a bar so crowded with persons, whose wickedness and imprudence has induced them to commit such enormous crimes as the laws of their country justly and necessarily punish with death. Those laws, while they are founded in equity, and executed with lenity,

impartiality, and rectitude, are written in blood. They denounce the dissolution of such as violate their commands. Executions have been common, and, by the extension of royal clemency, pardons have been still more frequent. It is, indeed, a melancholy reflection, that all these serious and awful warnings have not had the desired effect of deterring persons from the commission of capital offences.

‘The laws, armed as they are with fatal and deadly vengeance, have lost their terrors and their force. You, the prisoners at the bar, in spite of those laws, have committed, and been found guilty, by merciful and judicious juries, under the direction of liberal, impartial, and wise judges, of almost every crime that can be deemed politically, morally, or religiously evil, murder and treason alone excepted. You have abused the liberty given you by the laws of your country. As they protected you, you should have supported them, and not have violated their boundaries. In consequence of this grossly and ungratefully having broken their commands, you have, after the fairest trials, by the verdicts of juries of your countrymen, incurred the punishment of death, and the safety of society requires that examples should be made.

‘I am apprehensive that an erroneous opinion has been spread among the vicious, which is, that crimes may arise to such a degree of frequency and enormity, as to outstrip the speed and power of justice; but be assured that this is a capital mistake, and that, on the contrary, the repetition and atrociousness of offences will increase the vigilance, the rigour, and the vengeance of the laws, as well as the certainty of punishment, and restriction of lenity. The best and most friendly

advice I can afford you is immediately to turn your thoughts to the awful situation in which you stand, as condemned to die. Do not flatter yourselves with the expectation of mercy. Repeated crimes have proved that kindness to the individuals who have committed them is cruelty to the public. Consider the nature of the passage from life to death, and let me admonish you to provide yourselves with a sufficient quantity of religious stores for the important voyage. It is a passage from this world to eternal happiness or misery, as suits the good pleasure of the Almighty. Study and strive, then, to obtain his favour.

‘In human tribunals we can only form a judgment of men’s characters by and from their actions; but at the bar of Heaven the secrets of all hearts are opened. To that bar I refer and recommend you for such mercy as here we cannot grant. Delay not a moment to look into yourselves. Examine your consciences

strictly. Presume not too much upon your comparative guilt, nor upon divine favour.

‘Let me exhort you, in order to obtain mercy of the supreme Judge of all things, to cultivate true and sincere repentance; and to warn you that the mere nominal worship of the Deity will not be sufficient to procure your pardon; but that a change of mind, a thorough hatred of the evil you have committed, and a disposition newly framed entirely to goodness, alone can recommend you to the clemency of Heaven, and give you a rational and well-founded hope of eternal happiness.

‘Lastly, let me observe to you that an abasement in your own opinions will be the best foundation you can lay as the basis of true and efficacious repentance.’

In the following sessions the trials were still more numerous, but a much smaller proportion of the offenders were convicted capitally.

JOHN LEE, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE fate of this unfortunate gentleman calls for our pity. He was bred a soldier, and was captain of a company, when he became fascinated by the lures of a stage actress, and fell so deeply into her snare as to marry her. Among the many females brought up to this mode of life we occasionally find one possessed of worth and modesty; but too frequently their morals, with continual examples of profligacy before them, become corrupted and debased.

Captain Lee soon felt the effects of his imprudence. His pay, ample for himself, was very inadequate to the additional expense of such a wife; but the die was cast—he was under the necessity of selling his

commission, and, when the product was dissipated, to have recourse to the stage.

As a player, the captain, now the humble Mr. Lee, commenced a vagabondizing life, strolling from town to town, the mockery of kings, queens, and heroes;—and anon, as lovers, whilst enduring the real pains of want and poverty, aping the pangs inflicted by some cruel fair, the mimic mistress of a pining heart.

There is no profession that requires so many accomplishments, both of nature and art, as that of an actor; and yet there is none that the idle and dissolute youth, of both sexes, think themselves so well qualified to practise with success.

By this fatal error society is de-

prived of many who might have been useful and happy in the employments for which they were designed, and who become the most contemptible, and at the same time the most wretched vagabonds, that at once injure and disgrace the community.

It may, perhaps, prevent some vain unthinking creatures from increasing the number of these outcasts, to acquaint them that the life of a stroller is less eligible than that of a sifter of cinders at a shilling a day: they exist without virtue, and without friendship; their distresses excite not pity, but laughter; and frequently, instead of being treated with tenderness, they are committed to prison.

Those who live by chance are always improvident of casual supplies; so it happens that those people, who are frequently without victuals, are yet frequently drunk. When this happens on a night when their performance is to be exhibited, one of the company is obliged to personify two characters that ought to be on the stage together.

Yet, so many are the graces even in this mimic life, that some of its female votaries have become, in reality, the ladies whom erst, in well-glossed petticoats, tinselled all over, spangled with tin, and dandied with foil, they oft had counterfeited.

When this unfortunate officer, with his wife, had struggled through many miseries, and had strolled as far as Aberdeen, the Scotch took pity on them, and patronised Mrs.

Lee so far as to promote an establishment for her, as governess of a female seminary of education.

Thus settled, for a while they left the stage; but Lee's habits of dissipation and idleness, contracted in the army, led him into many expenses which his income could not support. Happily for his partner in misery, she died at Aberdeen a year or two after being patronised; and he left the town, to join again the first strolling players he could find.

This unfortunate man could never rise to any perfection in the mimic art; and his failing, in getting neither applause nor money to supply the necessaries of life, soured his temper, and rendered him desperate.

He had last been with the Portsmouth strollers, and from that town came to London, without a penny in his pocket, and actually starving. Too proud to beg, he boldly went to a tavern, where he had formerly spent large sums, and dined. He then asked the landlord for the loan of a guinea and a half, and, as security, he deposited with him a forged bill of exchange on the Ordnance-office, for which he forfeited his life on the 4th of March, 1784.

At the same time John Ash, for personating Mr. T. Eaton, and transferring seven hundred and fifty pounds of his stock at the Bank; Thomas Welch and George Allen, for housebreaking; Thomas Ledger, for shoplifting; and Joseph Clarke, for returning from transportation; shared the same melancholy fate.

SAMUEL HARRIS AND JOHN NORTH,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

AT the Admiralty sessions, held on the 11th of November, 1784, these men were tried for the wilful murder of John Mc'Nier, one of the mariners belonging to his majesty's

cutter the Nimble, in the service of the Customs.

On the trial it appeared that on the night of the 30th of April last, it being clear moonlight, a vessel

was observed at about two miles distance from Deal, hovering or standing in towards the shore, and supposed to be a smuggler. Lieutenant Bray, commander of the *Nimble*, being acquainted therewith, manned three boats, and proceeded to speak to her, and, coming within hail, told them his name and business, which was to board and search her; but was answered by many voices with imprecations, bidding him keep off; and a volley was instantly fired into his boat, whereby M'Nier, one of the crew, received a shot in his right breast, near the pap, of which he instantly died. Lieutenant Bray then proceeded to board the vessel, which proved to be the *Juliet* lugger, of Deal, (laden with about four hundred tubs or

half-ankers of spirits,) but received another volley: however, he persisted, and boarded the lugger, when an engagement began, in which some men fell. North leaped overboard, but was taken. Harris was also taken, concealed in the hold, and said he was only a passenger, and had been waiter at the assembly-house at Margate, where he was then going; but unluckily had on him a pair of trowsers and a seaman's jacket, in which were found several musket and pistol balls.

On the morning of the 13th, two days after conviction, they were taken from the cells of Newgate, put into a cart, and conveyed to the gallows, which was erected on a platform at Execution Dock, and there executed.

RICHARD CARPENTER,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THIS man had been long a public character on the dramatic boards; and made his final exit on a stage erected for the purpose—under the gallows.

He was many years the Clown in the pantomime entertainments at Drury Lane; and it would have been well for him had he acted his part in private as well as he often did at the public theatre.

Unlike the major part of his brethren of the sock and buskin, Carpenter saved some part of his salary, with which he went to Portsmouth, took an elegant house, and commenced navy-agent; in which lucrative business he acquired considerable property.

It, however, appears, that like many, who, from hard earnings, suddenly come into easy receipts, Carpenter grew so impatient to become rich as to commit felony of the basest nature—that of forging seamen's wills and powers.

This infamous robbery of poor widows and orphans he had for some time carried on with impunity; but such a course of vice must soon lead to detection.

Carpenter, however, was unconscious of detection when the officers of justice were in pursuit of him. He was surprised in his own house, which was spacious, and elegantly furnished, and at the very moment when he was regaling with some friends.

So totally unprepared was he in the settlement of his worldly affairs, which every desperate man should certainly keep arranged, that on his conviction the sheriff seized on that valuable property.

The remaining property which this unfortunate man had acquired amounted to upwards of seven thousand pounds.

His execution, which took place at Winchester in the year 1785, attracted a vast number of spectators.



Price defrauding Mr. Spilbury under the assumed Name of Wilmot.

CHARLES PRICE,

APPREHENDED ON A CHARGE OF FORGERY.

THE depredations of artful and designing men upon the credulity of the honest and industrious have sometimes been carried to such a pitch as almost to exceed the conceptions of the most acute and discerning; and few have practised with more success, for a time, the grossest impositions on society, than the subject of our present notice. Varying and accommodating himself to the circumstances in which he may be placed, man is scarcely ever the same for any long period of duration: characters, however, there are, who add to these traits of variation by their dissimulation and hypocrisy; and such an one was Charles Price, who, on account of this circumstance, attained to a singular celebrity.

In the life of this extraordinary

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impostor we may learn the progress of iniquity, teach the rising generation to guard against its first approaches, and warn our readers against those depredations which are daily infesting society. Such examples of depravity are indeed humiliating to our natures, but at the same time hold forth instructive lessons, and consequently are well deserving of our serious contemplation.

Charles Price was born about the year 1730. His father lived in Monmouth Street, and carried on the business of a dealer in old clothes: here he died, in the year 1750, of a broken heart, occasioned, as it is said, by the bad conduct of his children.

Charles began early to manifest those traits of duplicity for which

he afterwards became so greatly distinguished:—one remarkable instance deserves to be mentioned as an example of juvenile hypocrisy scarcely to be paralleled. He ripped off some gold lace from a suit of old clothes which his father had bought, and, putting on his elder brother's coat, went to sell it to a Jew. The Jew became a purchaser, and, in the way of trade, most unfortunately afterwards offered it to the father for sale. He instantly knew it, and insisted on the Jew's informing him from whom he received it. The boys coming in at the time, and the Jew recollecting the coat of the elder, immediately declared he was the person from whom he purchased it; in consequence of which he was directly seized and severely flogged, notwithstanding his protestations of innocence: the father was inflexible, while the conscious depredator, with an abominable relish for hypocrisy, witnessed the suffering of his brother, and inwardly rejoiced in the castigation.

By a continued series of tricks and knaveries, practised under the eye of the father, he at length grew tired of his son, and placed him with a hosier in St. James's Street. Here he continued but for a short time, indulging in all the vagaries of his prolific imagination, and exercising himself in all the arts and deceptions of which he eventually made himself master. He robbed his father of an elegant suit of clothes, in which having dressed himself, he went in that disguise to the hosier, and bought about ten pounds' worth of the most fashionable and expensive silk stockings, desiring them to be sent home for him in an hour, and assuming the name of Henry Bolingbroke, Esq. The cheat was successful, for his master did not know him; but this

was not enough, for in about half an hour after he appeared in the shop in his usual dress, and was desired to take the goods home, which he actually pretended to do: thus both his father and master were robbed. He was, however, soon discovered and dismissed. From this period we shall have to consider him at large in society, where he continued to practise the most outrageous acts of duplicity for many years.

Soon after this he set off for Holland, under the name of Johnson. Forging a recommendation to a Dutch merchant, he became his clerk, debauched his daughter, and was offered her hand in marriage;—robbed his master, and returned to England. Upon his arrival he contrived to get himself engaged in his majesty's small-beer brewery near Gosport. In this situation he conducted himself so well as to gain the confidence of his employer; and was upon the point of forming a matrimonial connexion with his daughter. This match, however, was prevented by an accidental discovery: the Jew, to whom he had formerly sold the gold lace, happened to reside at Portsmouth, and by his means the character of Price was soon disclosed, his schemes frustrated, and he was again thrown upon the world.

His wits, however, were not exhausted, nor did they ever slumber long, though always employed for some deceptive end. He determined upon a trial to establish a new brewery, by obtaining a partner with money; and as a first step towards it, in the year 1775, he issued the following curious advertisement:—

'Wanted,—A partner of character, probity, and extensive acquaintance, upon a plan permanent and productive. Fifty per cent. without risk, may be obtained. It

is not necessary he should have any knowledge of the business, which the advertiser possesses to its fullest extent; but he must possess a capital of between five hundred and one thousand pounds to purchase materials, with which, to the knowledge of the advertiser, a large fortune must be made in a very short time. Address to P. C. Cardigan Head, Charing Cross.

‘P. S. None but principals, and those of liberal ideas, will be treated with.’

By means of this advertisement, the famous comedian, Samuel Foote, was brought into the sphere of our hero's depredation. Eager to seize what he conceived to be a golden opportunity, he was induced to advance five hundred pounds for a brewery. This sum did not last long; and, instead of the rapid fortune which the advertiser appeared so certain of, Foote was glad to disengage himself from the concern with the loss of his capital, and retired, wrung with the anguish of disappointment. Notwithstanding which, Price had the impudence, not long afterwards, to apply to him again, under the idea of getting him to embark in the baking trade: the witty comedian, however, by this time knew his *Price*, and archly replied, ‘As you have *brewed*, so you may *bake*; but I'll be cursed if ever you *bake* as you have *brewed*.’

Price, after this unfortunate business, assumed a new character, and appeared as a Methodist preacher, in which disguise he defrauded several persons of large sums of money. He issued advertisements, offering to procure gentlemen wives, and swindled a person of the name of Wigmore of fifty guineas: this turned out more serious than he expected, for Mr. Wigmore brought an indictment against him; but he

found means to refund a part of the money, and effected his escape. These, and other fraudulent means, were long the objects of his ambition, though they were all the certain roads to infamy.

Still undismayed in his career, he had the astonishing impudence to set up again as a brewer, in Gray's Inn Lane: here, however, after committing a variety of frauds, he became a bankrupt in the year 1776. With ingenuity ever fruitful, he now set out for Germany, and engaged in a smuggling scheme, for which he was thrown into a prison in Holland, after realizing three hundred pounds. From this confinement he had address enough, by an artful defence, to extricate himself, and immediately returned to his native country. Here he again engaged himself in a sham brewery at Lambeth, where he was married; still continuing his depredations, till at length he found it necessary to decamp:—he actually went to Copenhagen. After some time he came back to England, where he was doomed to close his days.

His brewing attempts having all failed, he was obliged to study some new mode of plundering society; and, under the pretence of charity, he obtained money, for which he was imprisoned; and, having obtained liberation, he, in the character of a clergyman, succeeded in various depredations, which eventually brought him to the King's Bench, from the walls of which he had dexterity enough to extricate himself.

His next scheme was to try his success among the schemers in the lottery, and made his efforts answer his purpose for a time; but, absconding with a ticket of very considerable value, his attempts in this way were brought to a termination; indeed, his arts and his tricks were

so various, that to recount them all would extend our memoir of him beyond the limits of a publication of this kind—Alas for human depravity!

We are now arrived at that period of our hero's life when, by connecting himself with the Bank of England, he immortalized himself, by recording his name on the lists of notoriety, as one of the most artful, and, for a time, the most successful of impostors; but the result was as might be expected—the loss of his life, after practising a series of the most iniquitous devices that were ever brought to play upon mankind.

In the year 1780, memorable for the riots in London, he assumed the name of Brant, and engaged a plain, simple, honest fellow, as a servant, whom he converted into the instrument of passing his forged notes, without detection. He advertised for this servant, and conducted himself in a manner truly curious towards him. The young man, having answered the advertisement, heard nothing relative to it for about a week. One evening, however, just about dusk, a coachman was heard inquiring for him, saying there was a gentleman over the way in a coach who wanted to speak to him. On this the young fellow was called, and went to the coach, where he was desired to step in: there he found an apparently old man, affecting the foreigner, seemingly very much afflicted with the gout, as he was completely wrapped up in flannel about the legs, and wore a camlet smrtont, buttoned over his chin, close up to his mouth; a large black patch over his left eye; and almost every part of his face so hid, that the young fellow could scarcely discover a feature except his nose, his right eye, and a part of that cheek. The better to carry on this deception, Price took care to place the

young man on his left side, on which the patch was; so that the old gentleman could take a look askance at the young fellow with his right eye, and by that means discover only a portion of his face. In this disguise he appeared to be between sixty and seventy years of age; and when this man whom he engaged saw him afterwards, not much under six feet high, his surprise and astonishment were so great, that he could scarcely believe his own senses; and, in addition to the deceptive dress in which he has been described, he sometimes wore boots or shoes with heels very little less than three inches high, and appeared so buttoned up and straitened as to look quite lank. While we are thus remarking upon the expedients to which he resorted, the better to effect his shameful purposes, it may not be ill-timed to give a true description of his person: he was in reality about five feet six inches high; a compact neat-made man, square shouldered, inclined to corpulency; his legs were firm and well set, but by nature his features gave him a look of more age than really belonged to him, which, at the time we are describing him, was near upon fifty; his nose was aquiline, and his eyes small and grey; his mouth stood very much inward, with very thin lips; his chin pointed and prominent, with a pale complexion; but what favored in the greatest degree his disguise of speech was the loss of his teeth. His walk was exceedingly upright, and his manner active; in a word, he was something above what the world in general would term a *dapper-made man*.

The honest simplicity of the young man whom he had thus duped into his service was such, that Price found no difficulty whatever in negotiating through his

lands his forged bills, which were principally disposed of in the purchasing of lottery tickets and shares, at the same time taking care never fully to disclose to poor Samuel his real name, person, or history; and it must be confessed his plan was devised and executed with the utmost skill and ability. Samuel, who continued for some time the innocent and unsuspecting instrument of these nefarious practices, after passing bills to the amount of one thousand four hundred pounds, was detected, and taken into custody. Upon learning this, Price retired with his booty into the shades of the deepest obscurity, leaving poor Sam, who was terrified out of his wits at a contemplation of the consequences that might ensue from being an accomplice in such complicated villainy, to suffer near a twelvemonth's imprisonment.

Price, with a purse well lined, having sought refuge in some lone place of retirement, was heard nothing of till the year 1782, when, having, in all probability, exhausted his former acquisitions, he again sallied forth in search of new game with the most unparalleled audacity; and, as a first step to the accomplishment of his purpose, he engaged a smart active lad, of the name of Power, from a register-office. The father of this lad was a Scots Presbyterian, and, to ingratiate himself with the old man, Price professed high pretensions of religion, talked of virtue and morality, expressing a hope that the boy was well acquainted with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. Having thus far succeeded, he now commenced his ravages on the well-known Mr. Spilsbury, of Soho Square, ordering large quantities of his drops in the name of Wilmot, and introduced himself to that gentleman as possessing all the symp-

toms of age and infirmity. He was wrapped up in a large camlet great coat, with a slouched hat on, the brim of which was large, and bent downward on each side of his head; a piece of red flannel covered his chin, and came up on each side of his face as high as his cheek-bones; he wore a large bush wig, and a pair of green spectacles on his nose; his legs and feet were completely enveloped in large wraps of flannel, and a green shade hung down from his hat; but upon this occasion he abandoned the black patch upon his eye, considering his features sufficiently disguised and obscured; and also that it would not be safe to resort to an old expedient. It is not a little remarkable that Mr. Spilsbury, who knew Price well, was not able to detect his villainy in the character of Wilmot; and it is a fact that, sitting together, side by side, in a coffee-house, Mr. Spilsbury was complaining to his coffee-house acquaintance of the notes which Wilmot had so artfully and successfully imposed upon him. Price actually favored his own deceptions by pretending commiseration, frequently crying out 'Lack-a-day! good God!—is it possible?—who could conceive such knavery to exist?—But it is a wicked world, sir. What! and did the Bank refuse payment, sir?' staring through his spectacles with as much seeming surprise as an honest man would have done. 'Oh yes,' said Mr. Spilsbury, with some degree of acrimony; 'for you must know that it was upon the faith of the Bank of England that I and a great many others have been induced to take them; and they were so imitably well done, that the nicest judges could not have distinguished them; but the old scoundrel will certainly be detected.' 'Good God!—lack-a-day!' continued Price, 'he must

have been an ingenious villain; what a complete old rascal!

Price had frequently been at the shop of a Mr. Roberts, grocer, in Oxford Street, where he now and then bought a few articles, and took many opportunities of showing his importance. Upon one occasion he called in a hackney-coach, disguised as an old man, and bought some few articles: a day or two afterwards he repeated his visit; and, on a third day, when he knew Mr. Roberts was not in the way, went again, with his face so painted that he appeared to be diseased with the yellow jaundice. The shopman, to whom he enumerated his complaints, kindly informed him of a prescription for that disorder, by which his father had been cured of it. Price gladly accepted of the receipt, promising that, if it succeeded, he would call again, and handsomely reward him for his civility: in conformity with which he entered the shop a few days afterwards, apparently perfectly free from the complaint, and acknowledged his great obligations to the shopman; after which he expatiated freely on his affluent circumstances, the short time he had to live, and the few relations he had to leave his property to; and made him a present of a ten pound bank-note. It will naturally be conceived this was a forgery, but it had the desired effect with Price; for at the same time he said he wanted cash for another, which was a fifty pound note. This the obliging and unsuspecting shopman got change for at an opposite neighbour's. The next day, during Mr. Roberts's absence, he called again, and entreated the lad to get small notes for five other notes of fifty pounds each: the lad, however, telling him his master was not at home, Price begged he would take them to his master's bankers', and there get them changed. This

request was immediately complied with. The bankers, Messrs. Burchall and Co. complied with Mr. Roberts's supposed request, immediately changed them, and small notes were that day given to Price for them.

Having found out a fit object to practise his deceptions upon in the person of Mr. E——, who was an eminent merchant in the city, and having traced his connexions to Amsterdam, even to the obtaining a letter which was directed to him from a merchant there, he commenced his attack on that gentleman in the following manner:—He accosted him on 'Change in another disguised character, and told him that he had received a letter from a correspondent of theirs at Amsterdam, whose name he mentioned, informing him that a Mr. Trevors, who frequented the 'Change, had defrauded the Dutch merchant of one thousand pounds; that the latter requested Mr. E.'s assistance in the recovery of the whole, or any part of it he could obtain. With this prelude he opened the letter, and presented it to Mr. E. who, having read it, entertained no doubt of its being the handwriting of his Amsterdam correspondent; he therefore readily offered his assistance in any plan that might be pursued to favour his Dutch friend. After thus paving the way, he began to advise Mr. E. how to act. 'Trevors,' said he, 'will most likely be upon 'Change to-morrow; he always frequents the Dutch Walk, and is dressed in a red smirton, with a white wig; he has also square-toed shoes, and very small buckles. Your best way will be to accost him, draw him into a conversation upon the mercantile affairs of Amsterdam, and, by pretending he can be of service to you, invite him home to dinner with you. You will

Then have a good opportunity to mention the business, show him the letter, and inform him that, unless he refunds the whole or part of the money immediately, you will expose the affair to the merchants. By such a procedure you may probably procure the greater part of the property, as he is rich, and always has cash about him, and will rather comply with your demand than run the risk of exposure.' Mr. E. highly approved of this proposal, and was much pleased with the prospect he appeared to have of rendering such essential service to his Dutch friend. The next day our hero appeared on the Dutch Walk, in the dress he had so minutely described. Mr. E. followed the advice which had been given him, and, after a little conversation, invited the supposed Trevors to dine with him, which was immediately accepted by Price.—After the cloth was removed, and the family had retired from table, Mr. E. began to open to Mr. Trevors, with as much delicacy as he could, the purpose of his invitation. Our hero affected surprise at this application, but acknowledged the charge in part; assured him of his intention to settle the whole account shortly, begged it might not be mentioned on 'Change, and, as a proof of his intention, he was willing to pay five hundred pounds down, if Mr. E. would bury the matter in oblivion. This being readily promised on Mr. E.'s part, Mr. Trevors produced a thousand pound bank-note from his pocket-book, which he said he would leave with Mr. E. if he would give him the difference. Not having sufficient cash and notes in the house, Mr. E. gave him a check on his banker for the remaining five hundred pounds, with which our hero very soon after took his leave. The next morning Mr. E. discovered that the thousand

pound bank-note was a forgery, and ran to the bankers to stop the payment of his draft, but unfortunately too late; for a porter, who appeared to have been followed by a tall old woman into the banking-house, had obtained notes for the check four hours before Mr. E.'s application to stop payment.

Upon a variety of others in a similar way did Price exercise his deceptions; among the rest, Mr. Watt, hosier, and Mr. Reeves, a colourman, were sufferers; and such was his success, that in one day he negotiated sixty ten pound notes, changed fourteen fifty pound notes for seven one hundred pound notes; indeed, such were his tricks at this period, that it is scarcely possible to recount them.

The practices of evil-minded persons, who forget that useful and comprehensive commandment—'Do unto others as you would be done by'—seldom lead to happy or truly fortunate results, nor could it be expected to be the case with our present subject; he had assumed the character of an Irish linen-factor, under the name of Palton, and employed two young men to circulate his notes, whilst he still kept himself greatly disguised, and in obscurity. The notes were detected, and, by means of a pawnbroker, Price was with great difficulty at length discovered: when apprehended, however, he most solemnly declared he was innocent, and, when taken before the magistrate, conducted himself with great insolence. This took place on the 14th of January, 1786, and, notwithstanding his disguises, he was soon sworn to by more persons than one; in consequence of which, and finding there was no means of escape from his present situation, he pretended to his wife in particular, great and serious penitence, for which, however, the

did not appear the least ground. The Bank were fully determined on prosecuting him, and there was little chance of his escaping an ignominious death by the hands of the public executioner; but even this he managed to avoid, for one evening he was found hanging against the post of his door, in the apartment allotted him in 'Tothillfields' Bridewell; thus ridding the world of as great a monster as ever disgraced civilized society.

In this situation he was discovered by the keeper of the prison, who cut him down quite dead, and found in his bosom three letters; in one of which, addressed to the directors of the Bank, he confessed every thing relative to the forgery, and the manner of circulating the notes; another, addressed to his wife, was written in a most affecting style; and in the third, directed to the keeper, he thanked him for the very humane treatment he had experienced during his confinement.

A coroner's jury was summoned, as usual in such cases, and returned a verdict of 'Self-murder;' in consequence of which his body was thrown into the ground in Tothillfields, and a stake driven through it.

In a box belonging to Price were found, after his death, two artificial noses, very curiously executed, in imitation of nature. These, it is obvious, he occasionally wore as a part of the various disguises by which he had been enabled so long to elude the hand of Justice. The counterfeit plates were found buried in a field near Tottenham Court Road, the turf being replaced on the spot. His wife, who had been confined with him as a supposed accomplice, was discharged, after making full confession of all she knew concerning his affairs; and the rolling-press, plates, and other materials, were destroyed by order of Sir

Sampson Wright, the then presiding magistrate.

It has been calculated that the depredations of this artful villain on society amounted to upwards of one hundred thousand pounds! and yet, after his apprehension, he had the audacity to write a letter to a gentleman whom he had defrauded of more than two thousand pounds, recommending his wife and eight children to his protection.

Price's expenditure must have been great, or the imprudence of his female coadjutor excessive; for at her lodgings were fixed all the apparatus for manufacturing the paper and printing the bank-notes; the plates for which were also engraved by this ingenious culprit. Being thus paper-maker, engraver, printer, and circulator, it is not altogether surprising that he contrived to prolong his existence to the age of fifty-five; six years of which were passed in hostilities against the Bank directors, whose emoluments by fire, shipwreck, and other casualties, Price conceived were much too enormous.

It must appear extraordinary to the reader that this depraved impostor was so long able to escape discovery. But it should be added, such was the inventive ingenuity of his mind, that, in order to avoid detection, he took especial care, as well as by the multifarious disguises of his person and voice, to study the art of prevention, by combining the whole of the proceedings necessary for the accomplishment of his designs within his own power; seeing clearly that, if he had permitted a partner in his concerns, he could not have expected to remain so wholly unsuspected, at least, if not detected. He therefore became his own engraver, made his own paper, with the water-marks, and never suffered his negotiator to know

him; nay, such was the secrecy with which he carried on his business, that Mrs. Price, his wife, had not the least knowledge or suspicion of his proceedings. Having by practice made himself master of engraving, he made his own ink to prove his own works; he then purchased implements, and manufactured the water-marks; he then set about to counterfeit handwritings, and in this he so far succeeded as to puzzle a part of the first body of men in the world; thus proving himself a most accomplished and wary adept in the art of deception. The abilities of the unhappy Ryland were exerted in his profession, and therefore the imposition was less to be wondered at; but in Price we find a novice in the art, capable of equal ingenuity in every department of the dangerous undertaking, from the engraving down to the publication.

An attentive perusal of this narrative must awaken in the breast of the reader a series of important and useful reflections, calculated to leave impressions that should excite a determination to resist every temptation that chance or opportunity may afford to indulge in a vice that eventually led to the destruction of this depraved man, who from his

youth upwards appears to have had no object in view, but that of preying upon the credulity of his fellow-men.

That such talents should be appropriated to such an use must be deeply regretted; but that any individual should thus throughout life act the part of a wolf among his fellow-creatures deserves the utmost detestation. Society in general may also learn lessons of caution and vigilance from the contemplation of the extraordinary character here described. Vice appears in its most odious features—that of meditated imposition upon the honest and industrious part of the community: mark, however, its serpentine progress, and its wretched termination. Price has emphatically been termed the social monster; and it is sincerely hoped that a recital of his atrocities will have the effect of guarding the younger classes of our readers against the first inroads of deception. The Spartans used to teach young persons sobriety by placing before them a drunken man; and the contemplation of such a character as Price must tend to verify the assertion of a celebrated poet, that

‘An honest man’s the noblest work of God.’

JOHN HOGAN,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS wretch was a mulatto, from the Madciras, and the dreadful act of which he was convicted was attended with great barbarity.

In the January sessions held at the Old Bailey he was indicted for the wilful murder of Anne Hunt, a servant to Mr. Orrell, in Charlotte Street, near Portland Chapel, on Sunday, the 26th of June, 1785, in a most shocking manner, by cutting her throat in three different places,

quite through the windpipe, stabbing her in the breast, breaking one of her arms, fracturing her skull, beating in one of her eyes, and other mortal wounds and bruises, of which she languished a short time, and died. It appeared on the trial that the prisoner was a porter to a chairmaker of whom Mr. Orrell had bought some chairs, and sent them by him; that he got acquainted with the deceased by the present of

a riband, and often visited her on a Sunday, during the absense of the family: that on the day he committed the fact, as he acknowledged to a woman with whom he cohabited, and who was discovered providentially by a cloak of Mrs. Orrell's, which, by the desire of the prisoner, she had pawned in the Borough, he had attempted to force the deceased to submit to his unchaste desires, which she resist-

ing, he therefore perpetrated the horrid murder.

On the 16th of January, 1786, he was taken from Newgate in a cart, and executed on a gibbet erected opposite Mr. Orrell's house. Just before being turned off, the prisoner bowed four times to the populace, and, in an audible voice, confessed himself guilty of the murder, for which, he said, he had been justly condemned to die.

JOSEPH RICKARDS,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE excellent fable of the husbandman who took the adder from the snow, and fostered it in his bosom, until the treacherous reptile, gaining warmth and strength, stung his benefactor, is, in this case, fully verified.

The young wretch acted the fatal part of the adder by murdering his kind and indulgent protector. May we never again have to record such dreadful and unheard-of ingratitude!

Walter Horseman, a milkman, at

Kentish Town,* several years before took pity on a poor orphan boy, who was half-starved for the want of both food and raiment. He was put to do such services for his kind protector as were fitting to his years, but he did not appear to possess any sense of gratitude. At length, his behaviour growing from bad to worse, Mr. Horseman turned him away.

In revenge, the remorseless wretch entered the house of his late em-

* So great is the consumption of milk in the metropolis, that milkmen and cow-keepers in the environs of London are generally rich. Amid the abuses and frauds committed upon the public, those practised in the article of milk call loudly for regulation.

'Among the number of petty frauds,' says a writer on this subject, 'may be included the adulteration of milk in the metropolis, which not merely affects the pockets, but the health, of the inhabitants of London.'

'When it is considered how greatly it is reduced by water, and impregnated by worse ingredients, it is much to be lamented that no method has yet been devised to put a stop to the many scandalous frauds and impositions in general practice, with regard to this very necessary article of human sustenance.'

'Not satisfied with a profit, which, considering the difference of measure, is above one hundred per cent. it is a common practice with the retailers of this useful article to carry the milk first home to their own houses, where it is set up for half a day, when the cream is taken from it, at least all that comes up in that time, and it is then sold for new milk; by which means, what is delivered in the morning is no other than the milk of the preceding afternoon, deprived of the cream it throws up by standing during that time. Thus a farther considerable profit accrues to the retailer, and the milk is greatly reduced in point of strength and quality. This cream, poor as it is, they again mix with flour, chalk, and perhaps other more baneful ingredients.'

'Every cow-house is provided with a milk-room (where the milk is measured and served out by the cow-keeper); and this room is mostly furnished with a pump, to which the retail dealers apply in rotation, not secretly, but openly, before any person that may be standing by, from which they pump water into the milk-vessels at their discretion. The pump is placed there expressly for that purpose, and, indeed, is very seldom used for any other.'

player in the dead hour of night, and, arming himself with an iron window-bar, he advanced to his chamber, where he slept with his little daughter, of four years of age, by his side; and, shocking to relate, beat him about the head until his skull was split asunder, and one of his eyes beat out, and then made his escape.

Mr. Horseman's wife, with a sick child, was on the next floor; and his son, two men, and a boy, on the same floor where the murder was committed.

In this most dreadful state the miserable man lingered eight days before death came to his relief.

So inhuman a murderer could not long find shelter: the fell deed was done on the 11th of February, 1786, and he was hanged near the spot on the 27th, at eighteen years of age,

amid the execrations of a multitude of spectators.

In his way to the place of execution the convict appeared to be in a state of stupefaction: he had no book, nor did he employ the short remains of time in those preparations for eternity which his miserable situation rendered so indispensably necessary. Before being turned off the prisoner desired to see the widow of the deceased: she was sent for to her house, but was gone to London. He declared he had no accomplice in the fact, and that he was induced to the perpetration thereof by the supposition that, after the decease of his master, he should succeed to the business as milkman. Just before coming to the village he burst into tears, and, when he came to the place of execution, wept bitterly.

PETER STEER,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

AT the Chester assizes, on Friday, the 21st of April, 1786, Peter Steer was tried for the wilful murder of his wife.

In the course of the trial it appeared, from the evidence of the prisoner's daughter, that on Sunday morning, November 20, her mother made some frummenty for breakfast; that they had six cups that they ate out of, one for her father, another for her mother, and one for each of the children; that they all knew their own particular cup; that, when the frummenty was poured into the cups, it was put into the back kitchen to cool; that her father went there, when no one else was in it, about two minutes—they then sat down to breakfast; that her mother complained it was not good, that it was made of unsound wheat, and ate only about four spoonfuls; that the

rest of the family ate their cups of frummenty, and thought it as good as usual; that the youngest child, having eaten all hers, helped herself out of her mother's cup, and tasted about a tea-spoonful; that the prisoner thereupon took it from the child, returned it into the mother's cup, and gave the child some of his own; that the child was sick most of the day; that she found her mother exceedingly ill when she returned from the meeting-house; that she languished till the Tuesday night, and then died; that the prisoner would not suffer any one to come near her, and, though desired, would not send for any of the faculty. The prisoner was found guilty, and his execution took place on the Monday following, after which his body was delivered to be anatomized.

JAMES WATTS,
CONVICTED OF ROBBING HIS EMPLOYER.

It is not often that we find Quakers' names on the criminal dockets. Their frugal habits, added to much cunning and considerable industry, commonly secure them from the necessity of committing depredations on the public through distress.

We have, however, already introduced Quaker Watts to the reader, not, indeed, as the robber, but as the robbed; and now we must reverse his character, and bring him criminally to view.

It will be remembered, in our report of the case of Abraham Durnford and William Newton, that a banker's clerk was decoyed into an empty house, No. 21, Water Lane, Fleet Street, under the pretence of being paid the amount of a bill of exchange, due to the Quaker bankers, Smith, Wright, and Gray, robbed of his pocket-book, and narrowly escaped being murdered; for which Durnford and Newton were hanged, as we have already laid before the public.

That very banker's clerk is the identical Watts, who, upon the trial of the robbers, would not, according to the tenets of this singular sect of puritans, swear—and, on a trial

affecting life, nothing but oaths will convict. Quakers assume that which no other description of men arrogate to themselves, *viz.* the privilege of exemption from taking an oath according to the law of the land.

A Churchman is bound to swear upon, and kiss, the holy book whereon he tenders his oath, with his head uncovered. A Quaker will tell you, 'I will not doff my beaver, neither will I bend my body;' and thus *stiffly* do they *affirm* (for they call their affirmation swearing) before their God, with their hats on, and their body upright.

In regard to James Watts, we shall show that, though he would not swear, yet he would steal.

It appears that he left the employ of the London bankers, and went to Manchester, where he also got employment.

At the quarter sessions of the peace, held in that town, in the year 1787, the said James Watts, and another villain of the name of Andrews, were convicted of robbing their employers, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the Castle of Lancaster.

HENRY STERNE, COMMONLY CALLED, 'GENTLEMAN HARRY,'

CONVICTED OF STEALING THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT'S 'GEORGE.'

THIS man, like Barrington, Semple, &c. was styled 'A Gentleman Thief.' He dressed well, and, being of an easy address, and tolerably educated, he got admission into the first company, where he could best levy his contributions.

On the king's birth-day, in the year 1787, Sterne took his post at St. James's Palace, where numbers resort to see the court-dresses and the fashions.

On such occasions all courtiers pay their addresses to the sovereign in their different orders.

The Duke of Beaufort, as a Knight of the Garter, among the other companions of that most dignified order, had his 'George' pendant to his riband, which was set with diamonds, and was worth a considerable sum of money. This 'George' was taken from him by Gentleman Harry, for which offence

he was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, on the 12th of September, 1787.

The duke deposed that on the 4th of June then last past, on returning from the levee at St. James's, he found himself surrounded by a vast number of persons, the meaning of which did not immediately occur to his mind; but, on putting down his hand, to feel for his 'George,' he missed it. On calling out very loud to his servants, they came up. He was asked to point out the thief, but his confusion was so great that he could only point to a man dressed in black, who stood near him.

In a short time the duke saw one of his servants seize a gentlemanly-looking person, whom he had not before observed, and on whom was found the 'George.'

The duke then produced the precious article to the Court, which, he said, had not been out of his possession since it was taken from the prisoner's pocket.

On his cross-examination by the prisoner's counsel, being asked if he was sure that the prisoner at the bar was the man who stole the 'George,' the duke replied his suspicions chiefly rested on the *man in black*.

Thomas West, servant to the duke, swore that he seized and searched the *man in black*, and found nothing; but on seizing the prisoner, and putting his hand in his pocket, he pulled out the 'George.' He admitted that he did not see the 'George' taken from his grace; but

he swore positively to taking it out of the prisoner's pocket.

Shepley, the gatekeeper at Cleveland Row, corroborated the evidence of West, having seen the whole transaction: and here closed the case on the part of the prosecution.

In his defence the prisoner made a short, but neat, speech to the Court, wherein he principally rested upon the hopes that the passions of the jury would not be prejudiced on account of the many slanders against him in the newspapers. He called no witnesses.

The judge, in giving his charge to the jury, so far agreed with the observations of the prisoner, as to hope that their minds were entirely unprejudiced. He observed that there were two separate crimes charged in the indictment. First, that the prisoner committed a robbery on the person of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, on the highway. Secondly, for privately stealing from his person.

'It is,' continued the judge, 'for the jury to say whether it came in proof that it was the prisoner's hand that stole the "George?" If not, they must acquit him of privately stealing, which would, of course, clear him of the capital charge.'

The jury withdrew, and, after a consultation of fifteen minutes, brought in their verdict 'Guilty of stealing, but not privately.'

He was sentenced to be transported to Botany Bay for seven years.

SAMUEL BURT,

CONVICTED OF A FORGERY.

THOUGH this is a very extraordinary case, yet we have met with similar instances of men being so very weary of life as to commit a crime in order that their lives might

be taken by the law, and thereby prevent them from becoming their own murderers. Such an instance was the following:—

On the 4th of September, 1760,

when North America entirely belonged to our country, a Mr. Robert Scull, with several gentlemen, were playing at billiards in Philadelphia; when Captain Bruluman, late of the Royal American Regiment, came into the room, and, without the smallest provocation, levelled a loaded gun, which he had brought with him, and shot Mr. Scull through the body, just after he had struck his ball, for which murder he was tried and executed.

This desperate man had been brought up a silversmith, which business he left to enter the army, where he was an officer in the Royal American Regiment, but was broke on being detected in counterfeiting or uttering base money.

He then returned to Philadelphia, and growing insupportable to himself, and yet unwilling to put an end to his own life, he determined upon the commission of some illegal crime, for which he would certainly be hanged by the law.

Having formed this design, he loaded his gun with a brace of balls, and asked his landlord to go shooting with him, intending to murder him before his return; but the landlord, fortunately for himself, being particularly engaged at home, escaped the danger.

He then went out alone, and on the way met a man whom he was about to kill; but, recollecting that there were no witnesses to prove him guilty, he suffered the man to pass.

He then went to a tavern, where he drank some liquor; and, hearing people playing at billiards in a room above that in which he sat, he went up stairs, and entered into conversation with the players, in apparent good humour. In a little time he called the landlord, and desired him to hang up the gun.

Mr. Scull having struck his an-

tagonist's ball in one of the pockets, Bruluman said to him 'Sir, you are a good marksman; now I'll show you a fine stroke.' He immediately took down his gun, levelled it, deliberately took aim at Mr. Scull (who imagined him in jest), and shot both the balls through his body.

He then went up to the dying man, who was still sensible, and said to him, 'Sir, I have no malice or ill will against you; I never saw you before; but I was determined to kill somebody, that I might be hanged, and you happen to be the man; and I am very sorry for your misfortune.'

Mr. Scull had just time left in this world to send for his friends, and make his will. He forgave his murderer, and, if it could be done, desired he might be pardoned. Bruluman died on the gallows, exulting in his fate.

The same volume from which we make the above extract contains another of the like nature, and, if possible, more extraordinary. We shall, therefore, before we give the particulars of Samuel Burt, add this fatal precedent for the commission of the deed by which he sought his own death.

A youth of the name of David Williams, when about fifteen years of age, was one day, against his wish, detained from school by his father-in-law, who greatly wanted his assistance on the farm. While thus employed a log rolled on one of his legs, which injured it to such a degree that it became nearly useless; and by another accident he soon after hurt the other limb, so that he was rendered almost a cripple before he had attained the years of manhood.

At these misfortunes he continually repined; blamed his step-father for keeping him that day from school, whereby he received

his first injury; and, mortified at his appearance among his comrades, some of whom, he said, ridiculed him, he became weary of the world, and determined to end his misfortunes with his life.

For this end suicide and murder presented themselves. The first he thought the most eligible; but then it brought to his mind the horrors of appearing, by his own violence, before God, for which, he feared, he should not be pardoned; and therefore he was induced to abandon that for the latter, which would afford him a better excuse to the Almighty: besides, death, by hanging by any other hands than his own, he found most desirable.

He familiarized himself to this act of desperation by continually thinking of it; so that in time it became a pleasing subject of contemplation.

The consideration of the grief which it must occasion his mother at times almost unbent his resolution; but then the idea of its proving a sweet revenge on his father-in-law bore down every other consideration.

Thus determined, the next step of this unhappy young man was to select a proper subject on whom the deed should be committed. A grown person or a child was the question. The former, he concluded, must be under sin and guilt: therefore, by sudden death, and thus unprepared, his damnation might be chargeable to him, and he be doubly guilty: the latter being innocent, he might avoid that charge, and therefore resolved upon murdering some child.

Now the particular object for this horrid purpose was the next consideration; but he confessed that, though he thought of it more than six months, yet none occurred until within five minutes of his com-

mitting his long-determined and bloody deed.

All the morning of the fatal day he said that he felt an unaccountable and far stronger desire to commit murder than before;—to use his own words, ‘Something like hankering after fruit.’

At this unfortunate moment he chanced to spy a little boy, named Ira, the son of Mr. Lane, a neighbour, gathering plums; and, finding the parents absent, determined on seizing the opportunity and subject. He instantly seized a gun, fired at, and slightly wounded the child in the side of the abdomen. Finding his victim yet alive, he limped to him, led him to the house, placed him upon a bed, and took a station at the door.

The poor devoted little Ira had strength left to get from the bed, in order to see ‘whether his father was coming to cure him.’ Williams answered that his father would come by-and-by, and bid him go to bed again, and lie still. Again the murderer listened for the dying groan of the boy; but, finding his work incomplete, (horrid to relate!) he took an axe, went to the bed, looked upon the innocent child, and, while it held up its little hands for help, the monster struck it on the head, and by repeated and accursed blows chopped it in pieces.

The wretched murderer was a youth of extraordinary mental talents for his years until the fatal gloom overspread him.

After the horrid deed was done he spoke of it with calmness, observing that, though he had often considered the grief he should bring on his own mother, it never occurred to him the distraction it must cause her who bore the murdered child.

His whole intent was to get himself hanged. He supposed that the

perpetration of the murder, under so many palliating circumstances, would excite the pity and forgiveness of the Almighty.

He farther admitted, in the account he gave of himself, that the example of a pious mother, and an affectionate and good brother, had no influence over his determined purpose; that he had an evil temper, soured ever since his father-in-law took him that unhappy day from school; but that he had never committed a bad crime before. He was, in the eye of the law, considered a lunatic, and, as such, treated.

The immediate subject of the present inquiry, Samuel Burt, was a young man of fair character, but who labored under so great a depression of mind as to render him weary of life. He did not, however, seek death at the hands of the law, by shedding the blood of his fellow-creature; he pursued a still more effectual plan, as he conceived, knowing that, though the crime of murder, under particular circumstances, has found mercy, forgery is unpardonable. Yet in this he did not succeed; for, when his determination to die was known, the executive power would have him live, and, in consequence, from time to time, his execution was respited.

That such was his fixed determination to die will be proved by his address to the Bench, in 1787, on receiving sentence; and that he was possessed of superior abilities will be seen by the style of his speech.

Having been convicted of forgery, when the Recorder of London called him by name, in the usual manner, to know what he had to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he thus replied:—

‘My Lord,—I am too sensible of the crime I have committed, and for which I justly deserve to suffer, not to know that my life I have forfeited, and wish to resign it into the hands of Him who gave it. To give my reasons for this would only satisfy an idle curiosity; no one can feel a more sensible heartfelt satisfaction in the hopes of shortly passing into eternity, wherein, I trust, I shall meet with great felicity. I have no desire to live; and as the jury and Court, in my trial, thought proper to recommend me to mercy, if his majesty should, in consequence thereof, grant me a respite, I here vow, in the face of Heaven, that I will put an end to my own existence as soon as I can. It is death that I wish for, because nothing but death can extricate me from the troubles which my follies have involved me in.’

We do not find any note of his being executed, and therefore conclude that, in pity to his mental derangement, he finally received a pardon.

The last time he is named was in these words:—‘Samuel Burt, the unhappy youth, who, under a depression of mind, abhorring the guilt of suicide, committed a forgery in order to suffer death by the law, was respited.’

ELIZABETH SEDGWICK,

EXECUTED FOR ARSON.

THIS unhappy woman was convicted of setting fire, at different times, to two barns and one stable, belonging to her master, Mr. John Taylor, at Feltham Hill, Middlesex.

It appeared, on her examination and confession, that the first fire (on Sunday, December 10) was merely accidental, as she had then gone into the barn to examine the hens; and

that, on returning to the beams on which they roosted, she had fallen on the straw, and, as she thought, put out the candle; but discovering the flames, as she returned to the house, had invented an excuse, by pretending to see a man in the yard with a lantern. But the remaining part of her confession was, perhaps, the most extraordinary that ever marked the waywardness of the human mind: she said, that on Sunday, the 17th of January, the day of the second fire, as she was making the toast for tea, the thought struck her that she would go out and set the other barn on fire; and that

when her business was done she had taken out a candle and candlestick, and placed them in such a situation as to effect her strange purpose in a few minutes. She declared that she did this without any motive whatsoever; and none could in fact be assigned, but that of absolute insanity, or inveterate resentment. She, however, had never given the smallest occasion to doubt the sanity of her intellects; and, so far from being displeased with her master or mistress, she always spoke of them in terms of the highest praise.

She was executed before Newgate on the 27th of April, 1787.



The fatal Encounter between Ward and Swain.

WILLIAM WARD,

CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER.

'BOXING,' says a British writer, 'which is the setting of the most worthless of the human species to batter each other to mummy, to

break jaws, to knock eye-balls out of their sockets, to flatten the nose, beat out teeth, or to dash each other on the ground, with such dex-

terity as that they shall never rise again, if not a royal sport, is, at least, a princely entertainment, and manifests the *exalted* taste of its patrons!

Of the subject of boxing, in his own country, the American geographer, Dr. Morse, says, that, 'When two boxers are wearied out with fighting and bruising each other (in which encounters they kick and bite, as well as strike,) they come, as it is called, to close quarters, and each endeavors to twist his fore fingers into the earlocks of his antagonist. When these are fast clenched, the thumbs are extended each way to the nose, and the eyes gently turned out of their sockets. The victor, for his expertness, receives shouts of applause from the sporting throng, while his poor eyeless antagonist is laughed at for his misfortune.' This, in America, is called GOUGING.

The author of 'The Stranger in America,' in commenting upon the above passage, after adducing many instances of gouging, observes, 'But let us conclude this odious subject, which never should have stained these pages, had not the author alluded to (Morse) proclaimed to the world the cruel and unnatural facts, by observing that these barbarities appear not to have been the genuine growth of American soil. No such practice would be endured by an English mob; no such disgraceful revenge ever entered the breast of a Creek, a Cherokee, or a Kickapoo Indian.'

The sight is not the only sense endangered in these brutal contests in England; and life itself has oftener, than in the murder now in question, been lost in prize-fighting, as we shall show before we have done with the boxing of William Ward.

The barbarous and unlawful prac-

tice of fisticuffs, which the fools of fashion dignify by the name of pugilism, since the rude days of Broughton, had, until this period, happily become nearly out of use. Its renewal shows that there are periodical returns of fashion, even in amusements of cruelty.

The first public renewal of this species of cruelty was a battle between two low fellows, a Jew and a Christian, in outward form, but in heart, as Dr. Morse styles some of his countrymen, Nothingarians—that is, those who have not the fear of God before their eyes, through any medium of religion.

The fisticuffs between Humphries and Mendoza formed a treat for such fellows as may be daily seen lounging in Bond Street. Peers and pickpockets, *cheek by jowl*, scampered some score miles to witness the bloody spectacles which these two ruffians made of each other. As at a cock-fight, they made their bets, which, as between the 'grey and pile,' varied in proportion to the rounds, or knock-down blows, the failing eye, or the quantity of blood spilt.

The roads to this scene of inhumanity were thronged with all descriptions of idle fellows; some mounted upon the high-mettled racer, and others kicking and whipping miserable jack-asses, that they too might be in at the death, or giving in, as they term it, of the most exhausted of the two ruffian candidates for the gaining of public applause in prize-fighting.

Even royalty, which must ever be at the head of every fashion, was often in the motley mob collected to witness these disgraceful exhibitions; but, bad as are our youth, they will become still worse by following such pernicious examples.

His Majesty, when Prince of Wales, in one of these mortal con-

fists, found one of the combatants made a corpse at his feet, upon the stage of pugilistic fight. The heir-apparent to the British crown turned pale away from the horrid sight, and made a vow never more to behold so savage and dangerous a contest, and to which he has conscientiously adhered.

Of the worst description of vagabonds, who run from one bloody stage to the other, was the fellow who now comes under our notice. His origin mean, his understanding totally uncultivated; arrogant of his savage prowess, vicious and cruel; he had often fought, and was the inglorious conqueror; but, in his turn, was shamefully vanquished, and, to the satisfaction of all who wished the downfall of such a desperado, by the fighting Jew, who had been considered his inferior in the despicable attainment.

William Ward, as we have already said, was once a pugilist, high in renown among the fashionable amateurs of that degrading pursuit. He, with several more of his infamous calling, had monopolized the outside of a stage-coach, journeying to Stilton, seventy-one miles from London, to attend another rencontre, between Jew Mendoza and Christian Humphries. They had not proceeded farther than Enfield, where, as the coach stopped to change horses, the bravado of Ward stimulated a drunken blacksmith, named Edwin Swain, to challenge him to combat.

Now, though there is no honour in the owner of a blood-horse, or a game cock, to match with a dunghill, or an animal that had toiled in harness, yet Ward inhumanly accepted the foolish dolt's invitation; and, for a while, they did buffet each other with lusty sinews; but science soon overcame brute force, for, in fact, the blacksmith could

not hit the trained bruiser. He therefore soon yielded the palm of victory, and retired into the public house, before which the coach and passengers waited the event of this shameful contest. This professed pugilist followed, and upon his unguarded antagonist dealt his fists, until the object of his cruelty was actually beaten to death!

Ward, conscious of the magnitude of his offence, hired a post-chaise, and, with his companions, set off to return to London, where they could best conceal themselves from offended justice; but they were pursued, and committed to prison.

The coroner's jury were divided in opinion, seven finding the crime 'wilful murder,' and nine 'manslaughter;' and, from the circumstances attending the horrid deed, Ward was not admitted to bail; though he boasted that he could find security for his appearance to any amount. A poor mechanic, an useful member of society, might linger in gaol without a friend to bail him, while such ruffians have their aiders, abettors, and protectors, in men of property, rank, and title!

On the 5th of June, 1789, William Ward was arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey, for the murder of Edwin Swain, and, after a long trial, found guilty of manslaughter, fined one shilling, and sentenced to be imprisoned three months in Newgate.

The evidence did not amount to the proof of actual malice, as the deceased first provoked the contest.

Mr. Justice Ashurst, who tried Ward, expressed his detestation of the inhuman and unlawful practice of boxing, and declared it to be a disgrace to a civilized nation.

At the expiration of his sentence, and when about to be liberated, Ward had the unparalleled effron-

tery to offer a public challenge to fight at the next Newmarket meeting. 'Is this,' says a monthly publication for September, 1789, commenting on this subject, 'the effect of the wholesome severity of the law? or are these gross violations of humanity to proceed till more homieides are committed?'

In the year 1809, John Jackson, late a prize-fighter, being apprehended on a warrant for assaulting

Mr. James Savage, of Walsingham Place, St. George's Fields, stated, in his defence at the public office in Bow Street, that on the day on which he was charged with the assault, the 18th of September, at Covent Garden Theatre, he dined with General Gwynne, Colonel M'Donel, Captains Barclay and Hanbury, and others, at the Piazza Coffee-house; and *they went together* to the theatre!!!

THOMAS GORDON, THE YOUNGER, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

MR. GORDON, the father of this wretched youth, was a surgeon and apothecary in London, from whence he removed his family into Northamptonshire, not long before the fatal circumstance, which is about to be described, happened.

Mr. Gordon continued to practise in the country, and soon became envied, and obnoxious to his neighbours, being considered as an intruder, from not being a native of the country.

The consequence of this was frequent quarrels; and at length a justice's warrant was obtained against the father, on a pretended charge of assault.

The constable went to Mr. Gordon's house, in order to apprehend him; but the wife and son told the officer he was not at home. This was not the case, for the constable knew he was in the house: he, however, went away, but soon returned with some neighbours, and who were about making a forcible entry. The mother and son opposed them, and the latter was armed with a gun. The populace threw stones at the windows, when the mother, in an unlucky moment, bid her son fire: he did so, and killed the constable on the spot.

Both mother and son were tried,

and found guilty of this murder; but Baron Thompson, who presided on the Bench, observing that the mother being indicted as an accessory before the fact, and the evidence turning out that she was a principal, he had doubts whether she was properly convicted, and therefore reserved the case for the opinion of the twelve judges, who, upon solemn argument, confirmed the sentence against the son, but at the same time adjudged the indictment against the mother to be bad; and the poor youth received sentence of death. He was, however, three times reprieved; from which he hoped, and the world flattered him with an opinion, that his pardon would ultimately follow.

While cheered with this idea, an order came for his execution. Think, now, upon his state! Is this fair dealing with a fellow-creature, to tantalize him thus with the hopes of life?—Madness ensued.

'He made his heart a prey to black despair;

He ate not, drank not, slept not, made no use

Of any thing for thought; or, if he talk'd,
'Twas to himself, and then 'twas perfect raving.'

This case has a strong claim to

commiseration. The unhappy culprit was scarcely nineteen years of age, and suffered for an act which, at the time of its commission, he committed in defence of his father,

and in obedience to the orders of his mother.

He suffered at Northampton, August 17th, 1789, much lamented by many well-disposed persons.

THOMAS PHIPPS, ESQ. THE ELDER, AND THOMAS PHIPPS, THE YOUNGER,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THIS final forfeit paid to our outraged laws was attended with circumstances particularly melancholy. A father and his only son to be suspended upon the same fatal tree, and for the same crime, is a dreadful reflection. The father was a man of good property, and lived on his own estate at Llwyney Mopsis, in Shropshire; and both were indicted for uttering a note of hand, for twenty pounds, of Mr. Richard Coleman, of Oswestry, knowing the same to have been forged.

It was proved, on their trial that Mr. Coleman never had had any transactions with Mr. Phipps, that required the signing of any note whatever.

That, about Christmas last, Mr. Coleman was served with a copy of a writ, at the suit of Mr. Phipps the elder, which action Mr. Coleman defended, and, for want of further proceedings on the part of the plaintiff, a *non proc.* was signed, with two pounds three shillings costs of suit against Phipps.

Upon this, an affidavit was drawn up and sworn to, by Phipps the elder, Phipps the younger, and William Thomas, their clerk, for the purpose of moving the Court of Exchequer to set aside the judgment of *non proc.* and therein they swore that the cause of action was a note of the said Coleman's for twenty pounds, and which was given as satisfaction for a trespass, by him committed, in carrying some hay off

the land of one of Mr. Phipps the elder's tenants.

The Court thereupon granted a rule to show cause why the *non proc.* should not be set aside.

Mr. Coleman insisting that the note was a forgery, the matter rested in suspense pending the event of the prosecution instituted for forgery against the father, son, and Thomas.

After a full hearing at the assizes at Shrewsbury, they, the father and son, were pronounced 'Guilty of uttering and publishing the note, knowing it to be forged.'

William Thomas was found 'Not Guilty.'

Though convicted on the fullest evidence, the unhappy men, until the morning of their execution, persisted in their innocence; but, when about to leave the gaol, young Phipps made the following confession: 'It was I alone who committed the forgery: my father is entirely innocent, and was ignorant of the note being forged when he published it.'

They were taken in a mourning-coach to the place of execution, accompanied by a clergyman, and a pious friend who had attended them daily after their condemnation.

On their way to the fatal tree the father said to the son, 'Tommy, thou hast brought me to this shameful end, but I freely forgive thee;' to which the son made no reply. It being remarkably wet weather, their devotions were chiefly performed in

the coach. When the awful moment arrived Mr. Phipps said to his son, 'You have brought me hither; do you lead the way!' which the youth immediately did, and in the most composed manner ascended the ladder to a temporary scaffold erected for the purpose, followed by his father.

When their devotions were finish-

ed, and the halters tied to the gallows, this most wretched father and son embraced each other, and in a few moments the scaffold fell, and they were, hand in hand, launched into eternity, September the 5th, 1789, amid a vast concourse of pitying spectators.

The father was forty-eight, and the son just twenty, years of age.

THOMAS DENTON AND JOHN JONES,
EXECUTED FOR PETTY TREASON.

IN the character of Denton we find an uncommon mechanical genius; a gift which, from being ill applied, has too often brought its possessor to an untimely fate. Had Ryland, the engraver, not been one of the first artists, he might never have been hanged. Many other instances have been adduced of ingenuity being subject to a base and wicked propensity.

Thomas Denton was born in the north riding of Yorkshire, of poor, but honest parents, who brought up a numerous offspring without a blemish in character, save that incurred by the malefactor whose case is before us. Their son Thomas was bound apprentice to a tinnian, and served his time with much credit to himself, and profit to his master.

His genius, it appears, expanded beyond the making of kettles, for he evinced a taste for literature. He opened a bookseller's shop in the city of York, where he particularly attended to works on mechanism, and, with a superficial store of such arts, he gave up his few shelves of books, and, on their sale, went, an adventurer, to the great mart of genius, London.

He had formed no settled plan of life, and determined to employ some days in viewing minutely the great metropolis.

Passing through the parish of St. James's, his attention was arrested by some foreigners exhibiting a speaking figure. He immediately paid his admission, and took a very correct examination of the automaton. Returning to his lodgings, he fancied that he could construct a similar machine, equal to that of the ingenious foreigner's; and he determined, without farther search, to set about this work.

Difficulties, however, insurmountable to any other man, presented themselves. A workshop, tools, and materials, he had to find in a strange place, himself an unknown individual. Yet man's industry, which, as he had read, has levelled mountains, diverted the course of large rivers, and carried navigation into the bowels of the earth, would hardly stop at forming the figure of a pigmy. To set to work took time, labour, and money; but, once seated, his ingenuity soon made rapid progress; and, with but one more hired view of the original, he completed a far superior figure to that of the vaunting German.

His work having been deemed the most complete, he wisely determined against encountering opposition in London, where the milk of such a raree-show had already been skimmed, and accordingly set off

with it into the country. There he collected vast sums of money at each city which he pitched upon for the exhibition of his famous speaking figure.

His active mind, it seems, was still discontented. Looking upon his first essay in mechanism as far inferior to his expanded ideas, he determined upon returning to London, in order to undertake a superior work. He soon found a purchaser for the speaking figure (a printer in the city of London, who for it melted down his types), and set about a writing automaton. This, too, he finished with most exquisite and ingenious workmanship.

The artificial penman delighted him no longer than the speaker; and he next applied himself to chymistry. In pursuit of this science, he met with Pinetti's 'Book of Deceptions,' which he translated (having previously to learn the language in which it was written), and added to it various notes and observations.

He also made himself master of an improvement in the art of plating coach-harness.

Conceiving this profitable branch of business, united to that of a bookseller, would make his fortune, he, for some time, carried on both in Holborn. Here his good fortune, by his own indiscretion, failed him. The art, thus self-acquired, of plating metal, led him into company with others, professing that branch of business, and among them was a coiner of base shillings.

Here too, as with the Germans, he fancied he could far excel in this criminal proceeding; and the powers that assisted him to make several mathematical instruments, as pentagraphs, &c. enabled him to imitate the current coin of the kingdom in a manner that deceived the best judges; and which, upon his trial at the Old Bailey for that offence, kept

the Court in doubt during seven hours; nor could he be convicted of coining: but he was found guilty of having implements for coining in his possession, which alone proved fatal to him.

He was condemned to die; and we are reluctant in adding to the character of such a man of genius as Thomas Denton that his behaviour after condemnation was religious in the extreme. To sum up the whole, he died a fool and a sinner!

A few minutes before he was brought out of Newgate for execution he requested pen, ink, and paper; and, in the most composed manner, sat down and wrote the following letter:

'Dear Father and Mother,

'When you receive this I shall be gone to that country 'from whence no traveller returns.' Don't cast any reflections on my wife—the best of mothers, and the best of women; and, if ever woman went to heaven, she will. If I had taken her advice I should not have been in this situation. God bless my poor Dick! (his son.) The bell is tolling. Adieu! 'T. DENTON.'

Of John Jones we find no particular account. He may be considered as the *scape-goat* of Denton, having not only joined him in coining, but even imbibed his horrid principles of atheism.

They were executed before Newgate, July the 1st, 1789, along with John Ward, for burglary; and George Green, for robbing Anne Saunders, on the highway.

These men exhibited a happy contrast to Denton and Jones—they died penitent.

About this time the number of capital convictions had increased to so alarming an extent, that no fewer than one hundred and eighteen prisoners under sentence of death were brought to the bar, at the close of

the September sessions, by ten at a time, and individually offered the king's pardon on condition of being transported to Botany Bay during their lives.

It seems that a notion had been implanted in the minds of some of these unhappy men that they were to be sold to slavery, or treated with a degree of hardship and oppression intolerable to humanity; and eight out of the one hundred and eighteen refused to receive the proffered mercy.

The Recorder addressed himself to them severally, in a sensible and affecting speech, exhorting them against treating the benignity of their sovereign with contempt, and adding, by a pertinacious refusal of his mercy, the crime of self-murder to those for which their lives had become forfeited to the laws of their country. Exhortations, however, were employed in vain; they persisted in their premeditated resolution to prefer death to exile, and were accordingly remanded into Newgate, and ordered to be confined in the condemned cells.

Happily the necessary adjournment of the Court at four o'clock afforded the Rev. Mr. Vilette, the chaplain in ordinary of the prison, an opportunity to visit the cells; and he informed the Court that five out of the eight were truly sensible of the impropriety of their conduct, and had, with the deepest sorrow and repentance, requested of him to

implore the forgiveness of the Court that the dreadful fiat for their immediate execution might be recalled; which, being complied with, the five were brought up and permitted to avail themselves of their sovereign's clemency.

The final adjournment of the Court was for some time delayed, in expectation that this example of submission would work a like effect on the minds of Davies, Cowderoy, and Chassey, the three deluded wretches who remained in the cells; and they were at last brought once more to the bar: but, notwithstanding every remonstrance, that it would be too late for them to repent of their unhappy obduracy after the Court was closed, they peremptorily refused to accept the proffered mercy, and were again remanded to the cells. The Court was then finally closed, and the consequence of the Recorder's report was expected to be their inevitable and instant execution; in the evening, however, two of them availed themselves of the royal clemency; and two days afterwards every preparation was made before Newgate for the execution of the remaining one, who still refused the proffered terms. The sheriffs stayed the dreadful ceremony till the latest moment, when the unfortunate man, finding himself on the brink of eternity, begged and received his majesty's pardon on the conditions first offered to him.

ROBERT JAQUES,

CONVICTED OF CONSPIRACY.

THIS was a crime of so public a nature, so very artfully planned, and so daringly attempted to be carried into execution, that, in order to give the reader a general view of the transaction, we shall transcribe, verbatim, the speech of Mr. Silvester,

then leading counsel for the crown, and afterwards Recorder of London; which was very clearly and fully proved in evidence on this trial, which began July 11, 1790, at the Old Bailey, at eleven in the morning, and lasted till eight at night.

In opening the case Mr. Silvester thus addressed the Court :—

‘ This indictment has been stated to you, charging several persons with a conspiracy, Robert Jaques, John Tronson, *alias* James Smith, Richard Bailey, Elizabeth Tronson, and Francis Shanley. The conspiracy is, that these persons conspired to charge the Warden of the Fleet with a sum of one thousand three hundred pounds, he being answerable in case of the escape of any of his prisoners.

‘ The prosecutor is the Warden of the Fleet; the defendant, Mr. Jaques, is a person whose character, perhaps, you have heard of: if not, you will find it recorded in the several commitments and records of the several courts of justice in this kingdom. The defendant, Mr. Tronson, was originally a servant: he then became an apothecary, afterwards a perfumer, and last of all a quack doctor. The next defendant, Richard Bailey, is the brother-in-law of Jaques, keeping a public-house in Line Street, a man in great distress. Elizabeth Smith, otherwise Tronson, is the mistress of Mr. Tronson, whom I described to you before; and Francis Shanley, *alias* Loftus, is a young man, an Irishman, who, having spent most of his fortune, and great part of his time, in the several prisons of this metropolis, the last we hear of him is in Newgate, where Tronson was confined for debt.

‘ The question is, whether they are, or are not, concerned in one of the foulest conspiracies that ever was invented. Jaques, the prime mover and planner of the conspiracy, applied to the Warden of the Fleet that he might be admitted to the place of Clerk of the Papers, stating that there was nothing against him but his character; particularly that there were men, like him, who had

been guilty of the worst offences, and had afterwards become useful officers. We have his letter to the warden, in which he writes as follows: ‘ Whoever you engage with, let it be a man who knows the world, that he may be able to guard against the tricks which your situation subjects you to.’ Jaques, perfectly aware that the Warden of the Fleet, from his situation, was exposed to the tricks and contrivances of every dexterous villain, and feeling irritated in consequence of the warden having looked him up for breaking through the rules, the first thing he did was to apply to a person of the name of Abbot, to get some person who was willing to be arrested, that he might escape, and the warden be fixed with the debt; Abbot refused. The next was a man of the name of Kane: he told him it was a matter very easily managed, if he could get any person who was willing to be arrested: that, whatever was the debt, they would fix the warden, and divide the money. Kane refused. The next person he applied to was Tronson; Tronson, the friend of Jaques, was applied to, to get a proper person, who from his appearance might impose on the turnkey, and escape disguised. Tronson, recollecting that his friend Shanley, with whom he had spent his time in Newgate, was of a fair complexion, small, and likely to be disguised as a woman, applied to him: he was the man fixed on to be the prime mover in this transaction, of which Jaques was the planner. The way to do it was to have two warrants of attorney, upon which Alder, the relation of Tronson’s mistress, was to be the plaintiff in one, that was for four hundred and fifty pounds. Tronson, to carry this into execution, applied on the 5th of August to Mr. Crossley, the attorney! he told him that he wish-

ed to arrest a person for a friend of his, a Mr. Alder, a gentleman who was a money-broker—one of those people who lend money to distressed officers, living at Chelsea, in Sloane Street: he lent a sum of money to an extravagant young man, and they were afraid he was going to Ireland; upon which a warrant of attorney was produced, and he was directed, particularly, immediately to arrest Shanley. Shanley was described as a young gentleman of character and fortune, a dressy man, known by being dressed in blue and gold; upon which a particular direction was given to Mell, the officer, that this Shanley was to be arrested: he was arrested on the 15th of August, and carried down by Mell, the officer, to Simpson's house. Tronson was continually there, and it created some little suspicion in the officer, and likewise in the attorney, that, though he was so active to arrest the defendant, they should be in habits of intimacy together: but so it was. Tronson was continually with Shanley while he was there; having given this description of Alder, the plaintiff, that he was a money-broker, and it turning out afterwards that Mr. Alder kept a little register-office in Fetter Lane, only having a back room, so distressed that he had not a bed to lay on, forced in the summer to work at hay-making, and obliged to live for three days on the produce of a pair of nut-crackers; but, says Mr. Tronson, he has offered to pay part of the money. Mr. Crossley went to the officer's, where he saw Mr. Shanley in custody. He admitted the debt was just and true; you see by this means Tronson had got Shanley into the custody of the officer; this was on the 15th of August.

'The next thing is, Jaques comes; and therefore it is necessary his

warrant of attorney should be for a more considerable sum. He has a warrant of attorney likewise for eight hundred and sixty-nine pounds: the plaintiff upon that is Bailey, the brother-in-law of Jaques, keeping this public house in Lime Street; a distressed man, his goods having been seized, and himself ruined. Jaques writes to Price, his attorney, and sends him the warrant of attorney with this letter: 'Sir, I have sent you a warrant of attorney, which I shall be obliged to you to enter up and take out execution on immediately; as the defendant is in custody at Simpson's, in Brook Street, and I am told he will settle the matter: you may depend on this being a straight-forward business: you see I have not taken the warrant in my own name, nor never will any more: but you will see, by the indorsement on the back, that it is in truth for me. If you have any offer of settlement you may take half down, and a warrant of attorney for the remainder, but not otherwise. I have sent two guineas per bearer, for money out of purse: you need only lodge the writ in the Sheriff's office: in the other writ you sent me there is a mistake; therefore I shall not serve it till I see you. I am, Sir, your humble servant, Robert Jaques.—Pray send me an answer by the bearer. The witness to the warrant of attorney is my brother.' So that the supposed plaintiff is my brother-in-law, the supposed witness is my brother Jaques, but I, Mr. Robert Jaques, am the real plaintiff in the business.

'Having thus got him arrested, and charged in the office of the sheriff, the next thing is to get him into the Fleet. How is that to be done? Jaques knew that was to be done by habeas corpus. Who should be the attorney? There are a num-

ber of attorneys, and we will open the book and see how many there are of one name. It turns out there are two Mr. Martins: Martin is the man; there are but two Martins, and they will not know which of the two it is. Now it turns out to be neither of them, for they are both here; so that from the beginning to the end it is a complete fabrication. Now the next thing was how to get him out of the Fleet: that was to be done, because, unless that could be done it would not do; the warden would not be charged with the debt.—On Saturday, the 22d, I think he was brought to the Fleet: on the Sunday they dined together; the company consisted of Mr. Robert Jaques and his lady, Mr. John Jaques and his wife, who from her size and appearance might very well pass for a man, and Mr. Shanley, being from his appearance to pass for a woman, the transition was easy; Mr. Robert Hopper and his wife, Mr. Shanley, and Mr. Tronson; Mrs. Hopper and Mr. Hopper coming in about four o'clock on the Sunday: Mr. John Jaques, with his lady Mrs. Jaques: they transferred their appearances, Mr. Shanley placing his blue and gold coat round his waist, to make some hips, and with a gown of Mrs. Jaques's he walked out. Mrs. John Jaques was left in company with Mr. Robert Jaques. Mr. Shanley went out of the gate between eight and nine in the evening, in the very same gown, in the very same dress and appearance that Mrs. John Jaques came in about four: they led a child out with them. Unfortunately Clipson the turnkey (most probably Jaques knew this before) had been sent for to his mother, in the country, and therefore the door was kept by an under-turnkey. He had not the least suspicion; was not on his guard: the next day it was found

that Mr. Shanley had escaped out of prison, and he was traced by some means or other to the lodgings of Mr. Tronson, in Sloane Street. They took coach directly, and went there; Mrs. John Jaques sent for her clothes, and they were returned. The next thing was to get Shanley out of the kingdom; because if he was here he might be taken by an escape-warrant, and the whole would be discovered; he therefore the next day took a post-chaise, and went to Dover, and in company with Mr. Shakeshaft, (a person he met with on the road,) took boat, and went to Calais. They went to Tronson's the 29th. Tronson's lodgings were in the most miserable situation, scarce a table or a chair: Clipson charged him immediately with having aided and assisted in the escape. Tronson was exceedingly angry at it; and being told that he should be charged with a conspiracy, said he did not care; that, as to going to the Fleet again, he never would put his foot there, for, now he had got his friend out, that was all he wished. He had his ends; therefore he did not care a penny about it.

'Gentlemen, upon this Tronson wrote a letter, and sent it to a friend of his, of the name of Alder, who was the plaintiff in that business. Now in that letter he writes in these words: 'Dear Frank, I have this moment received yours; and have only time to inform you that there have been six men here searching for you this moment. Matters are arrived to such a height, that I can neither call on Jaques, nor can he send to me at present; therefore I must request you will defer drawing till you hear from me again. Rely upon it, I shall either call or send to him as soon as I can with safety. They have threatened to indict us all for a conspiracy. I

must once more request you will live as saving as you can: God bless you! Yours sincerely, James Smith,' Here Tronson takes the name of Smith, and writes to his friend, Frank Shanley, at France, 'You must direct no more at Chelsea, as follows: Mr. Smith, 97, Fetter Lane Holborn,' (that being the place where this man, Alder, had a place for a register-office.) 'I hope you will have the goodness to excuse this scrawl for by G—d, nothing but Botany Bay stares us in the face. Do not doctor me over any more in your letters.' This letter is directed to Monsieur Loftus, Calais, France.'

'This letter was afterwards produced; and by that means it was found that Shanley was in France, under the name of Loftus.

'Many letters afterwards passed from one to the other, from Shanley to Tronson, and from Tronson to Shanley: those directed from Shanley were directed to Mr. Smith, Fetter Lane; those from Tronson, were directed to Mr. Loftus, in France.

'The next correspondent is Jaques; and I will just read one of his letters to you, (for there are more than one); for Jaques who not only is a very good manager, but a very good actor, can not only plan, but can execute very well, either in his own hand or in a feigned one sometimes, which this day will be proved to you: for some of those letters are in a feigned hand; but his tricks are so well known, that it will be proved to be his own handwriting.

'Dear Sir,—If this meets you, our friend Tom (Thomas Hopper) will have seen you, and informed you that villain, Clipson, the turnkey, set off for Calais this morning to you, to get you to do some wicked act against your friends. They all

rely upon you with the greatest confidence. You will have heard that some of your letters fell into the enemy's hands, in consequence of a traitor; but all will yet be well, so you are safe, and out of Old England. October 16, 1789,' directed to 'Monsieur Loftus, Calais.'

'Then there is another letter to his friend Tom, which says—

'Dear Tom, if this should meet you, it is just to inform you that Clipson set off for Calais, to endeavour to find the same person you went in search of, to persuade him into something. I think some step might be taken to punish the villain: you have nothing to fear from us; every thing here goes on to your satisfaction: particulars I cannot relate. I wrote to L—s, (that is, Loftus.) Your's sincerely, you know who.' This is Mr. Jaques's letter likewise.

'Now, gentlemen, these letters, you will say how came we into the possession of them? because, application being made to the secretary of state's office, these letters were intercepted. Mr. Jaques, I see, had not heard of this before: he now hears of it; and he will see the letters produced, and proved to be his handwriting. Gentlemen, the information he gave was perfectly true and correct; for, having learned that this man was in France, that Shanley was in France by the name of Loftus, on the road he met with Mr. Thomas Hopper, who went by the name of Johnson, and said he was clerk to Lady Loftus, in France. Clipson came and found at the French hotel there Mr. Shanley, under the name of Loftus. Shanley, being accused of this, went before a magistrate, and has made a full and clear discovery of the whole transaction: he has discovered how the plot was laid by Jaques; he has discovered how he escaped out of

prison; and he, in short, has related every fact, and how he escaped.

'Gentlemen, that will be read in evidence before you; for he is one of the defendants in this very conspiracy; you will therefore have not only what has passed between Tronson, who is not here (though he ought to be here, having given notice of his trial); but you will have what passed between Shanley and the persons concerned, during the transaction of the persons being in pursuit of Shanley. Jaques was not idle: Tronson was not asleep: it was necessary, if possible, to recover the money; and therefore instructions were to be given by Tronson to Mr. Crossley, to sue the warden for the debt due to Alder; and Jaques applied to his attorney, Mr. Price, to sue the warden for the debt due under the warrant of attorney.

'Gentlemen, this scheme would have taken place—the actions would have gone on; but the iniquity was so full, the acts came out so strong, that the attorneys who were applied to gave up their papers, and gave every information in their power.

'Gentlemen, Tronson having applied very frequently to Mr. Crossley, giving intimation to a lady, a Miss Brooks, who lived in London, that he had escaped, telling her to come abroad to him, desiring Mr. Crossley to proceed on it: by way of imposing on Mr. Crossley to bring the action, clothes were sent by Tronson to Mr. Alder, for the purpose of dressing himself up to go to Mr. Crossley, to desire him to go on with the action. Alder was out; he had been passing the day with Tronson: he returned, and complained of being ill (for he began to be shocked at the idea of the iniquity); he soon died:—he died, and then application was made to

the widow, with an offer to her, if she would stand in the shoes of her husband, of no less than two hundred pounds. The clothes which he had to dress himself in were returned to Tronson. Jaques, within a very few days after the escape, was the first person to carry the intelligence; (to be sure he was the person that knew it better than any body.) He applies to Price, and desired him to proceed to recover the money, which was eight hundred and sixty pounds, anxious to get it on; thinking, if he could get the money, he should be able to put it into his own pocket, or share it among them.

'Gentlemen, in this state of the case, it will appear to you clearly that these two warrants of attorney are fabricated. The witness to one is a Mr. Brown, who will not appear to prove his signature. The situation of Alder was such, that he could not lend Shanley a farthing. In regard to Jaques's warrant of attorney, he confesses it was his own: he writes to his attorney it is his own, though taken in the name of his brother; and the witness, his brother, John Jaques, who I believe he will not call. I wish to see him here; I wish to examine him. Then as to Mr. Bailey;—Bailey is a brother-in-law of Jaques; so distressed, that he borrowed money before he went to the public house in Lime Street: so distressed, that he borrowed it of his brewer and of his distiller; and, before he borrowed that money, he assigned all his effects over to Jaques, his brother. This is the man he made use of as the plaintiff in the charge; and Mr. Bailey, being applied to for money, says—'Why,' says he, 'I shall not be able to pay you now; but the moment we can recover some money from the warden I shall be able to pay some of my debts;' so

that he is to have some share in the concerns.

'Gentlemen, these are the facts I am instructed to lay before you. I have endeavored to state them to you as shortly as I possibly could; because a case like this requires no comment; it requires a mere narrative of facts in the plainest way it possibly can; and I am sure, if I prove them in evidence, there cannot be a doubt in the mind of any man that hears me, that a fouler conspiracy could not enter the mind of man. Jaques knew perfectly well, from his situation, that the Warden of the Fleet was answerable for the persons in custody; he knew very well the warden was answerable for the escape; the only question therefore was, how he was to get this money in his pocket; that was to get fictitious plaintiffs and fictitious defendants; and to get a man that would look like a woman, and dress him in the habits of a woman, and impose upon the poor turnkey.'

'Gentlemen, a fouler conspiracy I believe never came before this Court, and any jury. I have not opened a circumstance which I am not instructed I shall prove. These facts, in my mind, are irresistible; they prove the connexion between Jaques and Tronson; they prove the connexion between Jaques and Shanley; they prove that Shanley was sent to France after the escape had been contrived.'

'Gentlemen, so accustomed is Mr. Jaques to prisons of this kind, so hardened in iniquity, that he has not done it for the first time; but this is a common trick.'

'Gentlemen, I do not wish that the character of Jaques, infamous as it is, should have any weight on your minds at all: judge him on the facts I have opened to you; and if he is guilty, as I am instructed he is, you will have no difficulty in

pronouncing your verdict. As to Tronson, his character is not so black as Jaques's; but black enough of conscience. Shanley, if he is a gentleman, has disgraced himself by associating with these people: as to Bailey, a relation of Jaques's, I shall say nothing of him. I sit down perfectly satisfied that I shall prove such facts, such connexions between the parties, as not to leave the least doubt in the mind of any man but that they are all guilty of this charge; and it is high time that justice should overtake these delinquents.'

The prisoner conducted his own defence, and cross-examined the witnesses with some ingenuity. He addressed the Court with considerable ability; and, when his case was going to the jury, he exclaimed, 'For God's sake, gentlemen, consider my family; I have a large family!' He was, however, without hesitation, found guilty of the conspiracy.

He then made the following appeal to the Bench:—

Mr. Jaques. My Lord, can I ask on what counts I am found guilty?

Court. Yes, you may ask that certainly.

Mr. Silvester. Third and fifth.

Mr. Jaques. My Lord, I trust your lordship will, in passing sentence, have some consideration as to my family: I have a very large family, entirely dependent on myself.

Court. It is not my province to pass the sentence; but, now you have brought it to my mind, I find, by the evidence, you had it in contemplation to bring an action against the worthy Recorder: if he, therefore, has any difficulty in passing the sentence, I shall solicit the assistance of my brother Wilson, and pass it for him.

Mr. Jaques. My Lord, if I had

been indicted under that act for effecting the escape of a prisoner, you know the punishment that is inflicted under that act; if you will suffer me to transport myself from this country; or otherwise I should be glad if sentence of death could be passed upon me.

SENTENCE.—‘Robert Jaques, the offence of which you stand convicted is one of the foulest crimes which man can commit; it is so extensive in its consequences, and so dangerous in its example, that at all times the Court are bound to inflict a very heavy and severe punishment for it. In your case it has been attended with every circumstance that can aggravate so black a crime as this; and therefore in passing the sentence upon you, which the Court in their discretion think the case requires, I cannot make any allowances for any supposed mischiefs or inconveniences which may arise from what you have yourself stated to have been your former situation of life. You have deprecatcd of the jury that they would not incline against you, because your life hitherto has been very bad: it is a strange defence to come out of the mouth of any person: perhaps you may have heard that it did succeed here in one case better than it ought, and therefore might succeed again in blinding a jury. The fact has been clearly proved against you beyond all possible doubt: and the offence is of that enormity, that the Court think themselves bound to inflict that punishment which the

justice of the case requires, and they must rely on the officers of the Court that the sentence is executed with proper severity. The sentence of this Court is, that you be *imprisoned in his majesty's gaol of Newgate for the space of three years; and that during that time you be once set in and upon the pillory at the Royal Exchange for the space of one hour, between the hours of twelve and two o'clock.*’

During Jaques's imprisonment, in pursuance of this sentence, Sir James Sanderson was robbed to a considerable amount in cash and notes. Part of the latter were brought into Newgate, (that receptacle of stolen property,) and Jaques contriving to get possession of them, under pretence of raising money on them, gave immediate notice to Sir James, who, by this means, recovered the principal part of his property.

We are not, however, to believe that this was a spontaneous act of virtue in Jaques: he saw in it a gleam of hope, in prevailing upon Sir James, in return, to do him the kind office of getting, at least, the more hateful part of his sentence, the pillory, remitted. In this he succeeded; Sir James was a man of influence, and Jaques was pardoned. Yet it seems that this fortunate escape was not warning sufficient to Jaques, who often appeared at the criminal bar; for we find him, shortly afterwards, convicted of wilful perjury, from which he fled to parts beyond the seas.

SAMUEL HINCHCLIFFE,

WHIPPED FOR EXTORTION.

AN act of parliament was passed, a short time subsequent to the conviction of this man, to prevent the extortion of carriers and porters, bringing packages by coach, wagon, &c. to London.

The imposition practised under this pretence had arrived to such a

pitch, that rascals, pretending to be porters to inns, would often put a few stones or brickbats into hand-baskets, and other packages, and cheat the unsuspecting, to whom they had directed them, of a few shillings, as carriage and portorage.

Other villains, actually porters to inns, would charge carriage, though already paid in the country, as will be found in the present case.

Samuel Hinchcliffe having thus imposed upon Daniel Delaney, Esq. that gentleman commenced a prosecution against him, on which he was tried at the Westminster sessions, in January, 1790, for fraudulently obtaining from Francis Cowley, his servant, two shillings, under pretence of its being for the carriage of a parcel from Norwich, the prisoner well knowing that the carriage had been before paid.

Francis Cowley deposed that the prisoner brought to his master's house a parcel directed to Daniel Delaney, Esq. He told the witness he had brought it from the White Horse Inn, Fetter Lane, and demanded two shillings for the carriage, and one shilling for the portorage. The witness observed to him that the carriage ought to have been paid, and, looking at the direction, he discovered that part of it had been torn off, and 'Three Shillings' wrote over it.

This created a suspicion, and he several times advised the prisoner not to take the two shillings for the carriage, as he was persuaded it was paid. The prisoner, however, persisted in his charge, and took three shillings.

The next day the witness was sent by his master to the White Horse, and found that the parcel was not brought from that inn. He then went to the Swan, in Lad Lane, to which inn he found that

the parcel had come by the Norwich coach, and that the carriage had been paid in the country.

The next witness called was a clerk at the Swan, who deposed that the prisoner was an assistant porter to that house, employed to deliver parcels. Upon examining the way-book he found the carriage of the parcel had been paid, and that the prisoner had only accounted for one shilling for the portorage.

The jury immediately found him guilty.

Mr. Mainwaring, the chairman, observed that this was a case of great importance to the public, who were daily suffering under such impositions. As it was very difficult to detect this kind of fraud, it was necessary to make an example of those offenders against whom the charge was proved.

He farther added, that Mr. Delaney, by instituting this prosecution, merited the thanks of the public; and then sentenced the prisoner to three months' imprisonment, and to be publicly whipped from the Admiralty to Charing Cross, and from thence to Bridge Street, Parliament Street; which was inflicted amidst the approbation of the spectators.

The following singular circumstance occurred during the same Old Bailey sessions:—Two men, one named Roberts, the other Robertson, were tried for stealing linen. Robertson was found guilty, and Roberts acquitted; but by some mistake the guilty man was discharged, and Roberts detained. The friends of Robertson were overjoyed, of course, at seeing him at liberty, and advised him to leave the Kingdom; but the worthy fellow, greatly to his credit, surrendered himself at Newgate before the sessions ended. —He was of course brought up to

receive judgment; but, his conduct having been properly stated, he was sentenced to only six months' imprisonment, whereas he would probably have gone to Botany Bay, had it not been for this proof of his *honesty*.



Renwick Williams stabbing Miss Porter.

RENWICK WILLIAMS, COMMONLY CALLED 'THE MONSTER,'

CONVICTED OF A BRUTAL AND WANTON ASSAULT ON MISS ANNE PORTER.

SEVERAL months previous to the apprehension of this man, a report ran through all ranks of society that young females had been secretly wounded in different parts of their bodies, in the public streets, and often in the day-time, by a monster, who, upon committing the brutal crime, effected his escape.

Sometimes, as reported, the villain presented a nosegay to a young female, wherein was concealed a sharp instrument; and, as he offered them the flowers to smell, stabbed them in the face. Other tales were told, of some being stabbed in the

thigh, and behind; in fine, there was universal terror in the female world in London.

At length a man named Renwick Williams was apprehended on the charge of one of the young ladies thus brutally wounded, and his trial came on at the Old Bailey, on the 18th of July, 1790.

The indictment charged, that with force and arms, in the parish of St. James, on the king's highway, Renwick Williams did, unlawfully, wilfully, and maliciously, make an assault upon, maim, and wound, Anne Porter, against the peace, &c.

A second count charged the said Renwick Williams, that, on the same day and year, he did unlawfully, wilfully, and maliciously, tear, spoil, cut, and deface, the garments and clothes—to wit, the cloak, gown, petticoat, and shift, of the said Anne Porter, contrary to the statute, and against the peace, &c.

Miss Anne Porter deposed that she had been at St. James's, to see the ball, on the night of the 18th of January, 1790, accompanied by her sister, Miss Sarah Porter, and another lady; that her father had appointed to meet them at twelve o'clock, the hour the ball generally breaks up; but that it ended at eleven, and she was therefore under the necessity either of staying where she was, until her father came, or to return home at that time. Her father, she said, lived in St. James's Street, and that he kept a tavern and a cold bath. She agreed to go home with her party.

As they proceeded up St. James's Street her sister appeared much agitated, and called to her to hasten home, which she and her company accordingly did. Her sister was the first to reach the hall door. As the witness turned the corner of the rails, she received a blow on the right hip; she turned round, and saw the prisoner stoop down: she had seen him before several times, on each of which he had followed close behind her, and used language so gross, that the Court did not press on her to relate the particulars.

He did not immediately run away when he struck her, but looked on her face, and she thus had a perfect opportunity of observing him. She had no doubt, she said, of the prisoner being the man that wounded her. She supposed that the wound was inflicted with a sharp instrument, because her clothes were

cut, and she was wounded through them.

Miss Porter farther deposed that on the 13th of June last she was walking in St. James's Park, with her mother and her two sisters, and a gentleman of the name of Coleman. The prisoner at the bar met and passed her; she was struck with his person, and knew him; she found he had turned to look after her. Upon appearing agitated, she was questioned, and pointed him out to Mr. Coleman. She said she knew him when he was brought up to the public office at Bow Street.

Her gown, of pink silk, and her shift, which she wore the night she was wounded, were produced in court, and were cut on the right side, a considerable length.

Miss Sarah Porter was next called. She swore that she had seen the prisoner at the bar prior to the 18th of June last, but had no acquaintance with him. He had followed her, and talked to her in language the most shocking and obscene. She had seen him four or five different times. On that night, when her sister was cut, she saw him standing near the bottom of St. James's Street, and, spying her, he exclaimed, 'O ho! are you there?' and immediately struck her a violent blow on the side of the head. She then, as well as she was able, being almost stunned, called to her sister to make haste, adding, 'Don't you see the wretch behind us?' Upon coming to their own door, the prisoner rushed between them, and about the time he struck her sister he also rent the witness's gown. There were lights in the street, and she knew him.

Two more sisters, Miss Rebecca Porter and Miss Martha Porter, also bore unequivocal testimony as to the identity of the prisoner, with

respect to his having accosted them, in company with their sisters, with the most obscene and indecent language.*

Mr. John Coleman was the next witness called. He swore that he was walking with Miss Anne Porter, and the rest of her family, in St. James's Park, on the evening of Sunday, the 13th of June, 1790. That, upon observing Miss Porter much agitated, and inquiring the cause, she pointed out the prisoner at the bar, and said 'the wretch had just passed her.' Having pointed him out, the witness followed him to the house of Mr. Smith, in South Moulton Street, and, upon going into the parlour where he was, expressed his surprise on the the prisoner's not resenting the insults he (the witness) had offered him; and demanded his address. Mr. Smith and the prisoner both expressed their surprise at such a demand, without a reason given; he therefore said, that he, the prisoner, had insulted some ladies, who had pointed him out, and that he must have satisfaction. The prisoner denied having offered any insult; but, upon his persisting, they exchanged addresses.

The prisoner's address was produced by the witness, No. 52, Jernyn Street. The witness and the prisoner then mutually recognised each other, as having been in company with each other before, and the witness then departed. On his departure he repented having quitted him, and, turning back, he met with him at the top of St. James's Street: he then accosted him again, saying 'I don't think you are the person I took you for; you had

better come with me now, and let the ladies see you.' The prisoner objected, as it was late at night; but, upon his saying it was close by, he went with him.

On his being introduced into the parlour, where the Miss Porters were sitting, two of them, Anne and Sarah, fainted away, exclaiming, 'Oh! my God! that's the wretch!' The prisoner then said, 'The ladies' behaviour is odd; they don't take me for the monster that is advertised?' The witness said they did.

The prisoner was there an hour before he was taken away, and in that time said nothing particular.

Mr. Tomkins, surgeon, was next called. By his description the wound must have been made by a very sharp instrument. He had also examined the clothes, and they must have been cut at the same time. The wound itself was, at the beginning, for two or three inches, but skin-deep; about the middle of it, three or four inches deep, and gradually decreasing in depth towards the end. The length of the wound, from the hip downwards, was nine or ten inches.

The prisoner, being called upon for his defence, begged the indulgence of the Court, in supplying the deficiency of his memory, upon what he wished to state, from a written paper. He accordingly read as follows:—

'He stood,' he said, 'an object equally demanding the attention and compassion of the Court. That, conscious of his innocence, he was ready to admit the justice of whatever sufferings he had hitherto undergone, arising from suspicion. He had the greatest confidence in the

* This is a practice among a set of scoundrels of the present day, in the public streets, wherever they find a modest, well-dressed, unprotected female. They not only whisper the most abominable bawdry in her chaste ear, but often pinch her on the side or behind, so as to put her in both bodily and mental pain. Such rascals ought to be whipped at the cart's tail through every street in London.

justice and liberality of an English jury, and hoped they would not suffer his fate to be decided by the popular prejudice raised against him. The hope of proving his innocence had hitherto sustained him.

‘He professed himself the warm friend and admirer of that sex whose cause was now asserted, and concluded with solemnly declaring that the whole prosecution was founded on a dreadful mistake, which, he had no doubt, the evidence he was about to call would clear up to the satisfaction of the Court.’

His counsel then proceeded to call his witnesses.

Mr. Mitchell, the first evidence, was an artificial flower-maker, living in Dover Street, Piccadilly. The prisoner had worked for him nine months in all; he had worked with him on the 18th of January, the queen’s birth-day, the day on which Miss Porter had been wounded, from nine o’clock in the morning till one o’clock in the day, and from half past two till twelve at night: he had then supped with the family. He gave the prisoner a good character, as behaving with good nature to the women in the house.

Miss Mitchell, the witness’s sister, told the same story.

Two other witnesses, domestics in the same house, likewise appeared on behalf of the prisoner; but the whole of the evidence, on his part, proved rather contradictory.

Mr. Justice Buller, with great accuracy and ability, went through the whole of this extraordinary business, stating, with great clearness and perspicuity, the parts of the evidence that were most material for the consideration of the jury, with many excellent observations.

He said it had been stated, in various ways, that great outrages had been committed by the prisoner at the bar, and therefore, in his de-

fence, he had, very properly, not only applied to the compassion of the jury, to guard against the effects of prejudice, but also to their judgment. It was very proper to do so, and in this he only demanded justice: prejudice often injured, though it could never serve, the cause of justice.

In this the jury would have only to consider what were the facts of which they were to be satisfied, and on which it was their province to decide. This being done by them, and if they should find the prisoner guilty upon the present charge, he would reserve his case for the opinion of the twelve judges of England; and this he should do for several reasons: first, because this was completely and perfectly a new case in itself; and, secondly, because this was the first indictment of the kind that was ever tried. Therefore, although he himself entertained but little doubt upon the first point, yet, as the case was new, it would be right to have a solemn decision upon it. So that hereafter the law, in that particular, may be declared from undoubted authority.

Upon the second point he owned that he entertained some doubts. This indictment was certainly the first of the kind that was ever drawn in this kingdom. It was founded upon the statute of the 6th George I. Upon this statute it must be proved that it was the intent of the party accused, not only to wound the body, but also cut, tear, and spoil the garment; (here the learned judge read the clause of the act;—one part of this charge was quite clear, namely, that Miss Porter was wounded, and her clothes torn. The first question, therefore, for the consideration of the jury would be, whether this was done wilfully, and with intent to spoil

the garment, as well as to wound the body. That was a fact for the jury to decide; and, if they agreed upon this, then, whether the prisoner was the man who did it.

He observed that there might be cases in which the clothes were torn, and yet where this act would not apply; such, for instance, as a scuffle in a quarrel, where clothes might be torn wilfully, but not with that malice and previous intent which this act required.

It should be observed, that here there was a wound given, with an instrument that was not calculated solely for the purpose of affecting the body, such, for instance, as piercing or stabbing, by making a hole; but here was an actual cutting, and the wound was of a very considerable length, and so was the rent in the clothes. It was for the jury to decide whether, as both body and clothes were cut, he who intended the end did not also intend the means.

He left it to the jury to say, upon the whole of the case, whether the prisoner was guilty or innocent.

The jury immediately, without hesitation, found the prisoner guilty.

Mr. Justice Buller then ordered the judgment in this case to be arrested, and the recognizances of the persons bound to prosecute to be respited until the December sessions.

The court was crowded with spectators by nine, when this trial began, which ended at five o'clock at night.

All the witnesses were examined separately.

At the commencement of the sessions at the Old Bailey, on the 10th of December, 1790, Judge Ashurst addressed the prisoner nearly in the following terms: 'You have been capitally convicted under the statute 6 George I. of maliciously tearing,

cutting, spoiling, and defacing, the garments of Anne Porter, on the 18th of January last. Judgment has been arrested upon two points—one, that the indictment is informal; the other that the act of parliament does not reach the crime. Upon solemn consideration, the judges are of opinion that both the objections are well founded: but, although you are discharged from this indictment, yet you are within the purview of the common law. You are therefore to be remanded, to be tried for a misdemeanor.'

He was accordingly, on the 13th of the same month, tried at Hicks's Hall for the misdemeanor, in making an assault on Miss Anne Porter.

The trial lasted sixteen hours: there were three counts in the indictment; viz. for assaulting with intent to kill, for assaulting and wounding, and for a common assault.

The charge was that he, on the 18th of January, 1790, made an assault on Anne Porter, and, with a certain knife, inflicted on her person a wound nine inches long, and, in the middle part of it, four inches deep.

The same witnesses were then called in support of the charge as appeared on the trial at the Old Bailey: they gave a very clear, correct, and circumstantial evidence, positively swearing to the person of the prisoner.

The facts proved were nearly the same, with very little variation indeed, with those which were given in evidence on his trial for the felony at the Old Bailey; for which reason we forbear to enter more fully on his trial.

The prisoner produced two witnesses, Miss Annet and Mr. Mitchell, who attempted to prove an *alibi*, and the credit of their testimony was not impeached by any contradiction. The question there-

fore was, to which the jury would give credit; for the evidence on both sides was equally fair and unexceptionable.

The prisoner was again put to the bar at ten o'clock the next morning, and tried on the remaining indictments, on three of which he was found guilty; when the Court sentenced him two years' imprisonment in Newgate for each, and at the expiration of the time to find security for his good behaviour, himself in two hundred pounds, and two sureties in one hundred pounds each.

Thus ended the case of this man,

which had greatly interested every rank of people; but all were by no means satisfied of his guilt, believing that the female witnesses, a circumstance which we have shown too frequently to have happened, mistook the man who wounded and ill treated the prosecutrix. The particulars we have given of the uncommon and brutal attack on the defenceless, by a monster of the stronger sex, with our full report of the trial, will sufficiently prepare our readers to judge for themselves on the case of Renwick Williams, divested of the popular prejudice then strong against him.

JOHN DYER,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE case of this thoughtless malefactor adds another instance of the fatal consequences attending young men who give loose to what they painly call pleasures.

John Dyer brought great trouble and disgrace on most respectable parents and connexions. He received his education at Westminster school; from thence he was placed in a merchant's counting-house, and had not seen quite nineteen years when he atoned for his crime by his life.

The melancholy transaction was the forgery of the insignificant sum of ten pounds ten shillings; and if we were charitable enough to give credit to his defence, and taking into view his youth and inexperience, we may be almost led to believe that he did not know the fatal consequences of committing forgery.

On the 7th of May, 1789, Dyer called at the shop of Mr. Scott, wax-chandler, in New Bond Street, and ordered 36lb. of candles, which he pretended were for Sir William Ha-

milton; and in payment tendered a bill of exchange for ten pounds ten shillings, dated Richmond, Surrey, April 22d, 1790, at fourteen days after date, drawn by Charles Thomas, on Messrs. Hankey, bankers, London; and accepted.

Dyer received the balance; and the candles, when sent as he directed, being refused, Mr. Scott instantly suspected that he had been imposed upon by a forgery. The unfortunate youth was soon found, and committed to Newgate.

When put on his trial every spectator's heart was filled with pity; and, being called on for his defence, he said that he received the bill from Mr. Kelsy, his employer, who ordered him to put the name of Mr. Miller on the back; and that he was ignorant of the consequence of so doing; and that he acted merely as a servant; but, bringing no proof, he was found guilty, and, though interest was made to save his life, he died ignominiously on the gallows, at Newgate, August 5th, 1790.

FRANCIS FONTON,
EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

AT the Old Bailey sessions, in September, 1790, Francis Fonton, a clerk in the three per cent. office at the Bank, was indicted for a forgery and felony, with intent to defraud William Papps and John Pierce. The indictment contained a second count for uttering a forged receipt, purporting to be the receipt of John Pierce, for forty-seven pounds eleven shillings and sixpence, being the value of fifty pounds stock, four per cents. pretended to be a transfer of that sum to William Papps, which stock never was purchased or transferred from Mr. Pierce. The third and fourth counts charged the prisoner with a fraud and forgery, in transferring the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds, four per cents. the property of William Papps, to John Pierce, which sum Mr. Papps never did actually transfer, or give authority to the prisoner so to do; and the indictment charged it to be done with intent to defraud the Bank, and the said William Papps and John Pierce.

Mr. Fielding entered into the case, as follows:—On the 8th of May, 1789, Mr. Papps applied to the prisoner to purchase for him fifty pounds in the four per cents. and deposited in his hands forty-seven pounds eleven shillings and sixpence for the purchase, and the same prisoner gave him a receipt for that sum, signed John Pierce. He then tendered a book, which Mr. Papps understood to be the acceptance-book, which, as a matter of course, he signed; whereas, in fact, this was the transfer-book, and by this signature the prisoner obtained a transfer of four hundred and fifty pounds to John Pierce, which sum the prisoner actually sold and transferred to the said

John Pierce, for which he received the sum of four hundred and twenty-eight pounds one shilling and three pence, which was never paid into the hands or applied to the use of William Papps.

The evidence in support of the indictment being gone through, the prisoner left his defence to his counsel. Several respectable witnesses gave him an excellent character; but character could not avail where the evidence of facts was insurmountable. The jury brought in their verdict upon the first and third counts, Guilty.

There were four other indictments, upon which, however, it was thought unnecessary to try him.

The recorder, in passing sentence upon the capital convicts, four in number, said: 'There is one case, which it is my duty to distinguish particularly from the rest; I mean the case of Francis Fonton, who has been indicted and convicted of forgery. A man with a good, and undeniable character, in a most respectable situation in life, with the means of living honorably and comfortably as a clerk of the Bank, has artfully availed himself of that good character, and of that honourable situation, to impose on the world, to abuse his trust, and plunder that property which he was particularly bound as a servant to protect. Fraud which strikes at the credit and security of the Bank of England can never pass unpunished. The policy of the state requires that punishment in a case of that sort should be the most severe. A servant so transgressing can expect no mercy. I must therefore hope, prisoner, that your example will convince others, disposed to offend in like manner, that no art, no cunning,

no experience or knowledge of the subject, no character, however, imposing by that gravity which is supposed to attach on old age, will cover fraud from detection; and that sooner or later dishonest acts will lead to that disgraceful end

which you are about to suffer. As a man, therefore, I must state to you, that every prospect in this life is completely closed upon you.'

He was executed in the Old Bailey, on the 24th of November, 1790.

THOMAS TYLER,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

ON the 29th of October, 1790, this man, who, for many years, had subsisted as a notorious swindler, was tried at the Old Bailey, for uttering, knowing it to be forged, upon Margaret Cockburn, an instrument, purporting to be a bill for ten pounds, dated Bristol, June 28, 1790, drawn at seventeen days sight, by James Lindsey, Bristol, upon William Fielder, merchant, at No. 25, in Gun Street, Spitalfields, and accepted by him.

Mrs. Cockburn, who kept a boarding-school at Newington, deposed, that the prisoner came to her, under a pretext of agreeing for the board of a child of his; settled with her as to the terms; paid the entrance money with this counterfeit bill; and received the difference. The child was to have been sent

the next day, but never appeared, nor did the father till she saw him at Bow Street.

Mr. Foreman, who was present at the transaction, corroborated this evidence, and added that he went to No. 25, Gun Street, Spitalfields, to obtain payment of the bill; but could not learn that any person of the name of Fielder ever lived in it.

The jury, to the satisfaction of the Court, found the prisoner guilty; and by this verdict they have established a point of the utmost consequence to the commercial world, viz. that the writing of the acceptances of persons not in existence, and uttering them as real acceptances, is absolute forgery.

He was executed on the 24th of November following, at the Old Bailey.

EDWARD LOWE AND WILLIAM JOBBINS,

EXECUTED FOR ARSON.

EDWARD LOWE and William Jobbins were tried for feloniously and wickedly, on the 16th of May, 1790, setting fire to the house of Francis Gilding, in Aldersgate Street; when that and many others adjoining were consumed.

Flindall, the accomplice, said he had been acquainted with Lowe eight years, and with Jobbins nine months. On Sunday, the 16th of May last, he was at the fire: the prisoners at the bar, with two other persons and himself, set fire to the

premises. It was proposed to effect their purpose on the 12th, at Lowe's house, in Hartshorn Court, Golden Lane: Jobbins said he had fixed upon Mr. Gilding's house to fire, rob, and plunder. They met at the Swan, in Cow Cross, the next evening; Barnard was there: the witness and Jobbins went to show Barnard the house. They went through the inn-yard, and there was a cart unloading clover into a hay-loft, which Barnard pitched upon as the place to fire.

On Saturday, about twelve o'clock, they went to the back gates of the Red Lion Inn Yard: got over the gates, and found a ladder, which he placed against the hay-loft door. Lowe brought a lighted pipe, and put it through the gate. The witness went down the yard with a pipe, and gave it to Jobbins with the matches, who went up the ladder, and set fire to the combustibles placed amongst the clover. It soon blazed up; they got over the gate, and found Lowe waiting, who directed him to go and fetch Mrs. Lowe, which he did, and found her lying down in her clothes. When they returned, the fire was burning rapidly. They found Lowe in the inn-yard bringing out boxes. The witness went to call Barnard, who came with him to the fire: when he saw the goods, he said 'This is something like, indeed!' Both of them went to get a cart, but could not procure one. Lowe carried the drawers away upon his head towards Barnard's house, and desired the witness to follow, which he did into St. John's Street, where Barnard lifted them from Lowe's head to the witness's head; and in New Prison Walk he was taken into custody by Lucie, a patrol, with the drawers upon his head. Barnard walked off. When Lucie had secured the witness in New Prison, he went out, and took Lowe into custody.

The witness was tried, and convicted of stealing the drawers; and, when in New Prison, got a man in the same ward to write a letter to Alderman Skinner, promising, on certain conditions, to discover the whole of this most horrid transaction; which being complied with, and his pardon obtained and pleaded in court, he was admitted an evidence against his accomplices.

The evidence of Flindall was confirmed in circumstances by Samuels,

a Jew in Houndsditch, and his wife; to the former of whom Lowe had confessed his guilt.

They were found guilty on the 30th of October, and sentence of death was passed upon them on the 2d of November, when they were particularly addressed by the recorder in these terms:—

'As to you, Jobbins and Lowe, who have been convicted of arson, I hardly know how to address myself to you—I hardly know how to find words to express the abhorrence that I feel, or that the public entertains, of the crime of which you stand convicted.—The setting fire to houses in the dead of night, for the purpose of plunder, at the risk of the lives of the inhabitants of a great city, is a crime not yet to be met with upon the records of villainy that have been brought forward in this court. As the crime is singular, so the punishment must be marked: I take it it will be so marked, and hope the example will be such, that, if there should be left any persons of the same wicked intentions, they will take example from your fate. As your crime is singular and novel, I hope it will be the only one brought into this court of the same description. You therefore must prepare to die, and consider yourselves as men without hope in this world.—And give me leave to assure you that it is my decided opinion that, for an offence so very atrocious as yours, you can never expect salvation in the world to come, unless you will make some reparation to your injured country, and to God, whom you have offended, by a sincere confession of all the offences of which you have been guilty, and by a disclosure of the names of all persons who either have engaged, or are about to engage, in crimes so detestable as that of which you stand convicted;—nothing therefore

remains, but that I should pray to Almighty God, and it is now my earnest prayer to Him, that you may all obtain the forgiveness and remission of your sins.'

On the morning of the 20th of November these incendiaries were brought out of Newgate, and placed on a high seat, which had been fixed in the cart to render them more conspicuous to the spectators. They were then conveyed, attended by the two sheriffs, Macauley and Glynn, the two under sheriffs, the Ordinary of Newgate, city marshals, marshals' men, and other city officers, up Newgate Street, and down St. Martin's Le Grand, to Alders-

gate Street, where a temporary gallows was erected opposite the spot where stood the house of Mr. Gilding, to which they had set fire. They arrived at the fatal tree about a quarter before nine o'clock, when Mr. Villette, the Ordinary, went into the cart, and prayed with them for about twenty minutes, after which they were turned off. They both confessed to Mr. Villette the facts for which they had so justly suffered.

Jobbins had been educated at St. Paul's school, was bred a surgeon, and only nineteen years of age when he suffered. Lowe was about twenty-three years of age.

LORD DUNGARVAN,

TRIED FOR ROBBING A WOMAN OF THE TOWN.

At the Old Bailey sessions, on the 17th of January, 1791, Lord Dungarvan, son of the Earl of Cork, was tried on the charge of robbing Elizabeth Wheldon of three guineas and a half. The circumstances stated by the prosecutrix in support of this extraordinary charge were, that, being seated in one of the front boxes of Covent Garden Theatre, a gentleman (Lord Dungarvan) addressed her, and asked leave to accompany her home, to which she consented; that, on quitting the theatre, a linkman called a coach, which drew up at the end of the Piazza, when his lordship got in, and she followed; that he put one of his hands near her pocket, and the other round her waist; that afterward, perceiving him fumbling about his waistcoat pocket, she began to suspect he had robbed her; that, on feeling for her money, she perceived her loss, which was not till she was nearly half way home; that, on her arrival at her house in Rathbone Place, she charged him with having robbed her; that on his

quitting the coach he offered her a guinea, but she refusing to accept it, he endeavored to make his escape, from which he desisted on her calling out 'Stop thief!' that she then collared him, and gave him in the custody of the watchman, who conveyed him to the watch-house.

On her cross-examination it appeared she was a prostitute, who, in the last two years, had assumed several different names, and lived in various places and capacities; and a great variety of circumstances came out, all tending to destroy the credibility of her testimony. The evidence for the prosecution being closed, Lord Dungarvan read the following defence:—

'My lord, and gentlemen of the jury,—Whatever shame I ought to take, and do take, for the indiscretion which led me into the company of the person who has made, and endeavoured to support by perjury, an attack upon my life and honour, I cannot suffer myself for a moment to suppose that any credit can be given to so strange and improbable

an accusation. I am charged, by the unconfirmed oath of a common prostitute, with an offence which nothing but the lowest and worst habits of life and connexions, the most abject baseness of mind and contempt of character, urged by the most extreme necessity, could possibly prompt any man to commit. My situation happily is the reverse of this. I am not, nor have been, in any distress of circumstances, or want of credit. I am conscious that my conduct in life has ever been just and honorable; and that no action of mine has disgraced my own station, or reflected any discredit upon those to whom I have the honour of being allied. It will, however, better become me to refer you, gentlemen of the jury, to the testimony of the witnesses who will be called to speak of my conduct and character, than to desire you to receive your information from my own report. Deeply as my mind feels and resents the unmerited disgrace of the imputations attempted to be thrown upon me, I submit cheerfully to a trial by the laws of my country: I know that those laws will not suffer criminals of any rank to elude their justice; but I also know, and it is now my consolation and security to know, that the punishments they inflict can only fall upon the guilty head; and that innocence is safe, protected by the wisdom and integrity of an

English judge and jury. I have only to add my most solemn denial to the charge; to request your attention to such evidence as the learned gentleman with whose counsel I am assisted shall think proper to lay before you; and to declare my entire confidence in the verdict of a jury of my country, for the vindication of my honour, and the protection of my life against an attack commenced with a view to extort money from me, and continued by malice and wickedness.'

From the evidence of the link-man, it appeared that, if the prosecutrix really had lost any money, it must have been previous to her getting into the coach; but, from the deposition of the coachman, it was evident that, his lordship only giving her a guinea, and refusing to go into her house, she had trumped up this charge. Her deposition before Justice Reid, and that before the Court, were likewise grossly contradictory; so that the jury, without calling any of the noble witnesses that were ready to speak to his lordship's character, honorably acquitted him; and the judge thus addressed his lordship:—

'My Lord Dungarvan, it is but justice to you to say that it is impossible you can go away from this bar with the smallest imputation on your character. Of your imprudence in this business you seem to be already very sensible.'

BARTHOLOMEW QUAILN,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

IN the case of this unfortunate man we find an opinion of the judges, on the construction of the law against murder, which cannot fail to interest the reader.

Bartholomew Quailn, a poor laboring man, was tried, at the assizes for the Isle of Ely, for the wil-

ful murder of his wife; but the Court doubting whether the affair was murder or manslaughter, the jury found a special verdict, which, being removed *certiorari*, was argued, in the presence of the prisoner, by Mr. Pluntre for the crown, and Mr. Wilson for the unhappy man.

The facts were principally these: The prisoner, with his infant child in one arm, and a coarse bag in the other, followed his wife out of a public house in the parish of Hadgrane, in the county of Cambridge. Soon afterwards his wife was seen lying in the road quarrelling with her husband, who stood near her, because he would not give her the bag which he held in his left hand. High words passed between them; and, upon some provoking expressions being made use of by the wife, the prisoner ran up to her, and kicked her violently as she lay on the ground. She got up, and endeavored to run away from him: but he ran after her; and, on his overtaking her, she again fell on the ground, when he once more kicked her with great violence. She rose again, and endeavored to make her escape; but he followed her, and, on her falling down, he kicked her violently, as before.

While she lay on the ground a person called to him, and asked him how he could treat his wife so barbarously; to which he replied that he would serve her in the same manner. The deceased rose again from the ground, and endeavored to get from him; but he followed her, threw her down, and gave her several violent kicks, upon which she clapped her hand to her side, and exclaimed, 'O Bat! now you have done for me!' or, 'Now you have killed me,' or some words to that effect; and soon after expired.

The prisoner showed great grief and concern for her death. The jurors found that she had not given him any other provocation; that her spleen had been burst by the kicks she so received; and that the said bursting of the spleen had been the cause of her death.

Mr. Pluntre, after an elegant exordium, entered into the defini-

tion of murder, as laid down by Hawkins and Hale; described the two kinds of malice in fact and in law, or, as they are more generally called, malice express, and malice implied; and contended that, from the circumstances of this case, the Court must imply that the prisoner was impelled by that malice, which, according to the words of Mr. Justice Forster, showed 'his heart to be regardless of social duty, and his mind deliberately bent upon mischief.'

Mr. Wilson, for the prisoner, raised two objections in point of form, which, however, were overruled by the Court.

The judges gave their opinions *seriatim*, and were clear and unanimous that the facts as stated on the special verdict amounted to the crime of murder. They relied upon the doctrine laid down by Mr. Justice Forster, 'that in every charge of murder, the fact of killing being first proved, all the circumstances of accident, necessity, or infirmity, are to be satisfactorily proved by the prisoner, unless they arise out of the evidence produced against him; for the law presumes the fact to be founded on malice until the contrary appears:' that, upon the present occasion, there was no one fact of provocation stated on the verdict that could induce the prisoner to kick his wife in so violent a manner; for, so far from her making any resistance, it appeared she endeavored all in her power to get away from him. Chastisement, wherever that right exists, must be done in a reasonable manner; but, where it is exercised in so violent a manner as in the present case, it shows the heart to be regardless of social duty, and deliberately bent on mischief.

This case is like the case of the park-keeper, who tied a boy to a

horse's tail, and then struck the boy, which occasioned the horse to run away, by which the boy was killed. Death, perhaps, was not intended in either case, but the mode of correction in both was violent, or, as the report of the case calls it, a deliberate act, from which, as death ensued, it was adjudged to be murder.

There is also a case in Kelynge, 64, 65, where a woman was indicted for murdering her child; and it appeared that she had kicked her on the belly, and it was adjudged murder.

The clerk of the crown called upon the prisoner; and, after reading the proceedings, asked him what

he had to say why the Court should not give him judgment to die according to law.

Mr. Justice Ashurst, putting on the black coif, which is worn on these occasions, pronounced sentence of death in the most solemn and affecting manner, viz. that the prisoner should be hanged by the neck, and his body be delivered to the surgeons to be dissected and anatomized. The Court of King's Bench had not, for a great number of years before, pronounced sentence of death.

He was executed on the 7th of March, 1791, on Kennington Common.

JOSEPH WOOD AND THOMAS UNDERWOOD,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

THE whole parties in this case may be literally called children, the malefactors being but fourteen years of age each; and the prosecutor no more than twelve!!!

Though of this tender age, yet were they convicted as old and daring depredators; so often had they already been arraigned at that bar, where they were condemned, that the judge declared, notwithstanding their appearance, (they were short, dirty, ill-visaged boys,) it was necessary, for the public safety, to cut them off, in order that other boys might learn, that, inured to wickedness, their tender age would not save them from an ignominious fate.

The crime for which they suf-

fered was committed with every circumstance of barbarity. They forcibly took away a bundle, containing a jacket, shirt, and waistcoat, from a little boy, and then fell upon him, and would probably have murdered him, had they not been secured. They had long belonged to a most desperate gang of pickpockets and footpads; but so hardened and obstinate were they, that they would not impeach their companions, though the hopes of mercy were held out to them, on making a confession, so that the villains might have been apprehended. They were executed at Newgate, July 6th, 1791, apparently insensible of their dreadful situation.

JOHN MEAD,

EXECUTED FOR SETTING FIRE TO HIS MASTER'S HOUSE.

A VERY few weeks had only elapsed, after the terrifying example just recorded, when another boy, scarce sixteen, was brought to the gallows. This wretched young creature was a pot-boy to a public

house, and named John Mead. Such places are too frequently the ruin of those children whom misery has placed amid the most reprobate class of society, who impoverish themselves and families in public houses.

Though Nature requires so little drink, and, when she calls, pure water is the most wholesome beverage, yet we find, melancholy as is the sight, every bench in every small pot-house, at night, filled with sottish fellows, while often at home their children are crying for food.

It is, then, little to be wondered at, that the boys and girls employed to draw beer for and to wait upon such characters should deviate from the path of rectitude.

John Mead was employed by Walter Cavardine, who kept the sign of the Wheat-sheaf, in Red Lion Street, Holborn, London. Having been reprimanded for neglect of his business, the graceless had determined upon revenge. He found that no mode presented itself so easy and effectual as that of

burning his master's house, and therefore he set it on fire in the night of the 5th of July, 1791.

To commit an act of villainy is easy; but to conceal it very difficult. This wicked youth conceived that he had nothing more to effect than lighting a torch, and running off; but suspicion instantly fell upon him. He was pursued and apprehended; when, in terror, he confessed his crime.

This confession was read in court upon his trial; and such a number of corroborating proofs of his guilt were adduced, that the jury, however reluctant, found little doubt upon his case.

His youth could not preponderate in the scale of mercy against the atrocity of his crime, and he was executed in front of Newgate, August 31st, 1791.

PIERRE AUGUSTINE, *ALIAS* PETER AUGUSTINE, *ALIAS*
PETER CHUMLEY, *ALIAS* PETER CHAPMAN, *ALIAS*
PETER DEVAL,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

WE have already adduced too many instances of foreigners violating the rules of hospitality, in plundering the people of this country while under their protection.

When a traveller finds himself hospitably received in a foreign land, and is there enabled to support himself by his industry, it is ingratitude in the worst degree to violate the laws of his adopted country, for the purpose of plunder.

British subjects, when in a distant land, generally protect each other; but how often have we shown that Frenchmen in England prey upon each other, even before the visionary rights of equality were attempted to be enforced.

We have already shown a Mercier murdering his patron, and plundering his effects; a Le Maitre

robbing a public museum, where he was generously admitted; and other daring violations of our laws by Frenchmen.

The treacherous foreigner whom we now bring forward had long continued his depredations on our unsuspecting countrymen; which may be readily conjectured from the number of feigned names assumed, and under all which he was indicted.

Monsieur Alexander Delarade was a French gentleman of fortune, and, in the time of peace between his country and Britain, paid a visit to London. There he became acquainted with the subject of this report. Monsieur Delarade, speaking English imperfectly, employed him as an interpreter, and for this he made him his confidential friend. He had, it appeared, long contemplated

to rob his countryman and benefactor; and for this purpose, one evening, when he had attended him to the play, pretending an excuse, he returned to Monsieur Delarade's apartments, and robbed them of property to the value of two thousand pounds.

These effects, consisting both of money and goods, he carried off in

a hackney-coach; but the number being fortunately taken by a neighbour, who suspected some foul play, he was traced thereby to Bristol, and seized, with the greatest part of the property, at the instant of his embarking for a distant land.

This being fully proved, he was convicted and executed, August 31, 1791.

JOHN BELVILLE,

CONVICTED OF A ROBBERY IN THE QUEEN'S PALACE.

THE indictment against this daring thief charged him with feloniously stealing a pair of silver snuffers, one silver snuffer-stand, and two silver candlestick-nozzles, from the dwelling-house of her majesty, called Buckingham House, the property of his majesty.

His trial came on at the Old Bailey, February the 16th, 1791, when Miss Eliza Goter, a young lady of great beauty, and female companion to Miss Burney, who had apartments in Buckingham House, and attends upon the person of the queen, was the first witness called; and she proved that on the evening of the 24th of January she left this property in the ante-chamber, near to the queen's dressing-room, when she retired to rest in Miss Burney's bed-chamber, where she slept. She also proved that the prisoner at the bar, who was a German, had about four years ago lived as footman to Miss Burney.

William Moss, the present footman, proved that at half past seven o'clock the next morning, when he went into the ante-chamber, the property was gone.

John Beak Heather, a pawnbroker, to whom the public were frequently indebted for the apprehension of thieves, proved that the prisoner, on the 4th of February,

offered some bits of silver to pawn; but that, suspecting he had not come honestly by them, he immediately seized him, and delivered him into the custody of Macmanus, belonging to the office in Bow Street, where information had already been lodged of this robbery having been committed, and a very accurate description given of the things stolen; and, by the confession of the prisoner, the remaining part of the property was found in his lodgings.

Mr. Williams, the gentleman of her majesty's silver scullery, was called to identify the property; and it was also proved that Buckingham Palace was the dwelling-house of the king.

The wretched man did not deny the theft, but pleaded excessive poverty. He said he was a gentleman by birth, and was brought over to England by a Russian gentleman, with whom he had lived, as his valet, four years. On his master's return to Russia he was recommended by him into an English family, and afterwards served other gentlemen of property; that he at length engaged to serve Miss Burney, one of the maids of honour to the queen, as her footman. He had not lived long in her service before he found himself the object of a secret and unmerited enmity to the other servants in the royal palace;

and, in consequence of their silent slander, was soon afterwards dismissed: that he was reduced to extreme misery and distress, a foreigner in a foreign land, without friends, money, or credit; that this situation had afflicted him with occasional distraction of mind; that, urged by necessity, and in a moment when he was lost to all recollection, he committed the fact. He had only to trust to the mercy of the jury, and to the favorable recommendation of Miss Burney, to whom he said he had written several letters on this subject; promising that, in case they would excuse

him this time, he would endeavour to raise a little money among his own countrymen, and turn his back on England for the remainder of his days.

The recorder summed up the evidence to the jury with great precision, and pointed out those parts of it which tended to prove the whole charge a capital offence, and those which applied to the single felony only.

The jury found him guilty of stealing to the value of thirty-nine shillings, by which the capital part of the charge was done away, and his life consequently spared.

JOHN DAY,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS FATHER, MOTHER, AND THEIR SERVANT.

THIS inhuman monster, having been one night in bad company, especially of lewd women, surfeited with drunkenness, came home, swearing and cursing vehemently, requiring money of his sorrowful terrified parents, who labored to pacify him with good words, entreating him to go to bed, and sleep that night; and if it appeared in the morning, when he awaked, that he wanted money, he should have it: little thinking that they nourished a viper in their bosom, to sting them to death.

About midnight this graceless son, being come a little to himself, got up with a murdering mind, and, getting softly into the bedchamber of his parents, drew a large knife out of its sheath, and cut his aged father and mother's throats. After which desperate wickedness he remembered the maid-servant, who lay in the loft above; and, that she might not come as a witness against him, he went softly up, and, finding her asleep, ravished her, and then cut her throat from ear to ear.

Then musing upon the horrid villainies he had committed, the devil put it in his head to set the house on fire, when he had plundered what he thought fit, that, the dead bodies being consumed, it might be thought to have been by accident, and he not be suspected.

But God, who never suffers such monsters in wickedness to go unpunished even in this world, brought the discovery to light: for though he denied to have been at home that night, and seemed wonderfully sorry at the surprising misfortune, as he termed it, yet living very profusely, and having spent all his money, he was forced to sell the plate he had stolen; which being stopped, upon examination he confessed the fact: of course he was sent to gaol, where he remained very sorrowful, and affirmed that the ghosts of the murdered persons appeared to him in frightful shapes, pointing to their ghastly wounds, and in a threatening manner summoning him to appear at the dreadful tribunal of Almighty God, to

answer for their innocent blood, that cried for vengeance against him.

After he had some time lain in this sorrowful condition, his trial came on; when he pleaded guilty to this indictment, saying that his youthful sins had brought this heavy judgment upon him, and declaring, before his sentence, that he desired to die, as not being fit to live.

The Court exhorted him to a serious repentance of his sins, and to pray to God to deliver his soul. He promised to do what in him lay; and a minister was ordered to at-

tend him, and give him spiritual consolation during the short time he had to live.

The same minister attended him at the place of execution, which exhibited a very affecting scene: here he burst into tears, and advised all young persons to beware of sabbath-breaking, drunkenness, swearing, and lewd women, as they valued their peace here and hereafter.

He was executed at Kennington Common about the middle of September, 1792, and afterwards hung in chains near the spot where his atrocities had been perpetrated.



A Robbery effected by means of Birdlime.

WILLIAM GADESBY, EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

IN recording the execution of this culprit, a Scotch newspaper says 'he was one of the most notorious villains that has figured in the line of roguery in this country

for many years; and, though only twenty-eight years of age, his criminal exploits appear, both in variety and number, to equal, if not exceed, the achievements of the

most dexterous and grey-headed offender.'

As this fellow lived, so he determined to die—with notoriety.

He was brought to the gallows at Edinburgh, February the 20th, 1791, dressed in a suit of white cloth, trimmed with black. The awful ceremony, the dreadful apparatus of death, the surrounding multitude of spectators, appeared not to shake his frame, nor to agitate his mind. He mounted the platform of death with a firm step, and stood with great composure till the apparatus was adjusted; and then, in a collected manner, and in an audible voice, gave a brief account of his life.

He said that the first robbery he committed was in a stationer's shop, where he purloined a pocket-book. The success of this childish theft encouraged him to commit others: and in a short time he gave himself wholly up to thieving, never letting an opportunity slip of possessing himself of money or goods, by fraud or force, until the day he was committed to gaol. He said that he often escaped in hackney-chairs, and advised the officer on guard at the Castle to search all such vehicles.

He declared most solemnly that three miserable men, who had been executed two years ago at the place where he then stood, of the names of Falconer, Bruce, and Dick, were innocent, for that he himself had committed the robberies for which they were condemned!

With exultation he continued—that the sums he had acquired by thieving and cheating did not amount to less than two thousand pounds, besides the fortune of the unhappy woman whom he seduced and ruined. It was high time to stop the monster's speech, and the platform was therefore dropped, while yet he was exulting in his sins!

'Scotland,' says the paper from which we extract this unparalleled case, 'seems to be in an improving state: the following ingenious contrivance was lately practised at Glasgow:—While a merchant in King Street was counting some money and bank-notes on a counter, a staff or small rod, overlaid with birdlime, was suddenly thrust in at the door, which having touched the notes, two of them were thereby carried off; and, before the merchant could pursue, the ingenious actor had made his escape.'

THE BIRMINGHAM RIOTERS.

THE anniversary of the French Revolution was celebrated on the 14th of July, 1791, at Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Norwich, &c. without disturbance, but at Birmingham the most serious riots ensued, to which the populace had been instigated by a seditious hand-bill, previously circulated. Between eighty and ninety persons met together to celebrate the event at the hotel in Temple Lane, around which a considerable number of people gather-

ed, hissing as the company assembled; and two hours after their departure they proceeded to demolish every window in the front, notwithstanding the personal interference of the magistrates.

The mob next attacked the new meeting-house (Dr. Priestley's), and, after trying in vain to tear up the seats, &c. they set it on fire, and nothing remained that could be consumed.

The old meeting-house was completely emptied of pulpit, pews &c.

which were burnt in the adjoining burying-ground; and afterward the building was levelled nearly with the ground, it being considered dangerous, from its situation, to set it on fire.

Dr. Priestley's house at Fair Hill (a mile and a half from Birmingham) next met a similar fate, with the whole of his valuable library, and more valuable collection of apparatus for philosophical experiments. Here one of the rioters was killed by the falling of a cornice-stone.

On Friday morning the mob continued their depredations; for there was no armed force, and the civil power was not sufficient to repress them. Armed with bludgeons, &c. and vociferating 'Church and King!' they spread terror wherever they appeared.

About noon they attacked and demolished the elegant mansion of Mr. John Ryland, at Easy Hill, where many of the rioters, who were drunk, perished in the cellars, either by the flames, suffocation, or the falling in of the roof. Six poor wretches, terribly bruised, were got out alive, and sent to the hospital, and ten dead bodies have since been dug out of the ruins; but a man, who had remained immured in one of the vaults from the preceding Friday, worked his way out on Monday, with little injury.

In the afternoon the magistrates attended, and swore in some hundreds as additional constables, who, with mop-staves in their hands, marched to Mr. Ryland's to disperse the mob, who at first gave way, but rallying, after a stout conflict, in which many were severely wounded, the *posse comitatus* were obliged to retire.

The country residence of John Taylor, Esq. Bordesley Hall, after the greatest part of its splendid furniture had been demolished or car-

ried away, was set on fire, together with the out-offices, stables, ricks of hay, &c. Every exertion to preserve this elegant seat was made by Captain Carver, but in vain. On offering them his purse with a hundred guineas to save the house, he was hustled amid the crowd, with a cry of 'No bribery!' and narrowly escaped their fury.

In the night of Friday, the house of Mr. Hutton, in High Street, was completely stripped: his large stock of paper, valuable library, and all his furniture, destroyed or carried away. Fire was several times brought by a woman (women and boys were particularly active in all the depredations); but the majority of the populace, in tenderness to the town, would not suffer it to be applied.

From Mr. Hutton's they proceeded to his country house at Washwood Heath, three miles from town, which, with its offices, they reduced to ashes.

On Saturday the rioters made an attack on Mr. Humphrey's elegant house at Spark Brook, but were repulsed, and one man killed. The mob, however, on a second attack, carried their point, and ransacked the house of all its furniture.

Mr. William Russell's house, at Shewell Green, experienced all the violence of fire and devastation.

The house of Mr. T. Hawkes, Moseley-wake Green, was stripped of its furniture.

Moseley Hall, the residence of the Dowager Countess of Carlhampton, but the property of John Taylor, Esq. Mr. Harwood's, and Mr. Hobson's, a dissenting minister, were all on fire at once.

Lady Carlhampton, who was blind, had notice, the preceding day, to remove her effects, as their vengeance was not directed against her: the good old lady gave directions ac-

cordingly, and Sir Robert and Captain Lawley immediately attended on their noble relation, whom they accompanied in safety to Canwell, Sir Robert's seat.

The whole of Saturday business was at a stand, and the shops mostly shut up, notwithstanding the appearance of the magistrates, and several popular noblemen and gentlemen; for the reports were so various of the strength of the insurgents, and having no military, no force could be sent against them. In the afternoon and evening small parties of three or five levied contributions of meat, liquor, and money.

On Sunday the rioters bent their course toward Kingswood, seven miles off, extorting money and liquors by the way. There the dissenting meeting-house, and the dwelling-house of their minister, were reduced to ashes; as were the premises of Mr. Cox, at Worstock, the same day.

At night, soon after ten, three troops of the 15th light dragoons arrived amid the acclamations of the inhabitants, whose hopes and fears had been depicted through the day in every countenance, as reports of the near approach of the soldiery were spread or contradicted. The town was immediately illuminated, and before morning every thing was tolerably quiet; but the rioters were still continuing their depredations in the country. They exhausted the cellars at each place, and received various sums of money to prevent their proceeding to further violence.

They were in great force at the time the troops arrived, which they no sooner had intimation of than they began to slink off in small parties; and the peasantry, taking courage, put the rest to flight in various directions.

So rapid were the light horse in their route for the relief of Birming-

ham, that they came there in one day from Nottingham, a distance of fifty-six miles.

On Monday the town appeared in perfect serenity, but as much crowded as during the three preceding days, in viewing the military; the mob keeping at such a distance as to render all accounts of them dubious; at one time said to be at Alcester, the next hour at Bromsgrove, &c.

On Tuesday there were flying rumours of depredations near Hagley, Hales Owen, &c. and in the evening certain information was received that a party of rioters were then attacking Mr. Male's, of Belle Vue. A few of the light dragoons immediately went to his assistance; but the rioters had been previously overpowered by a body of people in that neighbourhood, and ten of them were confined at Hales Owen.

On Wednesday morning the country round, for ten miles, was scoured by the light horse, but not one rioter was to be met with, and all the manufactories were at work, as if no interruption had taken place. Three troops of the 11th Light Dragoons marched in this morning, and more troops were expected.

Among the articles consumed at Mr. Ryland's, at Birmingham, was the body of the late Mr. Baskerville, who by will ordered he should be buried in his own house, and he was accordingly interred there. A stone closet was erected in it, where he was deposited in a standing posture. The house was afterwards sold with this express condition — that it should remain there.

The assizes at which the trial of those rioters who had been apprehended took place were opened at Warwick, on the 22d of August, by Baron Perryn, with an address to the grand jury, in which he observed that in the calendar were the

names of many persons charged with tumultuous riots, in open defiance of all law; by which the places of public worship, and the habitations and effects of a denomination of his majesty's subjects who have long legally enjoyed toleration, have been destroyed, to the great terror and injury of the individual sufferers, and to the alarm of the whole kingdom.

In stating what he thought the law on this subject, he thus proceeded:—‘Insurrections for real or imaginary grievances, of a public and general nature, and pulling down meeting-houses, enclosures, or such like, and to effect this purpose by force and numbers, are, by construction of law, considered high treason. Assemblies or multitudes met, from whatever purpose, though not of that general nature, and consequently not extending to high treason, are yet of the most dangerous tendency, and generally followed with the most mischievous consequences. Our history furnishes instances where the person of the king, and the constitution of the kingdom, have been thrown into the utmost hazard by insurrections of this nature. If such insurrections are not prevented, or immediately suppressed, anarchy and confusion must follow; and the happiest constitution in the world, the best that a favoured nation was ever blessed with, must be in danger of being destroyed. In order to prevent these mischiefs, an act passed in the first year of George I. commonly called the Riot Act, which enacts “that if twelve persons, or more, are unlawfully assembled to the disturbance of the peace, and any one justice of the peace, sheriff, under-sheriff, or mayor, shall command them by proclamation to disperse, if they contempt his orders, and continue together for one hour

afterward, such contempt shall be felony without benefit of clergy.” By a subsequent clause of this act, “it is provided, that if any persons, so riotously assembled, begin, even before proclamation, to pull down any church, chapel, meeting-house, dwelling-house, or out-house, they shall be felons without benefit of clergy.”

‘Gentlemen, I conceive it is upon this last clause that you will find the bills against the prisoners who stand charged with this offence.

‘The wisdom of the legislature has enjoined that tumultuous risings of this nature should be immediately suppressed. Every person in this kingdom is entitled to the benefit of the law: every person is obliged to obey, or suffer the penalties of the law. It is your duty to inquire, and true presentment make, of the breaches of this statute, that the law may be carried into execution, for the safety of his majesty's subjects. Whatever were the motives to these breaches, they cannot be justified. When the most severe laws against the Roman Catholics, which so long disgraced our statute-book, have been repealed; when every reasonable indulgence was given to tender consciences, which was consistent with the safety of the state; and when all intolerance seemed to be done away; it must be matter of great surprise that such a season should be chosen for this violence; at a time too when the blessings of his majesty's reign are equally extended to all his subjects, without distinction of persons, and whose view has ever been to unite the hearts of all his subjects, and to render them as well affected to each other as they ought to be to such a sovereign.’—The barren conclusion by expressing confidence that the great trust reposed in them by the constitution would be dis-

charged to their own honour, and in a manner that would contribute to the peace and quiet of the kingdom.

The trials commenced the next day, when Francis Field, alias Rodney, was indicted for setting fire to the house of John Tayler, Esq. of Aston, near Birmingham, on the 15th of July last.

Mr. Newnham, the leading counsel for the crown, opened the prosecution, by stating to the jury the dreadful riots which had taken place at and near Birmingham, in the middle of July. 'These riots,' said he, 'were a reproach to any well-regulated government; and though it was impossible, with the exertions of the magistrates, and the assistance of many of the well-disposed persons of Birmingham, to withstand such riots, yet they did as much as in them lay to prevent the dreadful consequences that ensued; but violence bore down the weak efforts of justice. These riots were carried to such an excess, that his majesty, the great father of his people, and the protector of the peace of the country, has thought fit to interfere, in order to preserve the property of his subjects, and, by the lesson of wholesome prosecution, has, in the most solemn manner, taken this up as an act of government.—Although I may pity that unfortunate prisoner, who, in a frenzy of delusion, thought fit to set fire to and destroy one of the best houses in this county, belonging to a man in his public and private character as irreproachable as any in the kingdom (a character given him by all his friends and neighbours); yet I must say that he committed this excess without the slightest provocation, without the smallest reason, being actuated by the frenzy of delusion.

'Gentlemen, government has nothing to do with the private opinions

entertained by any one man, or set of men. Vicissitude of opinions produces sometimes the grossest insults upon government. We all recollect the dreadful consequences of the year 1780, when the capital was threatened with destruction, and was almost lighted from one end to the other with the fires that were kindled by the frenzy of opinion. Gentlemen, the house of Mr. Taylor still smokes in its ruins: that prisoner stands charged with this. What opinion he may entertain, it does not concern me to inquire into, or you to know; but this I know, and this you will know and feel, that the only safe anchor of the constitution is the law: *that* is the protector—the general protector—of our property and of our lives; and, without that sure anchor of protection and of hope, we should be all subject to the assumed affectation of opinion of a tumultuous rabble, in every part of his majesty's dominions.'

Witnesses were then called, who clearly proved that the prisoner was seen to feed the fire kindled in the house, huzzaing all the time. He called no witnesses to his character; but Mr. Clarke and Mr. Willes, his counsel, submitted to his lordship that, as there was no evidence to show that the prisoner had set fire to this house, but only that he had thrown some goods into the fire that had been kindled by some other person, he could not be convicted on this indictment, which charged him with setting fire to it.

The judge said that if a person brought a quantity of fire into a house, and another fed it, by adding fuel to it, he was as much the original burner as the person who first kindled it.—Then, in an excellent charge to the jury, he observed that this indictment was founded on an act, 9 George I. called the **Black**

Act. He conceived the indictment would have been founded on the Riot Act, 1 George I. c. 5. By the Black Act it was provided 'that whoever should wilfully and maliciously set fire to any house, barn, or out-house, should be a felon without benefit of clergy.' Although the prisoner did not set this house on fire, yet, being there, and acting in the manner that had been described by the witnesses, he was as guilty of burning down the houses as the person who brought the first firebrand. The prisoner seemed to have been one of the most active. As to his being in liquor, that was no excuse at all, but rather an aggravation. Common reason and law said that a man who had been guilty of one crime should not be excused because he had committed another.

The jury retired, and, after an hour's consideration, brought in their verdict—Guilty.

William Rice was next indicted, on the Riot Act, for beginning to demolish the house of William Hutton, Esq. of Aston. Two of Mr. Hutton's servants deposed that the prisoner said that they would be damned if the house did not come down; and accordingly he struck a kitchen window, and, assisted by another man, broke it to pieces; and that he saw him likewise destroying the banisters of the stairs, and throwing them through the windows into the garden. On the other hand, two other witnesses gave evidence, importing that he could not be at Mr. Hutton's house at the time the mob were destroying it; and one, in particular, swore that the prisoner was *against*, not *for*, the mob. He and two other witnesses gave the prisoner the character of an honest, sober, and industrious man.

The judge, in his charge to the jury, directed their attention to the

situation of the two witnesses for the prosecution, who stood at the door the whole time, and, of course, had an opportunity of observing what passed. As they were placed there by Mr. Hutton for that very purpose, to preserve their master's property, it was natural for them to observe every thing that was going on; and they described the prisoner to be one of the most active among the mob. In short, if the jury gave credit to their testimony, it brought the case home to the prisoner. They would judge whether the evidence which had been adduced for the prisoner would make any alteration in the case. His lordship also summed up this evidence, and gave the prisoner the full benefit of it. The jury were judges what credit was to be given to the witnesses on each side. Their verdict was—Not guilty.

Robert Whitehead was indicted for the same offence. Mr. Hutton's two servants swore to his activity in demolishing the house, and that he had snatched a gun from one of the witnesses, who knocked him down with the but-end of it. This evidence was confirmed by two other witnesses; but was flatly contradicted by another, whose evidence went to prove that the prisoner, so far from being a rioter, did every thing in his power to quell the riot; and four respectable witnesses swore that he had as good a character as any workman need to have.

The judge observed that four men must be absolutely perjured if the prisoner had not committed the acts of violence they had enumerated.

The jury brought in their verdict—Not guilty.

On Wednesday, John Green, Bartholomew Fisher, and John Clifton, were indicted for beginning to demolish the house of Joseph Priestley, LL.D. at Aston.

Mr. Coke, M. P. for Nottingham, addressed the jury, and observed that there never was an occasion in this country that called more seriously for their attention. There never was an occasion when government had acted more honorably; for they had undertaken, to the relief of the individual sufferers, the expense of these prosecutions. If juries acquitted, it was not the fault of government. He did not wish it to be understood as if any one had been improperly acquitted yesterday; he only meant to say that government had done their duty. If a man were to be persecuted because he held this or that religious, or this or that political opinion, he ought to leave this country: it did not deserve the name of his country. Dr. Priestley, both in his private and public character, was an honour to society, and held forth as bright an example of every virtue as any man in the country. But if a man's property were to be destroyed, and his life put in imminent danger, because he held certain political opinions, or because he preached certain doctrines, he ought to sell his country, and leave it immediately. He did not profess to agree with Dr. Priestley either in his religious or in his political opinions; but if he had been at Birmingham when the riots took place, he should have risked his life in the protection of his house; and the more so, because he differed in opinion from him. By persecution, the smallest sect in the country, so far from being crushed, would thrive; and, as he was not a dissenter, but a Church of England man, he lamented extremely that this would tend to augment the number of dissenters. The dissenters were as respectable and as quiet subjects as any in the country; and unless the jury convicted, and convicted with

great attention, those who had been clearly guilty, persecution would make the dissenters increase. It was manifest that they had been lately persecuted in the most infamous manner. 'Gentlemen,' he continued, 'if you do not convict where the case calls for conviction, you are enemies to your country. Remember you are on your oaths to discharge your duty. I have told you, and you know the fact to be so, that Doctor Priestley's house was pulled down, merely because he was a dissenter. You know that this is no reason at all. Dr. Priestley's life is irreproachable; and I believe that he would not have escaped with his life if he had remained half an hour longer. Look at these fellows, (the prisoners): if you do not convict on this occasion, another 14th of July will come, and there will be other riots, and Doctor Priestley himself will be burned. Remember, another year is coming; and next year there may be as much reason for celebrating the French revolution as there was this year. I should not choose to be present at such meetings, and I disapprove of them as much as any man; but I am clearly of opinion that the people of this country have a right to eat and drink as much as they please, to get drunk, and to drink bumper toasts. If you do not convict these vagabond fellows, Doctor Priestley himself will be burned!

'Gentlemen, you have sons and grandsons, and the tables will be turned on you, and your sons and grand-sons will be thrown into the fire in the next century. I call on you as Englishmen, and friends to the constitution, to attend to the evidence, and to do your duty. You stand in a very conspicuous situation. There are no twelve men in England on whom the whole kingdom are looking with so much anx-

iety and expectation as on you. I have heard it said that they (the jury) will not convict any one of them. I have heard in the streets'—

Mr. Clarke, one of the counsel for the prisoners, said Mr. Coke had no right to state what he had heard in the streets.

The judge said that Mr. Coke had opened the prosecution with great propriety.

The foreman of the jury thought this opening exceedingly improper, and disgraceful to the jury, as it insinuated that they had not faithfully discharged their duty; and another juror said he felt himself in a very disagreeable situation. The foreman added that he understood the nature of an oath as well as the learned counsel, and came there conscientiously to discharge his duty.

Mr. Coke said that he had begun with observing that he did not mean to insinuate that any prisoner had been improperly acquitted. He was only stating the reasons why the jury ought to give their attention to this business; that the eyes of the whole country were upon them. He was going to inform the jury that it was rumoured (he durst say the report was unfounded), that they would not convict. His lordship had approved of what he had said. He again observed that government had done their duty in a manner that was much to their honour; and he trusted that the jury would also perform their duty.

When the evidence for the prosecution was closed, an argument took place between the counsel, on the construction of that clause in the Riot Act upon which this indictment was founded.

The counsel for the prisoners observed that this indictment was for beginning to pull down and demolish the house of Dr. Priestley: it was in evidence that, before any of

the prisoners were there, the destruction of this house was begun; and, if the prisoners were not concerned in the beginning of the destruction of it, they were not within the act, and could not be convicted.

On the other side, it was stated that this act created two distinct offences. First, 'To demolish and pull down;' and, secondly, 'Beginning to demolish and pull down.' The indictment was founded on the clause that enacted penalties against those who began to demolish; and, if none could be convicted as a beginner to demolish but those who actually did the first mischief, then this consequence must ensue—Suppose a man at the head of twenty thousand men, and he only began to pull down or demolish any building, and then the twenty thousand engaged in it, but did not complete the destruction of it, it was impossible that any of them could be punished but their general. This was so absurd, that it was unnecessary to enlarge upon it. A beginning to demolish must therefore mean a partial demolition. And suppose a man begins to demolish, and then another comes up and assists him, the second is as much a beginner to demolish as the first.

The judge said he should be happy if he could think that the objection could avail the prisoners; but he conceived that, if the construction that was now contended for was put on this act, it would be contrary to the intention of the legislature at the time it was made, and would only render it a dead letter.

After some witnesses in favour of the prisoners had been heard, the judge observed that the evidence against Clifton was much slighter than against the other two prisoners. The excellent character given him by his master, who had known him

many years, ought to make a deep impression on their minds. They would distinguish his case from that of the other prisoners.

The jury found Fisher and Green guilty, and acquitted Clifton.

John Stokes, alias John Payne, was then indicted for beginning to demolish the Old Meeting, in Birmingham; but the indictment stating that this Meeting-house was in Old Meeting-house Lane, whereas it was registered (a form required by law) as in Philip Lane, the judge could not permit the trial to proceed.

William Shuker, the bellman of Birmingham, was indicted for beginning to demolish the house of John Ryland, Esq. in that town. The evidence of the three first witnesses was very strong against him; but their testimony was impeached by several other witnesses, who gave him a very excellent character as an honest inoffensive man, whose only fault was that he loved a drop of liquor. The jury, therefore, in perfect concurrence with the opinion of the judge, brought in their verdict—Not guilty.

Joseph Careless was indicted for the same offence. Mr. Newnham, addressing the jury, observed that these prosecutions were not carried on for the vindictive purposes of punishment, but merely for the sake of public justice, and to read this wholesome lesson to all his most gracious majesty's peaceable subjects—'That the government of his majesty, and the peace of all his faithful subjects throughout his wide domains, is not to be interrupted by a lawless rabble, and tumultuous rioters; that his majesty and his ministers will stand forth as the assertors and protectors of the English law. That,' continued Mr. Newnham, 'is the tenure, and the only tenure, by which you and I,

and every man who hears me, hold every thing that is dear to us. It is by that security alone we live, and under which we enjoy our liberty. It is not at the capricious will of a tumultuous rabble that we are to hold either our opinions or our property. It is not because a lawless rabble has attacked the town of Birmingham, that hitherto peaceable seat of commerce, that men are to sit quiet under the disturbance of their houses and families; nor are they to suffer because an irresistible mob chooses to take umbrage at this or that man, and to pull down his house, destroy his property, and reduce him to beggary.

'Gentlemen, this is one of those cases which the civil magistrates could not quell; it remained for the slow, but irresistible, law of the country, which I desire to live under, and which I know every man that hears me reveres. The law, though it has leaden heels, has iron hands, and will, sooner or later, bring to punishment the persons concerned in these riots. I do not state to you the general confusion and the general destruction of the town of Birmingham; I do not state to you the interruption of that commerce by which it has grown great and important in Europe; I do not state to you the precarious tenure by which every man, from the 14th to the 16th of July last, held his property, at the caprice of the mad assembly there collected; but I state this to you, that the prisoner at the bar stands here to acquit himself before you, the only constitutional tribunal of the country, and who are to decide whether he is or is not guilty of the offence with which he stands charged.

'Gentlemen, I do not put it to your feelings; I demand nothing but that justice which the law of England expects from juries. When

once a jury departs from that, the law is vague and uncertain.'

Two witnesses swore positively to the fact charged against the prisoner. But a third witness stated that the prisoner had endeavored to preserve some pigs on the premises.

The judge observed that one witness had been called to show that the prisoner did not come there to do any injury, but to preserve the property. But these pigs were not in the room where the bay-window was, and which he endeavored to demolish; and he thought that the whole conduct of the prisoner—his saying 'Come, my lads, we will soon have it down,' and his taking a stick, and actually demolishing part of the house with his own hand (which had appeared in evidence), did not furnish a strong proof that he came for the purpose of suppressing the riot. The jury, however, were the sole judges. If they were of opinion that this man was instrumental in the demolition of Mr. Ryland's house, and was really one of the mob calling out 'Church and King!' they would convict him; but, if they were of a different opinion, they would find him not guilty.—The jury acquitted him.

William Hands was indicted for the same offence; when Mr. Newnham thus addressed the jury:—

'Gentlemen of the jury,—I rise up under the most serious impression, and with a great deal of feeling; but to stifle that feeling, as far as it is consistent with my duty; and, with the utmost deference, to state to you, under the direction of the Court, that your only guide upon this occasion is the solemn oath you have taken, and the evidence you will hear.

'Gentlemen, you have heard the charge against the prisoner—that he, in company with a riotous assembly of persons, came to the

house of Mr. Ryland, in Birmingham; that they, and the prisoner, who was one that was active among them, without listening to any entreaties, began to pull down his house. Gentlemen, whatever feelings you may have about you, they had no feelings of humanity about them, but carried into execution the purpose of destruction for which they were assembled. If you think this opposition to the law, which is our protector—if you think this opposition to evidence can be shown with impunity, and that you are under no obligation to call God to witness the truth of your verdict, (I do not call upon you to protect your property, because of that I will say nothing; but I call on you, as a set of jurymen, to decide according to evidence); if you think this case, when proved, does not call upon you for judgment, I wish you to sleep quietly in your beds.'

Two witnesses swore positively to the fact; and the jury brought in their verdict—Guilty.

James Watkins was indicted for the same offence; but, only one witness appearing against him, he was acquitted. On leaving the bar, he quaintly said, 'Your servant, gentlemen.'

Daniel Rose, aged sixteen, was charged with beginning to pull down the dwelling-house of John Taylor, Esq. at Aston, when Mr. Newnham thus addressed the jury:—

'Gentlemen of the jury,—Though the prisoner at the bar stands charged with riots of the most dangerous nature, and destructive of that elegant mansion, belonging to a person whose family has almost been the father of Birmingham; yet, when I look at him, and consider his youth, that he is not above sixteen, I compassionate that youth, and will not call evidence against him, in order to show that government, on every

proper occasion, is as much disposed to show lenity as any one of you of the jury.' He was discharged of course.

Mr. Clarke, counsel for the prisoner, observed that he thought it was but doing justice to Mr. Newnham to say that he had conducted the prosecutions with the utmost candour, and with the greatest honour to government and himself.

Mr. Newnham said examples must be made, though government had not the least inclination to seek after blood.

The business being finished about ten at night, the rioters who had been convicted were put to the bar, when the judge said that the offence of which they had been found guilty was of such a nature, that none of them could expect the least mercy. 'It is mercy to the public,' he continued, 'to make an example of

persons who have been guilty of such crimes, in order to preserve the property of the industrious and innocent, and to prevent them from depredations by such persons as you are.'

His lordship, after exhorting them to a proper employment of the short time they had to live, passed the awful sentence of the law.

On leaving the town he ordered the four rioters, Francis Rodney, John Green, Bartholomew Fisher, and William Hands, with Edward Brown, for highway robbery, and William Millington, for horse-stealing, to be executed on the 8th of September, at the usual place of execution, near Warwick: Fisher and Hands, however, did not undergo the awful sentence, the former being pardoned, and Hands in the first instance reprieved, but subsequently pardoned also.

JOSEPH LORRISON, ALIAS 'JUMPING JOE,'

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

THIS was a notorious old offender. He was particularly dexterous in robbing waggons, which, while the driver was guiding his team, he quickly jumped into, and handed out whatever packages he could lay his hands on, and gave them to his confederates, who were always in readiness to receive them.

He was tried for different species of robbery thirty times, and for that on which he was convicted, had, by trick, nearly escaped. He was tried with James Nutter, for assaulting and robbing Mr. James Dixon, on the highway, of his watch and money, and condemned at the age of fifty-three. When apprehended for this robbery, he was dressed in a smock-frock, and the prosecutor could not then swear to him; but on his putting on a coat, which was found in his room, he swore posi-

tively that he was the man who robbed him.

Before and after conviction, however, he in the most solemn manner denied his guilt.

He was born in the county of Surrey, and resided for several years in the borough of Southwark, where he was long known as a most daring and atrocious depredator on the public.

He was once tried for the murder of a watchman, and, though acquitted, from the evidence not being sufficient, was in general supposed to be guilty; and he obtained the appellation of 'Jumping Joe' from his dexterity in jumping into carts, waggons, &c. in order to rob them.

For the above robbery he was executed, August the 8th, 1792, on Kennington Common.

THE MUTINEERS OF THE BOUNTY.

THE *Bounty* armed ship, Captain Bligh, sailed from England in the autumn of 1789, and, continuing her course in a westerly direction, lost sight of the Friendly Islands on the 27th of that month, and every thing like good order was supposed to prevail on board. Even the mid-watch was relieved without the least apparent disorder; but, at day-break, on the 28th, the cabin of Captain Bligh was forcibly entered by the officer of the watch, assisted by three others, who dragged him instantly on the deck, menacing his life if he attempted to speak. His endeavours to bring back the conspirators to their duty proved of no avail. Each of the desperadoes was armed with a drawn cutlass, or fixed bayonet; and all their muskets were avowed to be charged.

Captain Bligh discovered, when he came upon deck, several of the crew, and most of the officers, pinned; and, while he was thus contemplating their perilous state, the ship's boat was let over her side, and all who were not on the part of the conspirators, to the number of eighteen, beside the captain, were committed to the boat, and no other nourishment afforded to them than about one hundred and forty pounds of bread, thirty pounds of meat, one gallon and a half of rum, a like portion of wine, and a few gallons of water. A compass and quadrant were secured by one of these devoted victims, as he was stepping into the boat; and the mutineers, after giving them a cheer, stood away, as they said, for Otaheite.

The captain, in this dreadful situation, found his boatswain, carpenter, gunner, surgeon's mate, two midshipmen, and one master's mate, with Mr. Nelson the botanist, and a few inferior officers, among those

who were likely to share his fate. After a short consultation, it was deemed expedient to put back to the Friendly Islands; and, accordingly, they landed on one of these, in hopes they might improve their small stock of provisions, on the 30th of April; but they were driven off by the natives two days after, and pursued with such hostility, that one man was killed, and several wounded.

It was then deliberated whether they should return to Otaheite, and throw themselves on the clemency of the natives; but the apprehension of falling in with the *Bounty* determined them, with one assent, to make the best of their way to Timor. To effect this enterprise, astonishing to relate, they calculated the distance, near four thousand miles; and, in order that their wretched supply of provisions might endure till they reached the place of destination, they agreed to apportion their food to one ounce of bread and one gill of water a day for each man. No other nourishment did they receive till the 5th or 6th of June, when they made the coast of New Holland, and collected a few shell-fish; and with this scanty relief they held on their course to Timor, which they reached on the 12th, after being forty-six days in a crazy open boat, too confined in dimensions to suffer any of them to lie down for repose, and without the least awning to protect them from the rain, which almost incessantly fell for forty days. A heavy sea and squally weather, for great part of their course, augmented their misery.

The governor of this settlement, which belongs to the Dutch, afforded them every succour. They remained here to recruit their strength

and spirits till the 20th of August, when they procured a vessel to carry them to Batavia. They reached Batavia on the 2d of October, and thence Captain Bligh, and two of the crew, embarked for the Cape of Good Hope, and the rest were preparing to follow as soon as a passage could be obtained.

Captain Bligh reached the Cape about the middle of December, and soon after took his passage for England.

The leader of the mutineers was named Fletcher Christian, a man of respectable family and connexions, and a good seaman. He was of the rank of master's mate of the *Bounty*, and served regularly the watch, from the time the ship sailed from England. The command of the *Bounty* thus devolving upon him, there was no possibility of defeating his purpose; as not the least previous circumstance could be traced from the testimonies of the faithful part of the crew, after they were in the boat, of a mutiny being on foot. The mutineers were to the number of twenty-five; and those who remained firm to their duty nineteen; consequently, had the slightest suspicion been entertained of the design, it might have been easily frustrated, as all the principal officers remained faithful to their commander.

Shortly after the return of Captain Bligh his majesty's ship *Pandora* was dispatched in search of the mutineers; but it was not until the 25th of April, 1792, that dispatches were received from Captain Edwards, stating that, on the *Pandora*'s appearing off Otaheite, two men swam from the shore, and solicited to be taken on board. They proved to be two of the *Bounty*'s mutineers, and gave intelligence where fourteen of their companions were concealed on the island. A

part of the *Pandora*'s crew were dispatched in search of them, and after some resistance they were taken, and brought prisoners on board. Christian, with the other nine mutineers, had previously sailed in the *Bounty* to some remote island, and every exertion of the *Pandora* to discover their retreat proved ineffectual. On her return home, the *Pandora* struck upon a reef of rocks in Endeavour Straits. Her crew escaped from their perilous situation to an island in the Straits, except thirty-three men, and three of the *Bounty*'s people, who perished by the boat over-setting. Captain Edwards was reduced to the necessity of sending one of his officers and some seamen, in a small boat, to Timor, which they were fourteen days in reaching, and where a vessel was procured, which proceeded to the assistance of the remainder of the crew.

So much had the mutineers of the *Bounty* conformed to the customs and manners of Otaheite, that, when the two men of Christian's crew swam off to the *Pandora*, they were so tattooed, and exhibited so many other characteristic stains, that, on being first received on board, the *Pandora*'s people took them for natives of the island. The names of the above metamorphosed mutineers were, Peter Heywood, a midshipman, and Joseph Coleman, the armourer; the latter of whom, Captain Bligh observes, 'was detained by Christian, contrary to his inclination.'

On the 12th of September a court martial commenced on board the *Duke*, in Portsmouth harbour, on Joseph Coleman, Charles Norman, Thomas Mackintosh, Peter Heywood, Isaac Morris, John Millward, William Muspratt, Thomas Birkett, Thomas Ellison, and Michael Byrn. The evidence for the prosecution

closed on Friday night, the 14th, and the Court indulged the prisoners till Monday to give in their defence, and on Tuesday took the whole into their consideration, when they were pleased to pass sentence of death on Heywood, Morris, Millward, Muspratt, Birkett, and Ellison, the two first of whom the Court recommended to mercy. Coleman, Norman, Mackintosh, and Byrn, were acquitted and discharged.

On the 29th of October, Millward, Birkett, and Ellison, were executed on board the Brunswick: Heywood and Morris were pardoned in compliance with the recommendation of the Court.

The pardon was communicated to them on board the Hector, by Captain Montague, who read the order for their discharge upon the quarter-deck, in the presence of his own officers and ship's company. He pointed out to the prisoners the evil of their past conduct; and, in lan-

guage that drew tears from all who heard him, recommended to them to make atonement by their future good behaviour. They were both of them very sensibly affected, and endeavored, in vain, to offer their acknowledgments for the tender treatment they had experienced on board the Hector. Mr. Heywood, however, who seemed to have anticipated his inability to speak, addressed Captain Montague in a paper, which was read, to the following purport:—

'Sir,—When the sentence of the law was passed upon me, I received it, I trust, as became a man; and, if it had been carried into execution, I should have met my fate, I hope, in a manner becoming a Christian. Your admonition cannot fail to make a lasting impression on my mind. I receive with gratitude my sovereign's mercy, for which my future life shall be faithfully devoted to his service.'

HENRY GRIFFIN, *ALIAS* GEORGE HOBART, *ALIAS* THE DUKE OF ORMOND, *ALIAS* LORD MASSEY,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

HENRY GRIFFIN was indicted for feloniously forging, uttering, and publishing as true, a certain paper writing, commonly called an inland bill of exchange, purporting to be drawn by the Earl of Tankerville upon Messrs. Coutts and Co. bankers, London, requiring them to pay to Lord Massey, or bearer, fourteen hundred and forty-nine pounds, with intent to defraud Charles Green, and his co-partner Robert Willerton; he the said Griffin, *alias* Hobart, at the time of such uttering and publishing the said bill of exchange, well knowing the same to be forged and counterfeited, against the statute.

Mr. Green deposed that he was a jeweller, in partnership with Mr. Willerton, living in Bond Street:

on the 16th of March, 1791, the prisoner came to their shop, appeared grand, and desired several articles of jewellery might be sent to his apartments, No. 36, St. James's Place, leaving at the same time a copper-plate card, with his assumed name of Lord Massey upon it.

About four in the afternoon Mr. Green went to the house, and was ushered up stairs into the dining-room by a servant in livery; he there saw the prisoner, and had a short conversation, when the servant announced the arrival of Dr. Hunter, and he was requested to withdraw. A few minutes after the Doctor's departure the prisoner looked at the goods Mr. Green had brought, and purchased a pair of

diamond ear-rings, a gold watch set with diamonds, a chain and other articles, and gave him a draft for seven hundred and sixty pounds, signed Lord Tankerville, and payable to Lord Massey. The note was refused; he returned to the prisoner, and found him gone.

This criminal, whose exploits rendered him famous in the annals of fraud and gallantry, was born in America: his father was there killed, and he had a commission given him; but, living extravagantly, sold it and came to England, where, sometimes pretending to be Lord Massey, the Duke of Ormond, &c. he defrauded noblemen, gentlemen, bankers, &c. of various sums of money, to a large amount; until the hand of Justice stopped his career of wickedness.

His person was handsome, his air and mien genteel; and happy would it have been for himself, and beneficial to the public, had he employed his good sense in honest pursuits. He was twenty-five years old.

Whilst under sentence of death, being sensible of his approaching fate, he prepared to meet it like a man and a Christian. Being in no want of money, he behaved to his fellow-prisoners in the most charitable manner.

He was tried in December sessions, 1792, and executed February 13, 1793.

How often do we see, as in the case of Griffin, that the best talents and endowments are abused to the basest purposes! How much less pains would it cost many persons to live comfortably, and with credit, than they take to become profligates, live miserable, and die disgracefully!

As a specimen of poetic talents, we copy the following soliloquy, said to have been found in Griffin's cell after his execution:—

SHALL he ignobly in a rope expire
Whose hand can wake to ecstasy the lyre?
Shall he be branded with the mob's harsh curse
Who oft hath poured the sweetly varied verse?
Whose manly Muse, indignant of control,
Can wake such notes as harrow up the soul?
Or paint, with social sympathy impress,
The rapturous anguish of a lover's breast?
Yet, say, shall one, endowed with gifts like these,
Wit, sense, good humour, elegance, and ease,
For erring once amidst the storms of strife,
Be rudely blotted from the book of life?

Though Justice, leaning from her seat sublime,
Demands a due atonement for each crime,
Yet doom me not to mingle with the dead,
With all my imperfections on my head;
Let me to earth's extremest verge be driven,
That penitence may smooth my way to Heaven.
Ah! no, what solace can existence give
To one condemned in infancy to live?
Who, scorned by others—of himself ashamed,
Is shunned, and spoke of—only to be blamed.

When Truth and Virtue from the breast depart,
The clouds of sorrow gather round the heart;
And keen Remorse, where'er we chance to stray,
Becomes the sole companion of our way.

Yet, though degraded to a state like this,
And 'rest of social and domestic bliss,
If doomed to visit that opprobrious land,
Where impious exiles form a desperate band,
Some sober scheme I'll studiously enforce,
And, self-repenting, tread in Virtue's course;
A little useful seminary found,
And spread the flame of Reformation round;
Instruct the offspring of ill-fated hinds,
And sow the seeds of wisdom in their minds;

Teach them to team with sympathetic thoughts,
And weep in pity o'er another's faults ;
'Till, wak'd to prudence by their parents' shame,
They grow ambitious of a virtuous name.

But, ah ! what favour can I hope to find ?
No glimpse of pardon dawns upon my mind ;
Fate calls my trembling spirit to the skies,
And ignominious death must seal mine eyes !

To Thee, great God, whose piercing eye can dart
Through the dark windings of the human heart,
To Thee I pour my supplicating cries,
For Thou art, yet, as merciful as wise :
Oh ! deign from Thy ethereal throne to hear
The invocation of a soul sincere :
And, since Thy goodness has allowed me time
To see my error and repent my crime,
Oh ! grant an earnest of eternal day,
Nor cast thy prostrate penitent away !



Winterbottom preaching Sedition.

WILLIAM WINTERBOTTOM,

FINED AND IMPRISONED FOR PREACHING SEDITIOUS SERMONS.

This factious priest was convicted before Mr. Baron Perryu, at the assizes for the county of Devon, for preaching a seditious sermon at Plymouth, on the 5th of November, 1792.

In the course of this discourse the defendant talked a great deal about the Revolution in 1688. He

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was sorry to see the laws so much abused as they were at present. He also spoke of the French revolution, and he did not doubt but that would open the eyes of every Briton. He asked why the streets were so crowded with vagrants, the workhouses with beggars, and the gaols with thieves ? All this, he

said, was to be attributed to our oppressive taxes. It was high time for the people of this country to stand forward and assert their rights. He made mention of the national debt—he denied that any part of it was paid off; it was only like taking money out of one pocket, and putting it into another. He said his majesty had no more right to the throne than the Stuarts, if he did not maintain the laws and established rules of the country. He urged that the revolution in France was wisely calculated for spreading the Gospel through twenty-five millions of people.

The defendant was also indicted and convicted, at the same time, for preaching at Plymouth another seditious sermon, on the 18th of November, 1792. He took his text from Romans xiii. 12. viz. ‘The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.’ In the course of this discourse the defendant introduced several strong observations.

After the evidence on both sides had been heard, the jury, without hesitation, found the defendant guilty.

Judgment having been prayed by the king’s counsel, Mr. Justice Ashurst thus addressed the defendant:—‘William Winterbottom, you have been found guilty of preaching two seditious and atrocious sermons. The first act of this daring profligacy you committed on the 5th of November, and the second on the 18th of the same month. It has been stated that you are a dissenting preacher: of what sect of religion you are I know not; but I can collect from your preaching that you are not at all connected with the Christian religion; for the Christian religion,

after first regarding the duty to God, teaches and inspires love for, and obedience to, the established government; but the tendency of your doctrine is to overturn all order, religion, morality, and government, and to introduce anarchy and confusion.

‘Your doctrine goes to the abuse of that toleration, by which it is meant that every man may be at liberty to reverence God in the way that his conscience may dictate. But your conscience dictates no such principles; therefore the means that you have taken is a double aggravation of your guilt, and merits a two-fold punishment. In one part of your sermon you approve of the revolution in France.

‘As to your first proposition, it is sufficient that the pernicious designs intended to have been executed are frustrated.

‘As to your second opinion, that the French revolution would open the eyes of the people of England, there I agree with you—it does open the eyes of the people—it has taken the veil from off the hacknied system of liberty and equality.

‘All practical equality consists in the affording equal protection. This chimerical project has been tried in a neighbouring nation, the lamentable effects of which will be handed down with sorrow to the latest generation. This system, which has been tried, must press upon the minds of men, and must operate more forcibly than a volume of arguments.

‘As to your second proposition, it is impossible to be justified: you have alleged that the present form of government is a scourge on the people; but that the yoke of bondage will be soon broken; that persecution is near its end; and that every man will soon have to boast of equality.

'As to your saying that the French revolution will open the eyes of the people, I trust it will also open your eyes, and be a scourge to those who wish to introduce anarchy and confusion.

'This Court, having taken the malignity of your offence into their serious consideration, do consequently order and adjudge that for your first offence you pay a fine of one hundred pounds to the king, and that you be imprisoned in the New Prison, Clerkenwell, in the county of Middlesex, for the term of two years; and that for your second offence you pay a fine of one hundred pounds to the king, and be imprisoned in the New Prison, Clerkenwell, for the term of two years, to be computed after the expiration of your first imprisonment; and that at the end of your imprisonment you give security for your good behaviour for the term of

five years, yourself in five hundred pounds, and two sureties in two hundred and fifty pounds each.'

The defendant then wished to address the Court, but Lord Kenyon said, 'The Court cannot hear you now. It would have been the duty of the Court to have heard you, if you had offered any thing before sentence was passed: notwithstanding, the source of mercy is open to you.'

The defendant was immediately taken into custody.

Itinerant declaimers from the pulpit to ignorant auditors are, when they turn politicians, not only a nuisance to society, but sometimes dangerous to the state. Let preachers of the gospel stick to their creed; when they dare to dabble in politics, with which they have no business, their punishment cannot excite much regret.

NATHANIEL LILLEY, JAMES MARTIN, MARY BRIANT,
WILLIAM ALLEN, AND JOHN BUTCHER,

CONVICTED OF RETURNING FROM TRANSPORTATION.

THESE convicts effected their escape from Botany Bay under the following extraordinary circumstances:—

A Dutch schooner, commanded by Captain Smyth, took a supply of provisions to the settlement at Sydney Cove. A convict, named Briant, and who was married to the prisoner Mary Briant, persuaded Captain Smyth to let him have his six-oared boat, with an old lug-sail, a quadrant, and compass, for which he paid him what money he had, and some he collected among those to whom he intrusted his design; for the convicts having little use for the money with which their friends had supplied them, on sailing from this country, had most of it by them. Captain Smyth gave him

one hundred pounds of rice, and fourteen pounds of pork: they purchased of a convict, who was baker to the colony, one hundred pounds of flour, at the rate of two shillings and sixpence, and one shilling and sixpence per pound, which, with ten gallons of water, was all the provisions they took on board; and, at ten at night, on the 28th of March, 1791, William Briant, with his wife and two children, the one three years and the other one year old, the other three prisoners, Samuel Bird, James Cox, and William Martin, embarked in this open boat to sail to the island of Timor, which, by the nearest run, is upward of one thousand three hundred miles from the place of their embarkation; but, by the course

they were forced to take, it was impossible for them to form an idea what distance they might have to run, or what dangers, independent of those of the sea, they might have to encounter; added to this, the monsoon had just set in, and the wind was contrary. Under these circumstances they rather chose to risk their lives on the sea, than drag out a miserable existence on an inhospitable shore. They were forced to keep along the coast, as much as they could, for the convenience of procuring supplies of fresh water; and on these occasions, and when the weather was extremely tempestuous, they would sometimes sleep on shore, hauling their boat on the land. The savage natives, wherever they put on shore, came down, in numbers, to murder them. They now found two old muskets, and a small quantity of powder, which Captain Smyth had given them, particularly serviceable, by firing over the heads of these multitudes, on which they ran off with great precipitation; but they were always forced to keep a strict watch. In lat. 26. 27. they discovered a small uninhabited island: here was plenty of turtles, that proved a great relief to them; but they were very near being lost in landing. On this island they dried as much turtle as they could carry, which lasted them ten days. During the first five weeks of their voyage they had continual rains; and being obliged to throw overboard all their wearing apparel, &c. were for that time continually wet. They were once eight days out of sight of land, and after surmounting infinite hardships and dangers, they landed, on the 5th of June, 1791, at Cupang, on the island of Timor, where the Dutch have a settlement; having

sailed considerably more than five thousand miles, and been ten weeks all but one day in performing this voyage. At Cupang they informed the governor, that they had belonged to an English ship, which was wrecked on her passage to New South Wales. The governor treated them with great humanity, but at length overheard a conversation among them, by which he discovered that they were convicts, who had escaped from the colony in New South Wales.

On the 29th of August, 1791, the *Pandora*, of twenty guns, Captain Edwards, was wrecked on a reef of rocks near New South Wales. The captain, and those of the crew who were saved, got to Cupang in their boats, when the governor gave the captain an account of the eleven persons he had there, and of the conversation he had overheard.

The captain took them with him to Batavia, where William Briant and his eldest child died. The rest were put on board a Dutch ship, in which Captain Edwards sailed with them, for the Cape of Good Hope. On their passage to the Cape, James Cox fell overboard and was drowned, and Samuel Bird and William Martin died. At the Cape, Captain Edwards delivered the survivors to Captain Parker, of the *Gorgon*, and they sailed with him for England. In their passage home, the younger child of Mary Briant died.

Their trial took place, at the Old Bailey, on the 8th of July, 1792, when the Court ordered them to remain on their former sentence, until they should be discharged by the course of law. This lenient treatment was in consequence of the great suffering they had endured, the full punishment for such an offence being death.

THE REVEREND RICHARD BURGH, JOHN CUMMINGS, ESQ.
THOMAS TOWNLY M'CAN, ESQ. JAMES DAVIS,
AND JOHN BOURNE,

CONVICTED OF A CONSPIRACY TO SET FIRE TO THE KING'S BENCH PRISON.

ON the trial of these conspirators the attorney-general said he flattered himself it would be found that he had done no more than his duty in bringing the several defendants before the Court.

The offence with which they were charged was of the utmost importance to the peace and safety of the capital; for it not only had for its object the demolition of the King's Bench Prison, but involved the burning of other houses, bloodshed, and murder.

He lamented that five persons, all of education and respectable families, should, by their folly and imprudence, to call it by the softest name, bring themselves into such an unfortunate situation; one was a reverend divine, another an officer in the army, another had been in the profession of the law, and the others were of respectable parents, and, as he understood, set out in the world with fair prospects of being honorable and useful members of the community.

The attorney-general further said that this case was pregnant with the most alarming circumstances, which would be better detailed by the witnesses than described by him.

The prisoner, Burgh, was the private chaplain to the Duke of Leinster, and a relation to the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons.

The first witness was Mr. Justice Buller's clerk, who produced a record to prove that the prisoner, Burgh, was lawfully confined in the King's Bench Prison, for debt. Evidence was produced to prove that the other prisoners were also

confined in the same prison for debt.

Edward Webb said he knew all the prisoners about the beginning of May last; he was introduced into a society, called 'The Convivials,' held in a room in the King's Bench Prison, of which the prisoners were members.

M'Can expressed himself very freely upon the subject of Lord Rawdon's bill, then pending, respecting insolvent debtors, and said if that bill did not pass into a law, he and others were determined to do something to liberate themselves, and that there was a scheme in agitation for that purpose, but that the parties were sworn to secrecy, and therefore he could not divulge it; the witness said he might safely communicate the business to him; the prisoners, Cummings and Davis, were present at this very time.

M'Can afterwards opened the business to the witness; he said the plan in which he and the other prisoners were concerned, was to effect their own enlargement, by demolishing the walls of the prison, as they were determined not to be confined within those walls for debt; the execution of this plan would, however, depend upon the rejection of Lord Rawdon's bill: after they had effected their escape by setting fire to the prison, they would then go to the Fleet Prison, and liberate the prisoners, after which they should proceed to the houses of Lords Thurlow and Kenyon, which they would destroy.

Davis said he should not hesitate, himself, to blow out the brains

of those noble lords; the same witness saw the other defendants, who conversed upon the subject; and it was proposed to procure some sailors to assist them; this scheme was, however, defeated by the vigilance of the marshal, who sent for the guards, and had the prison searched throughout.

Shortly afterwards the witness saw M'Can, Cummings, and Davis again, who said that though they were defeated in the former scheme, they were determined to put some other plot into execution.

The next day Cummings (who was called the captain) said to the witness, 'I have discovered the best plan that could be conceived for blowing up these damned walls. I'll show you the place.'

He then took the witness to the end of the bake-house, and pointed out to him a place where the drain had been opened; he then described the force necessary to blow up the walls, and said he had studied the scheme upon his pillow: he then said it would be necessary to have a box about ten inches wide, and as many deep, and described the tubes that were to convey the fire to the box, which he said must contain about fifty pounds weight of gunpowder, and requested the witness would get it made. In the evening of the same day the witness saw M'Can and Davis come out of the coffee-room, and, alluding to the plot, said it was a glorious plan, and they would support it to the loss of their lives; they said no other person should be privy to it, excepting Mr. Bourne, who was concerned in the former scheme, and who had a large quantity of gunpowder ready; the witness observed to them that the neighboring bake-house and coffee-room would be in danger, and that poor Martin,

who had a large family, would be killed; they replied it was no matter if they or a dozen more were killed, provided it procured the prisoners freedom.

In a day or two afterwards the witness was walking upon the parade with Cummings, M'Can, and Rouen; he asked if Mr. Rouen knew of the plot. They said he did. Rouen said they should have the powder, and that Mrs. Rouen should bring it to the witness's house in small quantities: M'Can then proposed that, in order to raise money to purchase the gunpowder, a motion should be made in the club of Convivials, for a subscription of five shillings each, under pretence of seeing counsel, to know whether the marshal had a right to enter his prisoners' apartments when he pleased; this proposal was agreed to, and the motion was accordingly made.

After several other consultations, at which all the prisoners were present, it was agreed that the gunpowder should be deposited in a hole in the floor of Burgh's room, where it was afterwards found.

It was also agreed that on the day the plot was to be carried into execution, M'Can and Bourne were to have a sham fencing-match for a great deal of money; this was to collect together all the prisoners at the time the gunpowder was set fire to, and thereby afford them a chance of making their escape.

The day was at length fixed to be on a Sunday, about seven o'clock in the evening, being a time at which a number of strangers were in prison.

Cummings had the sole management of this plot. Burgh said that the noise and confusion it would create would, he hoped, bring about a revolution in this country.

The box was produced in court.

H. T. Hendaere confirmed the substance of the evidence of the last witness, as did Mr. Battersley. These witnesses stated, by way of addition, that Davis gave half a guinea to purchase some gunpowder; that the prisoners carried on a correspondence with a society in the borough of Southwark; that Mr. Dundas's house was one that was fixed on for destruction; that the prisoners had two schemes in contemplation to effect their escape: the one was to tie down all the turnkeys; the other the gunpowder plot in question, of which Cummings had the sole conduct, he being considered the engineer.

A seditious song, stated to be written by McCan, was also produced, and read in court.

Mr. Rouse made a very able speech on behalf of the prisoners. He called three witnesses to impeach the credit of those for the prosecution, but their evidence was of little effect.

Lord Kenyon summed up the whole of the evidence in the most able and impartial manner; after which the jury retired for a short time, and upon their return found all the prisoners guilty.

On Tuesday, February 12, 1793, the prisoners were brought to receive the judgment of the Court.

The prisoner, Cummings, produced a petition, in which he stated that he had been for several years an officer in his majesty's service, and had then two sons in the army, who, in consequence of the calamitous situation of the prisoner, were deprived of the education and support necessary to their station and rank. He stated several other circumstances in mitigation of punishment.

The prisoner, Townly McCan, produced an affidavit, in which he stated that he was a student of law, and had formed an opinion from several writers, that imprisonment for debt was illegal; he disclaimed any criminal intention, and positively denied that he or his fellow-prisoners had carried on a correspondence with the Revolution Society in the Borough, or ever had a design to kill the two great law lords, as alleged by a witness on the trial, but which was a fabrication of that witness, to recommend himself to the favour of government.

Mr. Burgh addressed the Court in an elegant speech, and with great emotion, in the course of which he spoke in the highest terms of the humane conduct of Mr. Kirby, the Keeper of Newgate, to all his prisoners.

They were severally sentenced to three years' imprisonment, but in different prisons.

LAURENCE JONES, INDICTED FOR FORGERY.

THOUGH many writers have attempted some moral excuse for suicide, yet we find it inexcusable in any point of view. Hamlet says,

The Almighty fix'd his canon 'gainst self-murder.'

The prince, therefore, though robbed of succession to the throne of Denmark, and with the knowledge that his father was basely

murdered by his uncle, yet would not, after mature deliberation, take away his own life, which belonged to God alone.

Laurence Jones, who, to avoid the punishment due to one crime, committed another—that of self-murder—was born in London, of respectable parents, whose too great indulgence towards him in his early

years probably led to his untimely end. He received a genteel education, and, possessing a good address, introduced himself into the first company, which unfortunately led him into habits of extravagance, to which his income was not equal, though he enjoyed a lucrative employment in one of the public offices. Being detected in some mal-practices, he was discharged; and, his means of subsistence being now entirely gone, he found himself under the necessity of doing something, in order to support himself and a lady of easy virtue with whom he cohabited, to whose extravagance there was no end.

In this emergency he commenced swindler, which he continued for some time with success, but was at length apprehended, and committed to Newgate. On his trial, however, he was acquitted for want of evidence.

Once again at liberty, and having a considerable sum of money left him by a relation about this time, he resolved to set up his old trade of swindling on a very extensive scale, for which purpose he took a very handsome house in St. James's, had it elegantly furnished, and kept his carriage and servants, who, by-the-by, were accomplices to carry on the deception, which he did with great success for some months.

During his abode in this place he defrauded Mr. Hudson, a silversmith, of plate, to the value of near three thousand pounds; Mr. Kempton, a mercer, of silks, and other goods, to a large amount; and Mr. Bailey, a watchmaker and jeweller, of a gold repeater, and other goods, to the value of three hundred pounds.

The time of payment coming on, and suspicion being entertained of

his pretensions to property, he thought it time to decamp, which he effected just in time to avoid a warrant out against him.

After this he lived privately for some time, that suspicion might die away, before he again began his fraudulent practices, which he carried on with his usual success, till the failure of the affair for which he was condemned; the particulars of which are as follow:—

Mr. Campbell, the collecting clerk to Vere, Inceadon, and Co. bankers, in Lombard Street, in the course of his business called at a house (which was hired for the express purpose of preying upon the unwary) for the payment of a bill, a scheme previously concerted by the villains. No sooner had he knocked at the door than it was opened by a person, in appearance a gentleman, who desired him to walk into the counting-house, when a man came behind him, and covered his head and face over with a thick cap, so that he could see nothing. They then threw him on the floor, and wrapped him up in a green baize, in which condition they bound him hand and foot, and carried him down stairs, when they proceeded to rob him.

They took from him his pocket-book, with bank-notes and bills to the amount of nine hundred pounds. They then took measures to prevent a discovery before they could receive the money for the bills, &c. for which one of the gang immediately went out, while the rest, in the mean time, handled the unfortunate young man in the following manner:

They first laid him flat on his back on a board, and chained him hand and foot, and then carried him down stairs into a back kitchen, where they chained him to the bars of a copper grate, threatening that

if he made a noise they would blow his brains out.

They then left him, after placing before him some bread, some ham, and some water.

In this condition he remained for about eight hours, not daring to make the least noise, expecting every moment to be murdered if he spoke: but Providence preserved him from this dreadful fate; for, hearing no more of them for so many hours, he at last had the courage to call out, thinking it better to have his brains blown out at once than perish in that miserable condition.

After crying out with all his might for near three hours, his cries were at last heard by a man who was at work in a house behind that in which Mr. Campbell was confined. This man had the resolution to break open the door of the house from whence the noise proceeded, when, directed by the cry, he went down stairs, and there discovered the unfortunate man almost expiring, exhausted with struggling and crying out. It, of course, was not long before he was set at liberty.

Jones was apprehended by Jealous and Kennedy, officers of Bow Street, at the King's Arms, in Bridge Street, Westminster. Kennedy seeing that he agreed with the description of his person, as lodged at Bow Street, respecting the man that opened the door to Campbell, he took him into custody, with the assistance of Jealous.

Before they attempted to search him, it was judged expedient to call in some assistance, Jones being rather of a refractory disposition, and a rescue apprehended, there being a great concourse of people in Palace Yard, some of whom might have been his companions. For that purpose Jealous went out, and left his prisoner with Kennedy till

he should return. During Jealous's absence Jones became very importunate with Kennedy respecting the cause of his being apprehended.

On Jealous's arrival with a reinforcement of four, viz. M'Manus, Carpmeal, Townsend, and Laverder, Jones was searched, but nothing of consequence found upon him, except a direction to his lodgings, which he attempted to snatch from Townsend's hand, but failed.

They then proceeded to conduct him to a place of safety; but, just as they left the room, Kennedy desired Carpmeal to return, look into the fire-place, and see if there was any thing there, the prisoner having stood with his back against that place; which he did, and returned with a handful of bills and notes: they then proceeded to a place of security, where they left him, and immediately set off for his lodgings in Peekham Rye Lane, which was the place specified in the paper found in Jones's pocket; and, on their arrival there, found his wife, his brother, and two other persons, all of whom they brought to town, together with a great quantity of papers. On his examination he behaved very insolently.

Being committed to Newgate, he was afterwards tried, and found guilty, when he received sentence, and was ordered for execution on Wednesday, December 8, 1793, in Hatton Garden, near the house where he committed the robbery; but on the Saturday previous, about six o'clock in the morning, when the turnkey entered the cell to prepare him to hear the condemned sermon and to receive the sacrament, he found him dead. It appeared that he had made several attempts on his life before, but was prevented; and the manner in which he at last accomplished his purpose was very extraordinary: he had taken the

knee-strings with which his fetters were supported, and tied them round his neck; then, tying the other end to the ring which his chain was fastened to, he placed his feet against the wall, and strangled himself. The coroner's jury pronounced a verdict of *Felo de se*.

In consequence of this verdict, the body was, on Wednesday morning, carried out of Newgate, extended upon a plank on the top of

an open cart, in his clothes, and fettered, his face covered with a white cloth, to the brow of Holborn Hill, directly opposite to the end of Hatton Garden. The procession was attended by the sheriffs, city-marshals, and near five hundred constables. Being arrived at what may be called the place of execution, the body was deposited in a deep pit, and a stake driven through it, according to the coroner's verdict.

THOMAS MUIR, THE YOUNGER, AND THE REVEREND T. F. PALMER,

CONVICTED OF SEDITIOUS PRACTICES.

In the month of August, 1793, came on the trial of Mr. Thomas Muir, the younger, of Hunterskill, for seditious practises.

The prisoner, in the indictment, was accused of wickedly and feloniously exciting, in November, 1792, at different meetings at Kirkintilloch, Campsie, &c. denominated societies for reform, by means of seditious speeches and harangues, a spirit of disloyalty and disaffection to the king and the established government—of advising and exhorting persons to purchase and peruse seditious and wicked publications and writings, (viz. Paine's works, 'A Declaration of Rights,' 'The Patriot,' &c.) calculated to produce a spirit of disloyalty and disaffection to the king and government—of distributing or circulating a seditious writing or publication of the tendency aforesaid, or causing to be distributed or circulated such seditious writing or publication—of producing and reading aloud, in a public meeting or convocation of persons, a seditious and inflammatory writing, (viz. 'An Address from the Society of United Irishmen in Dublin to the Delegates for promoting a Reform in Scotland,') tending to produce in the minds of

the people a spirit of insurrection and opposition to the established government—and publicly approving of and recommending, in the said meeting, such seditious inflammatory writing, &c.

To these charges Mr. Muir pleaded Not Guilty.—He said he had nothing to observe on the relevancy; he would trust himself entirely to the jury. He had given in, when last before the Court, written defences, in which he declared the libel to be false, and that he would prove that he all along supported the constitution. Being asked if he had any other defence, he said he rested upon his written defence; he had uniformly advised them to read all books written upon the great national question of reform.

The jury being named, Mr. Muir objected to every one of them: he said that, as the gentlemen, however respectable, were all subscribers to the Goldsmiths' Hall Association, and had offered a reward for discovering those who had circulated what they deem seditious writings, they had already prejudged him, and were, therefore, improper persons to pass on his assize.

The solicitor-general, in reply, said that their lordships were equally precluded, as they had, with every friend to the constitution, condemned the writings of Paine.

The Court unanimously repelled the objection.

The first witness called was Alexander Johnston, bleacher, at Kincaid Bleachfield. Mr. Muir objected to his testimony, as he could produce evidence to prove that the witness had said he would do every thing in his power to have him hanged. The Court repelled the objection, and the witness swore that Mr. Muir was present at a meeting of the friends of the people at Kirkintilloch, in November last, where he harangued the people; in which he observed that this country was not properly represented. He entered into a comparison between our constitution and the French, and said they were more equally represented, two thirds of their national debt paid, their taxes less, and that they would be successful; advised them to petition parliament, and publish their proceedings. On a cross-interrogatory, the witness said that Mr. Muir recommended peace, for any tumultuous act would ruin their cause.

Robert Widdell, a vice-president of the society, was likewise present at the meeting, and heard Mr. Muir say something about the unequal representation of the people, and that Paine's works were foreign to their purpose.

Mr. James Lapside, minister of Campsie, was objected to, as being present at the precognition of the witnesses, taking notes, and even putting questions to some of them. Several witnesses were examined upon this point; and the fact being proved, the lord-advocate gave up his evidence.

Henry Freeland, president of the society, also heard Mr. Muir's speech. After the society broke up, Mr. Muir, Freeland, and others, retiring to a public house, the witness expressing a wish to see Paine's works, Mr. Muir said he had a copy in his great coat pocket, which he might read; that he accordingly did so, and lent it to several of his neighbours.

Here the trial was interrupted for some time by a requisition from Mr. Muir that a gentleman at the clerk's table should be enclosed as an exculpatory evidence; which, after a little altercation, was passed from.

William Muir declined swearing. He said it was against his principles, as he was a Mountaineer. Being told he must either swear or go to gaol, whence he would never be liberated, he said he could not help it; he hoped the Lord was there as well as any where else. He was accordingly committed. His scruples being afterwards removed by the Rev. Mr. Duu, he was examined, and swore he saw Freeland take Paine's works out of Mr. Muir's pocket; and that Mr. Muir gave the witness a copy of the 'Political Progress,' and ten or twelve numbers of the 'Patriot;' that he desired him to show them to the members of his society, and would not take them back.

Anne Fisher said she was servant to Mr. Muir's father in Autumn last, and that he was then much employed in reading and writing, but she did not know what; that she carried from him to the printer a 'Declaration of Rights,' marked with some corrections, to be reprinted; that a number of country people coming to the shop of Mr. Muir's father about this time, a deal of conversation passed concerning

'Paine's Rights of Man,' which she has heard the prisoner say was a good book; that she several times bought both parts of the book, and gave them to different people; that Mr. Muir wished his hair-dresser (Mr. Wilson) to purchase them, and keep them in his shop to enlighten the people, saying that it confuted Burke entirely; that she has seen the 'Paisley Declaration' in Mr. Muir's house, and 'A Dialogue between the Governors and the Governed,' which last he said was very clever, and written by one of the first men in France; that she heard Mr. Muir read part of the 'Paisley Declaration' in his father's back shop, and that the common topic of his conversation was politics; that Mr. Muir said when the reform took place he would be member for Calder; that members would then be allowed thirty or forty shillings a day; and that none but honest men would be admitted to keep the constitution clean; and, when the constitution was put under a proper foundation, they would get new counsellors, who would govern the nation with justice; that France would soon be the most flourishing kingdom in the world, for they had abolished tyranny; that she has caused the organist in the streets of Glasgow to play *Ca Ira*, at Mr. Muir's desire.

Thomas Wilson, barber, said that Mr. Muir exhorted him to purchase 'Paine's Rights of Man.'

John Muir said that Mr. Muir's maid bought a copy of Paine for him.

James Campbell, writer to the signet, said he was present at a meeting of the convention of delegates in December last; that Mr. Muir read the address from the United Society of Irishmen, and moved that it should be answered;

which was opposed by others in the society, and at length negatived.

James Denholm, writer in Edinburgh, deposed to the same effect.

Mr. Muir having admitted the declarations he emitted at Edinburgh and Stranraer to be his, and also the pocket-book and papers found upon him, the evidence for the crown was closed, and was followed by that for the defence.

William Skirving, of Strathruddle, said that Mr. Muir went to London, to be present at a meeting of the Friends of the People; that he received a letter from Mr. Muir at London, giving an account of what he did at the meeting; that it was the opinion of the society in London that he should go to France, in order to see if he could have any influence to prevent the execution of the king; that he received a letter from Mr. Muir at Paris, informing him that he would return to his friends in Scotland immediately; that he had frequently been in company with Mr. Muir, both in societies and privately, and never heard him speak against the constitution, but the reverse; that his whole conduct was of a contrary tendency, and that he disapproved of Mr. Paine's principles of government. He (Skirving) was secretary to the general convention.

James Campbell, writer to the signet, produced two letters received from Mr. Muir in France, expressing his sorrow for being obliged to leave so amiable a circle. He never heard Mr. Muir speak against the constitution; but has heard him say Paine's works were dangerous for weak minds.

John Buchanan, William Johnston, Esq. Maurice Thompson, Charles Salter, Mr. Reid, and a great number of other witnesses,

swore to the regular and peaceable behaviour of Mr. Muir; and all of them concurred that he uniformly declared his respect for the constitution; said it was an excellent constitution, the best in the world, and that the king was the father of his people; that upon all occasions he recommended the same principles to the different societies with which he associated.

The lord-advocate addressed the jury. He said that if, in the range of his official duty, in bringing persons to the bar accused of similar offences, there had been any one whose conduct was more peculiarly marked by the spirit of diabolical mischief, this was the man! Under the pretence of reform, he had been at particular pains to instil into the minds of the uninformed and unwary doctrines of the most pernicious tendency, destructive of all order, and calculated to overturn the constitution; and, by an insidious comparison between France and this country, had left no room to doubt that his wish was to introduce the same anarchy which, in that infatuated nation, had occasioned such bloodshed and ravage. Of the writings of that wretched outcast, Paine, he would say little. The opinion of the country sufficiently marked the detestation in which they were held. The boasted interference of the prisoner, to save the unfortunate King of France, sufficiently pointed out that he was a missionary to that country.

His lordship then recapitulated those parts of the evidence which, in his opinion, indelibly stamped the criminal intentions of the prisoner, whose actions justified his stigmatizing him as the pest of Scotland. He concluded by demanding from the jury such a verdict as their regard for their coun-

try and its laws, which they are bound to preserve inviolate, and the voice of their conscience, must naturally dictate to them.

Mr. Muir then rose. He said that, amidst the inquisitorial keenness of his adversaries, aided as they had been by domestic spies, it was a consolation to him that his moral character had been unimpeached. The accusation of sedition was merely a pretext; his real crime was, he had been a friend to reform; and to this charge, had it been so laid, he would have pleaded guilty at once. But why should he be singled out as a victim on this occasion? Were not the present minister, Mr. Pitt, and the Duke of Richmond, at one period, equally the advocates of reform? And, if he was the pest of Scotland, with equal propriety might they be termed the pest of England.—Nay, not to go out of court, was not the lord-advocate himself, not many months ago, a reformer, in being a delegate for amending the representation of the counties of Scotland? He quoted Blackstone, to show that his opinion of the representation of this country was similar to his own.

As to the affairs of France, of which so much had been said, with respect to some advantages they possessed, by their constitution and mode of taxation, he had only stated facts, which he trusted could not be considered seditions. He denied his having any mission to that country; and, unless an anxiety to prevent the effusion of blood were criminal, no circumstance attending his visit to that country could be deemed so. He then mentioned the circumstances which occasioned the delay of his return to this country from France, the difficulties he encountered in effecting it, and the readiness he had ever shown to sub-

jeet himself to a verdict of his countrymen. He concluded with an earnest appeal to the jury, as they regarded their future peace of mind, to return a verdict of acquittal.

The lord justice clerk having summed up the evidence, the Court rose about two in the morning, and at twelve on Saturday the jury returned a verdict, finding the prisoner guilty.

The Court then sentenced Mr. Muir to be transported beyond seas, to such place as his majesty, with the advice of his privy council, should judge proper, for the space of fourteen years.

Mr. Muir observed that, had he been carried from the bar to the scaffold, he would have met his fate with equal coolness, so convinced was he of the justice of his conduct. He was then conveyed to the Tolbooth.

At Perth, in the month of September, the Rev. T. Fiske Palmer was found guilty of writing a sedi-

tious hand-bill. His sentence was seven years' transportation.

On the 1st of December Mr. Thomas Muir and the Rev. T. F. Palmer arrived in the river from Leith, on board a revenue-cutter. Orders were sent down for delivering them into the custody of Dimean Campbell, the contractor for the hulks at Woolwich; the former in the *Prudentia*, and the latter in the *Stanislaus*. They were in irons among the convicts, and were ordered to assist them in the common labour on the banks of the river. Mr. Muir associated with about three hundred convicts, among whom he and Mr. Palmer slept after their arrival. Mr. Muir was rather depressed in spirits; but Mr. Palmer appeared to sustain his misfortune with greater fortitude.

Several attempts were made by Mr. Sheridan, &c. in the House of Commons, to have the sentence revoked, but all means proved ineffectual.

ROBERT WALPOLE CHAMBERLAIN,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

THIS thoughtless young spendthrift and footpad, who was executed on Kennington Common, the 5th of August, 1793, had his life marked by very strange vicissitudes. He was found guilty, at the Croydon assizes, of having some time before committed a footpad robbery, attended with many circumstances of cruelty, upon Captain Bellamy, near Epsom; and was hanged some short time after with a coiner, of the name of Vernon. His father was a butcher in Leadenhall Market, who died while he was very young, and left him to the care of a mother, who was too foolishly fond to exercise any control over him. As he had no inclination for busi-

ness, he was allowed to pass away his time idly, and his mother gave him a regular supply of two hundred pounds per annum, to enable him to live like a gentleman. She also occasionally paid his debts, which he was by no means sparing to contract.

To supply, however, his extravagance with greater prodigality, he had recourse to robbery, and was twice capitally convicted, but had the good fortune to get the punishment commuted for transportation. On the first conviction he was permitted to transport himself, which he did, to Ireland, till part of his time was expired, and the rest remitted: he also got off the second sentence; and, his mother dying

about the same time, left him a legacy of ten thousand pounds! On this occasion he was seriously advised, if possible, to retrieve his character; and, that he might not have the temptation of want for the renewal of his offences, the executor of his mother's will suffered him to draw upon him at discretion. But so indiscreet and imprudent an use did he make of this indulgence, that in less than three years nearly all the money was exhausted. He had for some time existed by depredations, and was at length taken up for a house-robbery. While in prison Mrs. Bellamy recognised him; and, at the age of three-and-twenty, he suffered for a robbery, committed two years before, after squandering a very respectable fortune. He demeaned himself decently at the gallows, and his body was taken away in a hearse.

The particulars of the robbery for which he paid his life a forfeit are as follow:—Mr. Bellamy deposed that on the 6th of June, 1791, he, in company with Mrs. Bellamy, his wife, was stopped in a

post-chaise near Epsom, by three footpads, who demanded his watch and money, and threatened to blow his brains out if he refused: that he (Mr. Bellamy,) presented a pistol at them, and said he was ready for them; on which the prisoner (Chamberlain) fired a pistol into the carriage, and immediately afterwards, with one of his companions, dragged Mr. Bellamy out of the chaise, took his watch and money from him, and then wounded him with a cutlass in a very dangerous manner. Mrs. Bellamy corroborated the whole on her husband's evidence, and positively swore to the person of the prisoner, who, she deposed, took bank-notes from her to the amount of ninety pounds, telling her that he would blow her brains out if she turned her head; and that he would teach Mr. Bellamy to carry pistols again; that on the 1st of May last she was sent for to the New Gaol in the Borough, where she immediately recollected the prisoner, who turned from her, and could not be prevailed upon to look her in the face.

JOHN SWINDEN,

EXECUTED FOR SECRETING A LETTER.

JOHN SWINDEN was a letter-sorter in the General Post-office, a situation which gave him frequent opportunities of committing the most dangerous and worst species of robbery, the crime being aggravated by breach of trust. He was indicted for feloniously secreting, in the city of London, a certain letter, containing a Bank of England note to the value of fifteen pounds, which had come into his possession by virtue of his employ.

Peter Wed, and others, proved the charge, and he was found guilty: the jury, however, recommended him

to mercy; but a breach of trust in any of the public offices is of so dangerous a nature, that their humane request could not, consistent with the public property, be in this case complied with.

There was something singular in the case of this unfortunate man. He was first committed to prison in the preceding September, and at the ensuing sessions, the evidence for the crown not being ready, his trial was put off, and he was admitted to bail. He honorably surrendered himself, but put his trial off till next sessions, alleging the

absence of a material witness; but when the fatal time came, he was found guilty.

The principal witness, and indeed the only one that could affect the life of this unfortunate man, was so friendly to him, that he absconded, and lay concealed at Birmingham, and the post-master offered a reward of fifty pounds for discovering him. But Swinden, being out upon bail, discovered to a friend, as he thought, where the witness lay hid. This friend discovered the retreat, the witness was brought to London, and Swinden prosecuted to conviction.

Whilst under sentence of death, he behaved in a penitent manner, and, having good friends, made great interest for a respite; but finding all hopes in vain, he prepared in earnest to meet his awful fate.

The following is a copy of a letter to his wife, while under sentence of death:—

*'Cells of Newgate, Tuesday
night, ten o'clock.'*

'My dear wife,—Wretch that I am! how shall I expiate my guilt?—my own sufferings cannot sufficiently atone for the load of afflictions I have brought upon you, my dear Mary, and upon our unhappy children. Forgive me, my dear, if you can, and we may yet meet together in a happier place, where there are no wants to tempt us to wickedness. I know you must struggle hard in this world; you will meet with shame and reproach you have not merited; but bear it with resignation; and, above all things, my dear wife, be careful to bring up our children in all humility; inspire them with an early sense of religion, their duty to God and man, and to shun that fatal extravagance which has been their

father's ruin; teach them to curb their passions, and to check their unreasonable desires, or, like me, they may be tempted, and suffer the punishment so justly due to dishonest practices.

'My dear Mary, I know not how to bid you farewell! The thought wrings my heart! but we must part! a few more unhappy hours, and I shall be no more! God grant us both strength and grace to bear our sufferings with a patient resignation to his will, and may he, for Christ's sake, forgive us our sins, then we shall be happy for ever after. Farewell, my dear love, farewell!

'JOHN SWINDEN.'

The following is a copy of another, written the night before his execution:—

'My dear wife,—I take the last opportunity, allowed me in this world, to return you my dying thanks for the affection, sincerity, and love, which I have ever experienced from you, and particularly during my present awful and deplorable situation. Since it is doomed that we must part, let me beg of you to submit, with patience and resignation, to the will of the Almighty, trusting in the sure and certain hope of a joyful meeting in Heaven, by the blood of our blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

'I beg that you will return my unfeigned thanks to all my friends, for their kind efforts in my favour; and tell my enemies that I forgive them, as I myself hope to be forgiven.

'And that the Lord may bless and comfort you, is the prayer of your dying husband, J. SWINDEN.'

He suffered with John Innes, July 11, 1794, and behaved in a very penitent manner.



The Execution and Decapitation of Watt.

**ROBERT WATT AND DAVID DOWNIE,
CONVICTED OF HIGH TREASON.**

WE are now arrived at an alarming period in the modern history of our country. Just engaged in the war with France, we were perplexed with disaffection at home, and threatened with invasion by our enemy.

Confederate bodies of dissatisfied men were formed, from London to Edinburgh, pursuing a systematic course of treason, and corresponding with each other, until government stretched out its powerful arm to defeat their plans.

Watt and Downie were principals in the Scottish conspiracy, and their trial came on before the High Court of Justiciary, at Edinburgh, on the 3d of September, 1794, when Mr. Anstruther stated the case on the part of the Crown. He began by observing, that such was the pe-

culiar happiness of this country, (Scotland,) that we had been unacquainted with the law of treason for nearly half a century. It was not his intention, if he possessed the powers, of inflaming the passions of the jury against the prisoners: his object was to give a plain, a dry narrative of the facts, and a succinct statement of the law.

The laws of treason were now the same in England and Scotland, and the duty of the subjects of both kingdoms should be the same. Scotland, in this instance, had reaped much benefit by the Union, as her laws of treason, previous to that period, were much more severe. The act of Edward III. stated three distinct species of treason: 1. Compassing and imagining the death of the king; 2. Levying war against

him; 3. Assisting his enemies. 'He would not trouble the Court or Jury with the two last: the single species of treason charged in the present case was the compassing and imagining the death of the king; which was defined by the conceiving such a design; not the actual act, but the attempt to effect it. But the law which thus anxiously guarded the sovereign was equally favorable to the subject; for it does not affect him until that imagination is fully proved before 'men of his condition.'

An overt act of treason is the means used for effectuating the purpose of the mind: it is not necessary to prove a direct attempt to assassinate the king; for the crime is the intention, and the overt act the means used to effect it.

He wished not that these sentiments might be held as the opinion of counsel: they were founded on the construction of the ablest writers, Chief Justices Foster, Hale, &c. and, whatever could be proved against the prisoners, which might endanger the king's person, was an overt act of high treason, in the language of the ablest writers.

After explaining more fully the distinct species of treason which applied to the present case, Mr. Anstruther said, he trusted that if he could prove any design whereby the king's person would be in danger, that was an overt act; if he was wrong, the judges would correct him.

He next stated the facts on which these principles of law were to be laid. The present conspiracy was not, he said, that of a few inconsiderable individuals: it had risen, indeed, from small beginnings; from meetings for pretended reforms. It had been fostered by seditious correspondence, the distribution of libellous writings, and had, at last,

risen to a height, which, but for the vigilance of administration, might have deluged the country, from one end to the other, with blood.

The proceedings of these societies, calling, or rather miscalling, themselves Friends of the People, were well known: their first intention was apparently to obtain reform; but, this not answering their purpose, they proceeded to greater lengths. He meant to detail the general plans and designs formed among the seditious, and then to state how far the prisoners were implicated in them.

The first dawning of this daring plan was in a letter from Hardy, Secretary to the London Corresponding Society, to Skirving, the secretary to the Friends of the People here.

He writes, that, as their petitions had been unsuccessful, they must use separate and more effectual measures. Skirving answered, and admitted the necessity of more effectual measures; that he foresaw the downfall of this government, &c. Here also was the first notice of a convention; a measure which it is no wonder they were fond of, when they saw its effects in a neighbouring kingdom (France). They meant not to petition Parliament, but to proceed in their own plan, and supersede the existing government of the country; and, in that case, the king's life was put in danger.

Soon after, a convention, a body unknown to the laws of this country, met; and in this there would have been little harm, had their views been peaceable; but their objects were avowedly unconstitutional, and their intention to carry on their plans by force, and thus virtually to lay aside the prerogative of the king.

This convention accordingly met,

using all the terms, regulations, &c. adopted by the convention of another country; in which it might be said there was in reality little harm, but it was surely a marking proof of their designs. They meant not to apply to Parliament; for, whenever that was mentioned, they proceeded to the order of the day. They resolved to oppose every act of Parliament which they deemed contrary to the spirit of the constitution, and were determined to sit until compelled to rise by a force superior to their own.

The convention, indeed, was dispersed by the spirited conduct of a magistrate, (Provost Elder,) whose merit every one was forward to acknowledge, and to whose active exertions the country was so much indebted; but another convention was attempted to be called, who were to frame their own laws, and to be independent of the legislature; or, as they say, independent of their plunderers, enemies, and oppressors, meaning the King, Lords, and Commons: their resolutions will prove that they meant to create a government of their own, to do away the authority of what they called hereditary senators and packed majorities; all which prove the intention of putting the king's life in danger.

But what, it may be said, is all this to the prisoner at the bar? who, surprising as it may appear, about two years ago wrote letters to Mr. Secretary Dundas, offering to give information as to certain designs of the friends of the people. These letters were answered with that propriety which has ever marked that gentleman's public conduct. The prisoner then corresponded with the lord-advocate, the particulars of which would appear, as his lordship was subpoenaed.

Since September, 1793, this correspondence had ceased. Previously

to that period, the prisoner was not a member of the Society of Friends of the People, nor of the British Convention; but his accession since to its measures, and the calling of another convention, could be substantiated. The convention, indeed, though dispersed, had not ceased to exist. In fact, a committee of correspondence, of which the prisoner was a member, was instituted, the object of which was to carry into effect the views of the last British Convention, and to elect delegates to a new one. Mr. Watt attended this committee, and coincided in its measures, which were expressly to supersede the legislature.

The prisoner had moved for a committee of union; and another was appointed, called the committee of ways and means, of both which he was a member. This last was a secret committee, kept no minutes, was permanent, and empowered to collect money to support 'the great cause.' Mr. Downie was appointed treasurer, and it was to be the medium through which all instructions and directions were to be given to all friends of the people throughout the kingdom, and was to procure information of the number of those that would spare no exertions to support the great cause.

They corresponded with Hardy respecting the calling of a new convention, which was to follow up the purposes of the old one; and, as the prisoner was present, he was in this way coupled with the British Convention.

Their next attempt was to debauch the minds of the soldiers, and to excite them to mutiny: for which purpose a paper was printed, and circulated among a regiment of fencibles then at Dalkeith. This paper, which was evidently seditious, would be brought home to the prisoner, for the types from

which it was printed were found in his house, and a copy traced from him into the hands of a soldier.

The next charge to be brought against the prisoner, and the committee of which he was a member, was a distinct and deliberate plan to overturn the existing government of the country.

The plan proposed was this:—A fire was to be raised near the Excise Office, (Edinburgh,) which would require the attendance of the soldiers in the Castle, who were to be met there by a body of the friends of the people, another party of whom were to issue from the West Bow, to confine the soldiers between two fires, and cut off their retreat; the Castle was next to be attempted; the judges (particularly the Lord Justice Clerk) were to be seized; and all the public banks were to be secured.

A proclamation was then to be issued, ordering all the farmers to bring in their grain to market as usual; and enjoining all country gentlemen to keep within their houses, or three miles from them, under penalty of death. Then an address was to be sent to his majesty, commanding him to put an end to the war, change the ministers, or take the consequences. Such was the plan of the committee of ways and means, as proposed by the prisoner.

Previous to this, it should have been mentioned, that all the friends of the people were to be armed; for which purpose, one Fairley was dispatched round the country to levy contributions, and disperse seditious pamphlets; and for which he received particular instructions from the prisoner.

Reports were spread through the same channel that the Goldsmiths' Hall Association were arming, and that it was necessary for the friends

of the people to arm also, for they would be butchered either by them or the French.

It would be proved that the prisoner gave orders to Robert Orrock to make four thousand pikes; and also orders to one Brown for the same purpose. These were to be used for completing the great plan; and Fairley's mission was to inform the country of these intended proceedings. Another representative body was also formed, called 'collectors of sense and money,' who were to have the distribution of the pikes, and to command the different parties. In one instance, a person had been desired to carry some pikes to the collectors; who made answer, that he could not do it, for the collectors were not to be trusted yet.

Mr. Anstruther then recapitulated shortly the different heads, and concluded an elaborate and most clear and distinct pleading, of more than two hours and a half, by requesting the jury to lay no farther stress on what he had said than it should be proved, as it was meant merely as a clue to the evidence which should be brought before them.

The first witness called was Edward Lauzun, a king's messenger. Upon being asked if he was employed last summer to search the house of one Hardy, in London, Mr. Hamilton, counsel for the prisoner, objected to the question, and insisted that, before proving any other matter whatever, some direct overt act committed by the prisoner must be proved.

Mr. Anstruther answered, that, before proving the prisoner guilty of being concerned in a particular plot or conspiracy, it was surely necessary first to prove that such plot or conspiracy existed. In the trials in the year 1745, before any particular overt act was attempted to be

proved against any of the accused, there was always evidence adduced to prove the existence of a rebellion.

The Court overruled the objection. The witness then swore that he seized several papers in Hardy's house, particularly a letter signed by one Skirving, and several others: also a printed circular letter, signed "T. Hardy, Secretary." These letters the witness produced.

Mr. William Scott, procurator fiscal for the shire of Edinburgh, gave an account of the seizure of Skirving's papers in December, 1793, and of the after-disposal of them. He produced several of these papers, particularly one entitled 'Minutes of Debate in the General Committee;' also several papers that were found in the lodgings of Margarot, Gerald, and Sinclair. Mr. Scott swore to his being present at the dispersion of the convention.

The letter by Skirving and Hardy, being authenticated by Mr. Lauzun, who swore he found it in Hardy's possession, was then read.

John Taylor, of Fleet Street, London, was then called. He swore he was a member of the London Corresponding Society, and was acquainted with Mr. Hardy, who was secretary to that society. Being shown several letters and papers, he believed them to be Hardy's handwriting.—The society consisted of several divisions, about fourteen, he thought, in number; there were several committees—particularly a grand one, which consisted of a member from each division, a committee of secrecy, and a committee of emergency. The latter was formed in May last. He attended a general meeting of the society at the Globe Tavern, on the 20th of January last: about one thousand were present. So great was the

crowd, that the floor gave way, and the meeting adjourned to the assembly-room, where the secretaries read the resolutions, which were afterwards printed. An address, founded on these resolutions, was afterwards carried by a show of hands. One of the resolutions was, that the motions of Parliament were to be watched over; and if troops were to be brought into the country, or the Habeas Corpus Act suspended, &c. that force ought to be repelled by force.

The witness produced a copy of these resolutions, which he got from a person of the name of Moir, in the presence of Hardy. He saw several other copies about the room. The witness was also present at another meeting, held at Chalk Farm (about two miles from London) on the 14th of April. The meeting was of the same nature as the former; there were about three thousand persons present, and, among others, Mr. Hardy.

Henry Goodman, clerk to Mr. Wickham, London, was present at the meeting at Chalk Farm, and heard the resolutions read. The resolutions now shown to him were, as far as he recollected, the resolutions passed at the meeting. He understood that it was the intention of the society to arm themselves, to protect the members in the same way that the National Convention of France had been protected by the citizens of Paris; that he heard this talked of in different meetings.

Alexander Atchison was a member of, and assistant secretary to, the British Convention, and wrote part of their minutes: he deposed that the papers now shown in Court to him he had often seen before; that he took down the minutes as accurately as he could; that he recollected Mr. Callendar making several motions in the convention;

and particularly an amendment to a motion which referred to a committee. This amendment was read: it related to the agreement in the convention to continue permanent, and watch over the motions of Parliament, &c. &c. that he knew Mr. Watt, the prisoner; and was, together with him, a member of the committee of union. That committee met in January last, the convention being previously dispersed in December. The purpose of this committee was to keep up a spirit of union among the friends of reform, and that he was sent there by the division of Cannongate.

The great object of the committee was to obtain the same kind of reform sought for by Mr. Pitt and the Duke of Richmond, about twelve years ago. That he was a member also of the committee of ways and means, which was instituted for the purpose of paying past debts, and to defray the expense of future delegates to another convention, to be held somewhere in England, which second convention was meant for the same purpose as the British Convention, namely, obtaining the reform first proposed by Pitt and Richmond; that he has often had conversations with different persons on the subject of reform; that he recollected having seen a pike in the house of George Ross, in the presence of several blacksmiths, which was shaped like the head of a halberd. Being asked whether he ever gave a different account of what he had now sworn at any other place, he believed he never did; if he did, it must be contrary to truth; and this he should say, though he should be guillotined for it.

Mr. W. Erskine, also counsel for the prisoners, here stopped the witness, who was removed. He said that it was an established point in the law of Scotland, that a witness

could not be affected by any thing he had before said relative to the present subject of his examination; nor could it hurt him in any degree.

Mr. Anstruther said that this did not exist in the law of England.

The lord-president observed that it appeared to him there was really a discrepancy in the law in this respect.

Mr. Anstruther here said that, to put an end to the dispute, and, as Atchison had conducted himself in such a manner, he would, so far from laying any stress on his evidence, request the jury to throw out of their minds every syllable he had used.

George Ross authenticated the minutes of convention, and other papers; knew the prisoner at the bar, and had seen him at his own house.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk deposed as to the pikes being brought from Watt's, and the fount of types, of which he had got an impression taken in the precise state they came from Watt's house.

After reading the paper, which was called 'An Address to the Fencibles,' James Sommeville, a printer, deposed as to the casting off the impression from the types.

William Watson, of Dalkeith, once saw Watt at his own house, but could not say whether the prisoner at the bar was the man. Remembered a fencible regiment in Dalkeith, which was about the time he met with Mr. Downie, who carried him to Watt's, to get a hand-bill about the fencibles, which he had heard of, and was curious to see, but could not get it there; and went to one Kennedy, on the South Bridge, from whence he received several copies.

The lord advocate said that, except those (Downie and Stock) against whom bills were already

found, he meant to bring no other person to trial for treason.

Arthur M'Ewan, weaver, of Leith, a member of the British Convention, and also of the committee of ways and means, of which last Watt was a member, deposed that at one of their meetings Watt read a paper, proposing to seize the judges, bank, &c. to decoy the soldiers by a fire, &c. but did not know what was to be done with the persons seized, nor whether it was to be done in the day or night. Commissioners were to be appointed to take charge of the cash; but knew not what was to follow this. Deposed as to the proclamation to corn-dealers, and country gentlemen, and the address to the king, to put an end to the war, &c. Watt asked him to accompany him to Orrock's, to whom he (Watt) gave orders to make pikes as fast as he could, as he had four thousand to send to Perth, besides what he had to distribute in Edinburgh. Orrock made a draft of one: a gentleman's servant, asking what was their use, was told that they were for mounting a gate. Knew that Fairley was sent into the country, and had visited a number of places; that he reported Paisley to be in a state of great readiness, but did not know what that meant. The witness disapproved of these proceedings, and would consent to nothing that would disturb the peace, or shed the blood of his countrymen; and he thought the plan proposed would have that tendency. Watt produced, at one of the meetings, a paper, containing what was called fundamental principles, which he knew but little of.

William Bonthorn was a member of the Society of the Friends of the People, but had resolved to withdraw, as things had passed which he disapproved of. Watt, at one of their meetings, read a paper, of

which he did not remember the particulars, as it confused him. The paper contained something about seizing the Castle, raising an alarm by fire, &c. upon the supposition that numbers could be got to assist them. Remembered nothing of particular persons being intended to be seized, but thought the bank was mentioned: this paper frightened him much; it mentioned also the seizing the guard-house; recollected no numbers that were mentioned to carry this plan into effect. M'Ewan showed an opposition to it. The circular letter of the committee was written by Mr. Stock.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk deposed as to the finding sundry papers in Watt's house, one the drawing of a pike, and the paper sworn to by Atchison, in the sub-committee.

John Fairley, of Broughton, a delegate to the convention, deposed that his constituents met after the dissolution of that body. Heard that pikes were making, and Watt informed him of this, or rather showed him one. Watt said that they were only intended for self-defence, and that none were to get them but those who applied and paid for them. Measures of government might drive them to despair, and cause bloodshed; but Watt said he hoped there would be none, as the obnoxious or active against the cause of the people would be imprisoned: the soldiers would be glad of freedom, and deputations might be sent them. Watt proposed to show the arms to the collectors, which the witness objected to, as hazardous. In going to the West country, a parcel was left for him by Watt, containing papers for distribution, which he left at Stirling, St. Ninian's, Kirkintulloch, Glasgow, Paisley, &c.

On his return to Edinburgh he went to the committee of ways and

means; that Watt, Downie, and M'Ewan, were there, to whom he reported the result of his journey. Returned the instructions to Watt; they mentioned, he recollected, something about a plan, and Britain being free; Downie paid him the expenses of his journey.

Dr. Forrest, at Stirling, gave an account of Fairley's calling on him, showing him his written instructions, &c. In these instructions there was a blank, which he supposed was to be filled up 'arms.' Showed him the figure of a weapon like a halberd, which was preparing for defence, and that these weapons could be furnished by a person who he understood was about Edinburgh. Something passed about arming the people, and disarming the soldiers.

Robert Orrock, smith, first heard arms mentioned in G. Ross's house, in March last. In April Watt applied to him to make a pike, and he brought one to Ross's, where Watt and other members of the committee were, and he left it at Watt's desire. In May Watt desired him to make more of that pattern, and some of a different kind. While making them, a person (Martin Todd) called and showed a form of a pike, which he refused to make. Brown also called, and told him he was making pikes for Watt, and that one thousand were wanted; but spoke of this as a secret, which alarmed the witness. The extent of his order was five dozen, which were ordered by Watt, but paid for by Downie. He was told, if inquired about, to say they were for the top of a gate: never had an order for pikes before; but had made one for his own defence, without being employed by any person.

Martin Todd, smith, deposed as to calling on Orrock, to inquire about the pikes.

William Brown, smith, said one

Robertson called on him to bespeak several spears, of a particular shape, for Watt; and at another time he made fourteen spears for Mr. Watt, like mole-spears. Recollected the conversation with Orrock, but did not say that such a number of pikes would be wanted.

John Fairley was re-examined, at his own desire. He recollected Watt saying that the banks and public offices were to be seized. The most active against them were to be imprisoned, and couriers sent to the country to announce this. The magistrates of Edinburgh were particularly spoken of.

Walter Miller, Perth, sent money to Downie, for relief of distressed patriots in the cause of reform; never had authority for supposing that the new convention had any object but reform by legal means.

Here the evidence of the crown was closed.

Mr. W. Erskine, junior counsel for the prisoner, said that, as the Court had sat so long, he would not trouble them with many words. He would rest his defence upon the correspondence carried on between the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, the lord-advocate, and the prisoner, by which it would appear that he had attended the meetings of the Friends of the People with no other view than a design to give information of their proceedings. A letter from the prisoner to Mr. Secretary Dundas was read, which stated in substance that, as he did not approve of the dangerous principles which then prevailed in Scotland, and was a friend to the constitution of his country; he thought it his duty to communicate to him, as a good subject, what information he could procure of the proceedings of those who styled themselves 'Friends of the People.' From an acquaintance with several of the

leading men among them, he flattered himself he had this in his power; and then went on to mention some of the names of those leading men in Perth, Dundee, and Edinburgh. In the first of these places he said he had been educated, and had resided in the two last for a considerable number of years. It concluded with enjoining secrecy.

To this letter an answer was returned, which was also read. It acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Watt's, and, after expressing a hope that things were not so bad as he represented, desired him to go on, and he might depend upon his communications being kept perfectly secret. Another letter from Mr. Dundas to Mr. M'Ritchie, the prisoner's agent, was next read, in answer to one from Mr. M'Ritchie, requesting of Mr. Dundas what letters he had of the prisoner's. The answer bore, that all the letters he had received from Mr. Watt had been delivered to the lord-advocate.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk authenticated the letter of Mr. Dundas.

The lord-advocate being sworn, in exculpation, he gave a distinct account of the transactions which he had had with the prisoner. He had conversed with him several times at his own lodgings; and he had at one time given him some information which he thought of importance. This was respecting the disaffection of some dragoons at Perth, which, upon inquiry, turned out to be ill founded.

In March, 1793, his lordship said an offer had been made to him to disclose some important secrets, provided he would give the prisoner one thousand pounds. This he absolutely refused. However, some time after, the prisoner having informed him that he was much pressed for money to retrieve a bid of thirty

pounds, his lordship, who was then in London, not wishing he should be distressed for such a small sum, sent him an order for the payment of it. All this happened previous to the meeting of the convention; since which time, at least since October last, he did not recollect seeing or having any connexion with the prisoner.

Mr. Hamilton contended that the prosecutor had failed in bringing the most criminal part of it home to the prisoner. He dwelt long on the correspondence between Mr. Dundas and Mr. Watt. He said the prisoner had not deserted the service in which he had engaged; but had not had an opportunity of exercising it until the very time he was apprehended.

He contended that he was a spy for government; and it was well known that a spy was obliged to assume not only the appearance of those whose secrets he meant to reveal, but even to take part in their proceedings, in order to prevent a discovery. He alluded to spies in armies, and mentioned a melancholy circumstance which happened to one last war, a gentleman with whom he had the honour of being acquainted. A spy in an army, he said, was obliged not only to assume the uniform of the enemy, but even to appear in arms; and it would be exceedingly hard indeed, if taken in a conflict, that he should be punished for discharging his duty. He concluded with hoping the jury would bring in a verdict, finding the charges not proved.

The lord-president, after clearly defining the laws of treason, summed up the evidence, narrating and explaining the various parts with much candour, leaving it entirely to the jury to return such a verdict as their judgment should direct.

The jury withdrew about half

past five o'clock in the morning, and, in about five minutes, returned with a verdict—Guilty.

The trial lasted nearly twenty-two hours.

The jury were upwards of forty minutes considering the case of Downie; the majority agreeing among themselves that he was guilty, they reconciled themselves to this verdict at last, by unanimously consenting to recommend him to mercy, which they did in a very strong manner.

Shortly after the following awful sentence of the Court was passed upon these unfortunate men:—

‘Robert Watt and David Downie, you have been found guilty of high treason by your peers. The sentence of the Court is, therefore, that you be taken to the place from whence you came, from thence you shall be drawn on a sledge to the place of execution, on Wednesday, the 15th of October; there to hang by your necks till you are both dead; your bowels to be taken out, and cast in your faces; and each of your bodies to be cut in four quarters, to be at the disposal of his majesty; and the Lord have mercy on your souls!’

The unfortunate prisoners received the dreadful sentence with much firmness and composure, and were immediately conducted to the Castle.

Robert Watt was ordered for execution, but a respite came for David Downie: as soon as it was intimated to Downie, he started, as from a dream, and exclaimed, ‘Glory to God, and thanks to the king for his goodness! I will pray for him as long as I live.’ After which tears of gratitude flowed. He was transported for life.

About half past one o'clock on the 15th of October, 1794, the two junior magistrates, with white rods in

their hands, white gloves, &c. the Rev. Principal Baird, and a number of constables, attended by the town officers, and the city guard lining the streets, walked in procession from the council-chamber to the east end of Castle Hill, when a message was sent to the sheriffs in the Castle, that they were there waiting to receive the prisoner.

The prisoner was immediately placed in a hurdle, with his back to the horse, and the executioner, with a large axe in his hand, took his seat opposite to him, at the further end of the hurdle.

The procession then set out from the castle, the sheriffs walking in front, with white rods in their hands, white gloves, &c. a number of county constables surrounding the hurdle, and the military keeping off the crowd. In this manner they proceeded until they joined the magistrates, when the military returned to the Castle, and then the procession was conducted in the following order:—

- The city constables;
- Town officers, bare-headed;
- Bailie Lothian and Bailie Dalrymple;
- Rev. Principal Baird;
- Mr. Sheriff Clerk and Mr. Sheriff Davidson;
- A number of county constables;
- THE HURDLE,
- Painted black, and drawn by a white horse;
- A number of county constables.

The city guard lined the streets, to keep off the multitude.

When they had reached the Tolbooth door, the prisoner was taken from the hurdle, and conducted into the prison, where a considerable time was spent in devotional exercise.

The prisoner then came out upon the platform, attended by the magistrates, sheriffs, Principal Baird, &c. Some time was then spent in prayer and singing psalms; after which the

prisoner mounted the drop-board, and was soon launched into eternity.

When the body was taken down it was stretched upon a table, and the executioner, with two blows of the axe, severed off the head, which was received into a basket, and then held up to the multitude, while the executioner called aloud, 'There is the head of a traitor, and so perish all traitors!'

The body and head were then placed in a coffin, and removed.

Never was any execution conducted with more solemnity and order. The procession advanced with a slow step, and the prisoner exhibited a most melancholy spectacle. He held a Bible in his hand; his eyes remained in a fixed posture, upwards, and he was not observed to make one movement, or cast a single glance upon the multitude. He was much emaciated, and his countenance so pale, that, while on his way to the place of execution, he appeared almost lifeless; but, when he came upon the platform, he seemed to be somewhat revived, and behaved himself, during the awful solemnity, with due resignation and humble fortitude.

The impression the situation had made upon himself seemed truly astonishing, as those who had ever seen him before declared they could not have known him to be the same person. His appearance was dirty, muffled up in a great coat; and he showed signs of peculiar agitation and remorse for the crime for which he was then going to suffer.

The surrounding multitude, during the execution of the awful proceeding, did not discover any other emotion than is usual upon occasions of any other executions. The town

guard, attended by the constables, lined the streets.

Robert Watt was born in the shire of Kincardine, and was, at the time of his execution, about thirty-six years old. He was the natural son of a Mr. Barclay, a gentleman of fortune and respectability; but, like most other children of illegitimate parentage, he was brought up and educated under the name of his mother. He was, at about ten years of age, sent to Perth, where he received a very good education. Being sixteen, he engaged himself with a lawyer at Perth; but, being of a religious disposition, he was disgusted at this profession, and soon withdrew from the desk of his master.

Soon after he went to Edinburgh, and engaged as a clerk in a paper-warehouse, where he lived happily and respectably for some years. His only complaint was a deficiency of salary.

Having a desire to share in the profits as well as the toils of the business, he wrote to his father, and prevailed upon him to assist him with some money, to enable him to procure a partnership with his master.

He then made proposals to the above purpose; these were, however, rejected by his employer. Being provided with money, he entered into the wine and spirit trade. His success in business continued very promising, until he was almost ruined by the commencement of the war. At this period his acquaintance with the Friends of the People commenced, numbers of whom, to avoid the avenging arm of the law, fled to America, where they vented their rage in abusing their native land.

JEREMIAH READING,

CONVICTED OF FORGERY.

THE forgery for which this man was tried was supposed to have been committed by two swindlers—John King, and one White. There was much hard swearing to bolster up a respectability to the character of the former, but the learned judge seemed to be of opinion that the prisoner was, to use his own words, ‘a scape-goat in their hands.’

Jeremiah Reading was tried for forging the name of John King, as an acceptance to a bill of exchange for eighty pounds, with intent to defraud William Dolben and Richard Brown, linen-drapers, in Bishops-gate Street.

William Dolben, being sworn, deposed that in the month of February, 1792, the prisoner, who had been for a considerable time indebted to them in the sum of nine pounds, applied to him, saying he had now the means of discharging the arrears, having received a note, which he wished to have discounted. For that night he wished to receive only ten pounds, which he had immediate occasion for. He described White, the drawer of the bill, to be a reputable merchant in Bristol; and King, the acceptor, a man of opulence, who resided in a large house in Berkeley Street, Portman Square, and kept a carriage, livery-servants, &c.

The witness remarked that the acceptance in the bill appeared in the place where indorsements are usually made. To this the prisoner replied that when he took the bill he made the same observation; but that Mr. King assured him he always accepted his bills in that way, and that it should be regularly honored when it became due. He then gave him twenty pounds, for which he took his receipt.

The prisoner not returning for the remainder of the money, suspicion was excited, and the witness consequently made inquiry after the drawer and acceptor. The result was, that White had once resided in Bristol, but had disappeared for two years; but, as to King, no such person was to be found in Berkeley Street. The witness, having occasion to pay a visit in the King's Bench, found Reading a prisoner there, and brought him to trial.

A servant in the prosecutor's house corroborated this testimony; and the collector of the taxes said that no person of the name of King was a yearly housekeeper in Berkeley Street, otherwise he must have known him.

This was the scope of the evidence for the prosecution.

In defence, one Clark appeared, who swore that he lived as clerk in the house of White, in Bristol, and recollected having copied the note in question, and its being forwarded to King in Berkeley Street. The witness underwent an examination of two hours, in which he was required to give an account of himself. This he did in a very extraordinary manner, beginning at the time when he was only three years old; but it was impossible to extract from him in what manner he had employed himself for the last eighteen months.

Allen, a hair-dresser, deposed that he lived near Soho Square, in good business; and that, in the year 1792, he dressed a Mr. King, in Berkeley Street, Portman Square. He recollected that about the end of February the prisoner came to Mr. King, while he was dressing him, and presented a bill, which he accepted. He added that all that

conversation took place relative to the extraordinary mode of indorsement, &c. which was related by the prisoner when passing the bill upon Dolben. He also stated a circumstance of King's receiving a letter addressed to him under the name of Nugent.

Several witnesses gave the prisoner a good character, amongst whom was a Miss Davis, whose mother's house in Berkeley Street he frequented for three years.

Mr. Justice Grose summed up this very intricate evidence in an able and circumstantial manner. He commented upon all the points; and, when he came to that which regarded King's passing by the name of Nugent, Miss Davis requested the liberty of interrupting him. She said that the mention of the name of Nugent called a circumstance to her remembrance, which, as it may affect the case before the Court, she thought it her duty to state, though she could not have done so in her direct evidence, the whole having been suggested by the testimony of another witness. She then related that a person of the name of Nugent had taken lodgings at her mother's, and refused to give any reference for character, saying there was no occasion for it, as he was a regular man, and would pay weekly. He afterwards absconded in the night; and, on sweeping the room one morning, she found a pawnbroker's duplicate of an article pledged in the name of John King. Having never seen a pawnbroker's ticket before, she showed it to a gentleman, and their mutual curiosity led them to pay a visit to the pawnbroker. The latter told them that he had directions to stop any person who should apply with the ticket; and that the instruction was given by the person who deposited the pledge. On the affair being

explained, the pawnbroker gave a description of the man, which perfectly corresponded with the person of Nugent.

She was desired to produce the ticket; but said that, having no idea that such a circumstance would apply in evidence in this case, she had not brought it with her, as she otherwise would have done.

The learned judge, after a short hesitation, proceeded to his charge. He remarked that what they had last heard went in a great measure to confirm the evidence of Allen. If the jury should be led to attribute the whole to a foul and fraudulent conspiracy of White and King as an expedient for raising money, and that the prisoner was only a scape-goat in their hands, it was not a forgery, as charged in the indictment, and they must of course acquit him. They were not to convict upon doubt, inference, probability, or conjecture. The question to be considered was, whether the prisoner uttered this instrument knowing it to be forged? If they believed the evidence of Allen and Clark, corroborated by that of Davis, the charge was fully rebutted; if not, the other evidence was sufficient to convict him.

The jury, after retiring for a considerable time, returned with a verdict, finding the prisoner guilty on the second count of the indictment—'Guilty of uttering the bill, knowing it to be forged.'—Death.

The learned judge, however, thought proper to reserve the case for the opinion of the judges; and accordingly, at the Sessions House in the Old Bailey, 1794, the judges were of opinion that, as the indictment stated the bill to be directed to John King, by the name and description of John King, and as there was no such person to be found as John King, that their description

was erroneous, and repugnant to the precision the law required in the form of indictments, and that, therefore, the judgment ought to be arrested. The case, however, being of great public importance, the judges were of opinion that the pri-

soner ought not to be discharged, as the prosecutor was at liberty to prefer a new indictment against him. The prisoner was of course detained in custody. However, in the succeeding month, March, he received his majesty's free pardon.

JOHN INNES,
EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

JOHN INNES was born at Glasgow, in Scotland; his father was a respectable merchant at that place, and gave his son a good education, by which he profited little, but as it enabled him with greater art and cunning to impose upon others. In the earlier part of his life he followed the sea, the instability of his mind not suffering him to pursue any settled employ till his return, when he married an amiable young woman, by whom he had seven children.

During the period of his marriage state he was sober, steady, and diligent; but on the death of his wife his rambling disposition returned: he soon spent in extravagance and debauchery a decent fortune he had accumulated by trade, and was necessitated to follow some other pursuit. The connexion of his family, the good character he had once borne, and his abilities together, soon procured him an appointment as steward of a nobleman's estate. In this situation his mind took a different turn; he became griping and avaricious in the extreme; his conduct was vexatious and oppressive to the tenants, from whom he extorted considerable sums by threats, continually involving them in lawsuits, and other difficulties, and then extorting money from them, by way of compromising the dispute.

In this situation he remained till the death of the nobleman, when the estate was sold: he then turned money-lender, and practised as a

pettifogging attorney, by which unlawful practice he acquired immense wealth: but his covetous disposition was not yet satisfied; he wanted to gain riches by wholesale, when unluckily he determined upon forging a will, purporting it to be the last will of Anthony Bowman, deceased, with an intent to defraud Sir Charles Morgan, Bart. and Thomas Wright, Esq.

The prisoner brought an action in the Court of King's Bench against the prosecutors, to recover money in virtue of the will: but the first witness he called to prove the will said that he was nephew to Innes, and at the request of his uncle came to swear to a falsity, for that he knew the will to be a forgery.

His trial came on February 21, 1794, when his guilt appearing evident, the jury, without hesitation, brought in their verdict—Guilty.

He protested his innocence in the most solemn manner till the day before his death; but when he found all would not save him, and came to the place of execution, he addressed the spectators in the following words:—

‘ Good people,—You see in me the victim of early prodigality and late covetousness. In my youth I stuck at nothing to indulge my passion; when advanced in years, nothing would satisfy my thirst for riches; and I now justly meet the punishment due to my abominable extortions and wickedness. I have

hitherto denied my guilt; but now I wish to atone for it in some degree, by acknowledging it before God and man. May every one take warning by my example! So,

good people, I beg your prayers; may God bless you all, and have mercy upon my sinful soul! So saying, he met his fate before Newgate, at the Old Bailey, July 11, 1794.

ROBERT RAINE AND WILLIAM EVERSFIELD,

CONVICTED OF ROBBERY.

ROBERT RAINE and WILLIAM EVERSFIELD were indicted for feloniously assaulting Elizabeth Carter, putting her in fear, and forcibly taking from her person a pocket, containing a pair of spectacles, and other things.

Elizabeth Carter swore that on the 5th of March, as she was returning from Islington, at nine in the evening, she was pushed off the foot-path, in Spafields, Clerkenwell, by the two prisoners at the bar. Eversfield tripped her up, and, throwing himself upon her, called out to his comrade to give him a knife. That a knife being given him, he cut off her pocket, which he delivered to Raine, who ran off with it; after which Eversfield struck her several blows in the face, which caused her mouth and nose to bleed in a violent manner. Soon after this a watchman came up, and took her under his protection, and, leading her towards his box, she heard the cry of 'Watch!' Almost immediately after this she saw Eversfield delivered by a gentleman into the custody of the officer. She immediately knew him to be one of the men who robbed her.

The patrol of Clerkenwell parish, being informed by a casual passenger that a woman lay bleeding in the grass, went to the place, and found her in the situation described. He was leading her along, when he was called by a gentleman, who delivered Eversfield into his custody.

Mr. Sarrell said that he was an attorney, and lived in Spafields;

that on the 5th of March, about ten at night, he was attacked by the two prisoners, near his own house, who attempted to rob him of a small bundle which he had in his hand. He immediately seized Eversfield, and delivered him to the patrol.

The patrol, in consequence of the woman's description, apprehended Raine the next day, and found in his possession a pair of spectacles, a nutmeg-grater, &c. all which articles the prosecutrix swore to.

The prisoners, in their defence, said that the prosecutrix frequently visited them in prison, and expressed an unwillingness to prosecute them; that she agreed to make it up for six guineas, and had received two guineas in part.

Elizabeth Carter, on being questioned by the Court, said that, at the earnest entreaty of Raine's wife, she went once to Newgate.

The charge being clearly proved, the jury found them guilty—Death.

William Eversfield was born of poor, but honest parents, in the parish of St. Sepulchre, in the city of London, and at an early age put into the charity school belonging to the parish.

Being a sharp and active lad, he took what learning the school afforded very fast, and, upon quitting it, very few in the school could surpass him in reading and writing.

He then lived some time in Chick Lane, as pot-boy to a public house, and, quitting that situation, was bound as an apprentice to a knife-case maker, residing near Smithfield.

In this situation his behaviour was so very indifferent, that his master frequently declared he verily believed his apprentice, Eversfield, would come to the gallows.

When out of his time he paid but little attention to business; and, giving himself up to idleness and bad company, supported a precarious livelihood by committing those depredations upon the public, which, in the prime of life, had nigh brought him to an untimely and wretched

end. He received, however, a conditional pardon, on account of his youth.

Robert Raine, concerned with him in committing the robbery, declared that idleness and bad company were the cause of his ruin. Whilst under sentence of death they behaved in a manner suitable to their melancholy situation. Raine suffered with John Innes and Swinden, leaving behind him a wife and two small children.

THOMAS DUNN,

PILLORIED AND IMPRISONED FOR PERJURY.

THIS perjured man appeared as a witness against Mr. Walker, of Manchester, a gentleman in high estimation, and nine other innocent men, who were put upon their trials on a charge of high treason.

Mr. Sergeant Cockell, the counsel for the prosecution, entered very fully, and with great feeling, upon the nature of the charge, which contained no less than ten different perjuries imputed to Dunn, the defendant. Taking advantage of some local circumstances and prejudices in the town of Manchester, this man had accused several innocent and respectable individuals of the greatest crime known to the law, viz. high treason.

Two witnesses, however, being required to every treasonable act, they were indicted only for a misdemeanor; but had the jury who tried them believed the diabolical fabrication of this prisoner (then a witness,) the effects must have proved ruinous and destructive to these parties and their families; and, if any second person could have been found equally detestable with him, Mr. Walker, and nine of his fellow-subjects, would probably have forfeited their lives and properties, although totally free from any offence.

It pleased one of the magistrates of Manchester to accept this Dunn as a fit person to be evidence against these gentlemen, but on an investigation of the case before a jury, they were honorably acquitted. Previously to their trials, however, Mr. Paul, one of them, had been committed for treason, and lingered for more than two months in Lancaster Castle. During this interval Dunn felt the sharpest compunction for the accusation he had made, and voluntarily sought occasion to see Mr. Walker, who admitted of this with all possible precaution, having persons of character present during the whole time of his stay, and never being alone in his company. Dunn, in their hearing, begged pardon for the injury he had done to Mr. Walker; said that he had been bribed to the deed, and that he had sworn falsely when before the grand jury. On the trial of Mr. Walker, however, being questioned as to these confessions, he answered that no such thing had ever occurred.

The record of Mr. Walker's trial being read, Mr. Gurney, who took notes of it at the time, read from them what Dunn had sworn on his evidence for the crown, and on his cross-examination.

To prove the falsehood of the facts sworn to by Dunn, various witnesses were called; and, among the rest, Mr. Ridgway and Mr. Jones stated that they saw Dunn at Mr. Walker's house on the 18th of March; that he fell upon his knees, and begged Mr. Walker's pardon; said that he had injured his character, that he had accused him falsely, and that he had been bribed to what he had done; and that, when Mr. Walker refused to be alone with him, he threatened him, and said it should be worse for him.

Several other witnesses were called, who corroborated the above facts.

Mr. Scarlett made an ingenious defence for the prisoner; after which Mr. Justice Rooke summed up the evidence in a very full and perspicuous manner, and the Jury returned their verdict—Guilty.

He received the judgment of the Court, that he should be confined two years in Lancaster gaol, and stand once within that period in the pillory.

His trial took place at Lancaster, September the 2d, 1791.



Mr. Rowan consulting Mr. Dowling on his Escape.

ARCHIBALD HAMILTON ROWAN, ESQ. CONVICTED OF PUBLISHING A SEDITIOUS LIBEL.

THE extraordinary and somewhat romantic circumstances attending Mr. Rowan's escape induce us to insert this case, though we do not consider the very numerous convictions for seditious publications and

expressions which took place about this period as being all within our province. The agitated state of this country, and of Ireland in particular, arising from the alarming circumstances with which the pro-

ceedings of the French revolutionists were attended, occasioned a series of prosecutions, the record of which would alone fill volumes.

In the Court of King's Bench, Dublin, on the 29th of January, 1794, Archibald Hamilton Rowan, Esq. was tried for publishing, on the 16th of December, 1792, a false, scandalous, malicious, and seditious libel, purporting to be an address from the United Irishmen of Dublin to the volunteers of Ireland, signed by Mr. Rowan, as secretary, against his majesty's government, &c. A person who, in June, 1793, received an ensigncy in the 40th regiment, without purchase, was called to prove the publication. Exceptions were taken to the credibility of his testimony, on account of his formerly having been a witness to two bonds passed by his father to his younger brother, which were suspected of being forgeries. Three witnesses were called to his credibility, two of whom said they did not know enough of him to speak positively; and a third that he was not to be believed, even on his oath.

A second witness was called in support of the prosecution, whose evidence was defective, and admitted by the Court to go for nothing.

Mr. Curran made an admirable defence for the prisoner, to which the attorney-general and the prime-sergeant replied; and Lord Chief-Justice the Earl of Clonmel having summed up the evidence, the jury retired a few minutes, and returned with a verdict—Guilty. Mr. Rowan was immediately conveyed to Newgate, and Mr. Curran was escorted by the people to his own house.

On the 7th of February, Mr. Justice Boyd, after a motion for a new trial, which was overruled, pronounced the sentence, which was

imprisonment for two years, a fine of five hundred pounds, and security for good behaviour for seven years; Mr. Rowan in two thousand pounds, and two others in one thousand pounds each.

After two or three months of his imprisonment had expired, William Jackson, a divine of some notoriety in England, and several others, were arrested on a charge of high treason, in which it appeared probable that Rowan would be implicated; he therefore determined on effecting his escape, and the manner in which he accomplished it has been thus narrated:—

Having discovered, on the 28th of April, 1794, the extent of the danger in which he was involved, he arranged a plan of flight, to be put into execution on the night of the 1st of May. He had the address to prevail on the gaoler of Newgate, who knew nothing farther of his prisoner than that he was under sentence of confinement for a political libel, to accompany him at night to Mr. Rowan's own house. They were received by Mrs. Rowan, who had a supper prepared in the front room of the second floor. The supper over, the prisoner requested the gaoler's permission to say a word or two in private to his wife in the adjoining room. The latter consented, on the condition of the door between the two rooms remaining open. He had so little suspicion of what was meditated, that, instead of examining the state of this other room, he contented himself with shifting his chair at the supper-table, so as to give him a view of the open door-way. In a few seconds his prisoner was beyond his reach, having descended by a single rope, which had been slung from the window of the back chamber. In his stable he found a horse ready saddled, and a peasant's outside

coat to disguise him. With these he posted to the house of his attorney, Matthew Dowling, who was in the secret of his design, and had promised to contribute to his success by his counsel and assistance. Dowling was at home, but unfortunately his house was full of company. He came out to the street to Mr. Rowan, who personated the character of a country client, and, hastily pointing out the great risk to be incurred from any attempt to give him refuge in his own house, directed him to proceed to the Rotunda (a public building in Sackville Street, with an open space in front), and remain there until Dowling could dispatch his guests, and come to him. Irish guests were in those days rather slow to separate from the bottle. For one hour and a half the fugitive had to wait, leading his horse up and down before the Rotunda, and tortured between fear and hope at the appearance of every person that approached. He often represented this as the most trying moment of his life. Dowling at length arrived, and, after a short and anxious conference, advised him to mount his horse, and make for the country house of their friend, Mr. Sweetman, which was situate about four miles off, on the northern side of the Bay of Dublin. This place he reached in safety, and found there the refuge and aid which he sought. After a delay of two or three days Mr. Sweetman engaged three boatmen of the neighbourhood to man his own pleasure-boat, and convey Hamilton Rowan to the coast of France. They put to sea at night; but, a gale of wind coming on, they were compelled to put back, and take shelter under the lee of the Hill of Howth. While at anchor there on the following morning, a small revenue cruiser, sailing by, threw into the boat

copies of the proclamations that had issued, offering two thousand pounds for the apprehension of Hamilton Rowan. The weather having moderated, the boat pushed out to sea again. They had reached the mid-channel, when a situation occurred almost equalling in dramatic interest the celebrated '*Cæsarem vehis*' of antiquity.

As the boat careered along before a favorable wind, the exiled Irishman perceived the boatmen grouped apart, perusing one of the proclamations, and, by their significant looks and gestures, discovering that they had recognised the identity of their passenger with the printed description. 'Your conjectures are right, my lads,' said Rowan; 'my life is in your hands—but you are Irishmen.' They flung the proclamation overboard, and the boat continued her course. On the third morning, a little after break of day, they arrived within view of St. Paul de Leon, a fortified town on the coast of Bretagne. As the sun rose, it dispersed a dense fog that had prevailed overnight, and discovered, a couple of miles behind them, moving along under easy sail, the British Channel fleet, through the thick of which their little boat had just shot unperceived.

The party, having landed, were arrested as spies, and cast into prison; but in a few days an order from the French government procured their liberation. Hamilton Rowan proceeded to Paris, from which, in a political convulsion that shortly ensued, it was his fate once more to seek for safety in flight. He escaped this time, unaccompanied, in a wherry, which he himself rowed down the Seine. The banks were lined with military; but he answered their challenges with so much address, that he was allowed to pass on unmolested. Having

reached a French port, he embarked for the United States of America, where at length he found a secure asylum.

After several years passed in wandering and exile, the merits of his personal character prevailed against the remembrance of his political aberrations, and an act of royal clemency, generously conceded without any humiliating conditions, restored him once more to his country, where he continued to reside, in the bosom of domestic quiet, and in the habitual exercise of every virtue. He had the satisfaction, too, in his old age, of finding that, in a public point of view, his debt of gratitude to the crown had not been wholly unpaid. In his eldest son, Captain

Hamilton, of the Cambrian frigate, he gave to the British navy one of its most gallant and distinguished commanders.

The circumstances of Mr. Rowan's escape, as stated by those who had him in charge, were not credited by the jury before whom they were tried for aiding and assisting him therein, Alexander M'Dowell and William M'Dowell, under keepers of the Newgate of Dublin, being found guilty of that offence, and sentenced to be imprisoned one year and nine months, being the unexpired period of Mr. Rowan's sentence, and to pay a fine of two hundred and fifty pounds each, making five hundred pounds, the sum he was condemned to pay.

WILLIAM BUTTERWORTH AND FRANCIS JENNISON, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

AT the Hants assizes, in the beginning of August, 1794, William Butterworth and Francis Jennison, two convicts at Cumberland Fort, were tried before Mr. Justice Grose and Mr. Baron Thompson, for the murder of Mr. John Groundwater, one of the persons deputed to look after them. The circumstances of this murder were of the most brutal and atrocious nature. These hardened wretches, on being reprimanded by Mr. Groundwater, who threatened to report them for ill behavior, swore that they would rip his bowels out; and were heard by another of the convicts debating about the manner of perpetrating the murder. Accordingly, about six in the evening of the same day, they fell upon him with two iron shovels, with which they had been at work in spreading gravel, and with which they gave him three such wounds on the skull, that his brains fell out in the quantity of a double handful. They then struck down one of the

shovels upon his neck, with intent to sever the head from the body, but, striking against the bone, it had not the intended effect. The rest of the convicts ran to the spot, and one of them caught hold of Butterworth, to prevent his mangling the body any more; but, after a struggle, he disengaged himself, ran back to the unfortunate sufferer, and, catching up the spade again, gave him several cuts, saying, 'There, damn him, I have done him out and out.' On being remonstrated with for his inhuman conduct, he replied that he was transported for life, and he would rather be hanged than suffer that sentence. It is a most extraordinary circumstance, established on the evidence of Mr. Hill, surgeon, who attended him, that Mr. Groundwater lived eighteen hours after he had received these grievous wounds, notwithstanding the brains had fallen out, and a prodigious effusion of blood had taken place. He never spoke after the second blow was

given him, but the action of the pulse was strong, and respiration continued the whole of the eighteen hours above mentioned. This fact seems to decide the long-contested point between physiologists, whether the seat of life is in the heart, or in the brain? and evidently shows it to be in the former.

Butterworth, though thus steeled in cruelty, was only nineteen years old; his wretched companion was twenty-five. The atrocious publicity of the deed, and consequent clear evidence of their guilt, would not admit of their setting up any defence. The jury pronounced them guilty: they were sentenced to be executed in three days after in Lanston Harbour, and their bodies to be afterwards hung in chains in Cumberland Fort.

They were taken from gaol about four o'clock on Monday morning, and reached Portsea about eleven. The spectators that crowded to see the execution were immense. Both the prisoners acknowledged that they alone were the persons who committed the murder, exculpating

all the other convicts from a participation in this horrid offence. Their behaviour was very penitent, and they seemed to sensibly feel the enormity of their crime. The execution took place about twelve o'clock, and their bodies were afterwards hung in chains, pursuant to sentence, near the spot where the murder was committed.

From the confession of the prisoners it appeared that, though very young, they had committed a great many robberies, and had lived by depredations on the public almost from their childhood. The eldest of these offenders received sentence of death for a burglary at the previous summer assizes at Derby, but was reprieved on condition of serving on board the hulks for life. Butterworth had also been capitally convicted for a similar offence at the assizes at Maidstone, and received a reprieve on the same condition; he had been on board the hulks not more than seven days, when he and the other prisoner resolved to destroy Mr. Groundwater.

NOAH PIERCE,

CONVICTED OF STEALING A MAIL-BAG.

PIERCE was a shoemaker at High Wycomb; and, having several times observed the manner in which the letter-bag was delivered to the guard belonging to the mail-coach, he formed the desperate resolution of becoming master of it.

Observing the mail-coach coming in one night, he went immediately to the post-office, and imitating, as near as possible, the voice of the guard, called out 'Bag, bag.' No sooner had he spoke the word, than the window, up one pair of stairs, was opened by a woman who was nursing the postmaster's wife; and by this woman the bag was thrown

out to Pierce, who immediately set off with it, and was hardly got out of sight when the guard came and made the same demand. This caused a great alarm, but the bag was irrecoverably lost, and all inquiries proved in vain.

Leaving the parties in amazement for the loss of the bag, we return to Pierce, who arrived safe at home with his booty, which he opened the next day, and, searching the letters, found a number of notes and bills: these he carefully put up, and buried the letters and bag in his garden. By some circumstances that arose, Pierce was strongly suspect-

ed of having a hand in the robbery ; but the persons who suspected him kept it very private.

Pierce at last, thinking the whole affair to be forgot, set out for London, with an intent to purchase some leather. On the road he changed a twenty-pound bank-note, and, on his arrival in London, going to a leather-seller's, he bargained for some leather, and offered in payment a draft on a London banker, which had several days to run. The dealer in leather asked him his name, which he immediately told : he then desired him to sit down and drink a draught of porter, while he just stepped out. He then went to the banker's who lived just by, and, presenting the bill, asked if it was a good one, and desired to know if they would pay it when due : they assured him it was a good bill, and would be paid. They then demanded of the leather-seller who and what he was, and how he came by the bill, when he related the circumstance of Pierce coming to him, and dealing for some leather, and that he was then at his house. ' Oh !

that is the very man,' replied one of them, ' that we want to see.' A hackney-coach being called, they went to the leather-seller's, where they found Pierce ; and, desiring him to come along with them, told him that he should receive the money for the bill. Pierce went with them ; but suspecting, as they went along, that all was not right, he slipped his pocket-book down into the coach ; which being found and offered to him, he said it was not his. On examining the pocket-book, the remainder of the notes lost out of the bag were found. Pierce was then committed to prison, tried at Buckingham assizes, in August, 1794, and, being found guilty, was ordered for execution.

A respite, however, was received from the judge at Huntingdon, by the sheriff of Buckinghamshire, not to execute the body of Noah Pierce. A circumstance having arisen, upon the judge's deliberating upon the case, on which the opinion of the twelve judges was necessary before the sentence pronounced could be put in execution, he received a conditional pardon.

HANNAH LIMBRICK,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

HANNAH LIMBRICK was charged with the murder of Deborah Limbrick, her daughter-in-law, at Norwood's Green, in the parish of Westbury.

This trial came on before Mr. Justice Heath, at the Gloucester assizes, August, 1794.

The first witness called in was Anne Case, who deposed that she lived at Norwood's Green, and knew the prisoner very well : that on the 14th of February she beat the child very cruelly, and called it names. Anne Case was then in her garden, between which and the prisoner's there was a hedge. She heard se-

veral blows about nine in the morning :—the child was a daughter of Thomas Limbrick, by a former wife.

The next witness, Eliz. Woodhouse, said she lived about a stone's throw from the prisoner : she did not hear the blows given on the 14th of February, but on the morning the child was laid out the prisoner and she had some words. Mrs. Case's little girl said the child was dead ; and the prisoner answered, ' I have not hurt her,' and said it was some of her lies : she told her that she had killed the child by inches, and had starved her.

Thomas Limbrick, who was only nine years of age, said he lived with his mother when Deborah was beat: that his mother threw her down all along with her hands; and then against a wall, and kicked her in the belly: that afterwards she picked her up, and beat her with the hacker on the side of her head; wiped the blood off with a dish-clout, and took her up to bed after she was dead. When his father came home, she told him the child was bad, but did not tell him she was dead. She washed the dish-clout out to get the blood off.

The hacker was produced which the child was struck with; and Mr. Lander, a surgeon at Newnham, being examined, deposed that on the 16th of February he was desired to come and look at a child that was dead two days: he found a large contusion behind the ear, another under the jaw, two black and blue spots on the head; the arms and one finger were black; the abdomen was black. He examined the head, and found it cut under the lip. The upper jaw was broke. He believed it was done with a bill or hacker; that the blow was the occasion of the death of the child, and that it died soon after it received the wound in the jaw.

The prisoner, being called upon to make her defence, made the following declaration:—

‘The child asked me to give her some dough: I bid her come, and she fell down between the wood, and

fell on the hacker, but I did not see any blood. Her father took her up stairs. About an hour after she called for the pot. I told her, when I put her to bed, that, if she would lay still, when I had dressed the others I would come to her. I told the boy to call some person in. The child fell down stairs the day before.’

The jury, without hesitation, found her guilty.

Mr. Justice Heath then addressed the prisoner:—‘Hannah Limbrick, you have been convicted of a most horrid murder of a young child—it was committed in a most barbarous manner, and you made use of every means to conceal it. Yet the providence of God has so far interposed as to make your guilt public. Your crime is so heinous that it cannot be pardoned in this world. In the interval of time from passing the sentence to the hour of execution, I earnestly entreat you to make up your account. Shortly you are to appear before another and more awful tribunal. The sentence that I now pronounce against you is, that on Friday next you be taken to the place of execution, and there be hanged by the neck till you are dead; your body to be dissected, and the Lord have mercy on your soul!’

This unfortunate wretch was executed according to her sentence on the day appointed: she behaved in a very penitent manner, and seemed conscious of her wickedness.

HANNAH WEBLEY,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HER BASTARD CHILD.

AT the same assizes, August, 1794, came on the trial of Hannah Webley, who was charged with the murder of her male bastard child, at Hinton, in the parish of Berkeley.

Hannah Chair, a girl of sixteen

years of age, deposed that the prisoner was a single woman; that she was taken ill on the 1st and 2d of June; she slept with the prisoner, who was a servant with Mr. James Pick, and was awaked in the night

by the noise and crying of a child: it was dark; she could only observe that the prisoner was leaning over the bed-side; she heard her curse the child; after that she heard two blows (after which the child did not cry), and the prisoner said, 'Damn thee, thou *bist* done for now.' She then took her petticoat off the bed, and went down stairs: the witness now went and told her master. The prisoner returned in a few minutes after she had called her master, and brought the child back again: it was between two and three in the morning; she was afraid to speak to her: the prisoner had provided no child-bed linen.

Mr. Pick, the master, corroborated what Hannah Chair said; he also deposed that the prisoner never acknowledged that she was with child: he saw the child, which lived till noon the same day; he had it baptized.

John Cornelius Hends, a man-midwife, said that he was sent for to Mr. Pick's on the 2d of June, to look at a child, which was alive, and a male: a woman had it on her lap; he observed a depression or fracture of the skull. There was only one fracture, which appeared to have been done with great violence; there was a discharge of blood from the right ear. He said the fracture might possibly have been occasioned by the child's falling on the floor, but he never knew an instance of such a thing happening on delivery.

The prisoner, in her defence, made the following declaration:—

'I was taken very ill, was used to have the colic: my pains came on—I walked backward and forward—the child fell down with great violence: I said 'Lord have mercy upon me, I am afraid thou art done

for.' I went down, thinking to take the child to my intended husband at Newport.'

The jury, after a little consultation, brought in the prisoner guilty.

The following sentence was then passed by Mr. Justice Heath:—

'Hannah Webley, you have been convicted of a most cruel and unnatural murder. So far was you led on by the fear of a discovery of your shame, as first to curse and then deprive an helpless infant of life: by this wicked act your own life is forfeited to the injured laws of your country. You must now suffer a severe punishment for your crime, even the loss of life: and I hope the punishment, dreadful as it is, will be an instructive lesson to the female part of the creation, and convince them that those who swerve from the paths of virtue will be tempted to the commission of the worst of crimes. I also hope that your punishment will be a lesson to those young men who artfully endeavour to seduce young women from the paths of virtue, and that your sad end will be a monitor to them, and especially to him, who, though at present unknown, except to yourself, inveigled you into the paths of infamy and disgrace. It remains with me to pass that terrible sentence of the law, which is, that on Saturday next you be taken to the place of execution, and there to be hanged by the neck till you are dead, and that your body be delivered to be dissected, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul!'

Applications were made to his lordship for a respite for this unhappy female; but his lordship declared that he was so much convinced of her guilt that she must suffer, and her execution took place accordingly.

ANNE BROADRIC,

INDICTED FOR MURDER.

MISS ANNE BROADRIC, who assassinated Mr. Errington, on Friday, the 15th of May, 1795, at his seat near Grays, in the county of Essex, was a young lady of considerable accomplishments, a fine figure, and superior to the generality of her sex in personal charms. Three or four years after Mr. Errington's well-known divorce from his former wife, he addressed Miss Broadric with the utmost solicitude; but it is not true that he had seduced her, as she had previously lived with a Captain Robinson. He lived with her nearly three years, with every appearance of domestic comfort. After about twelve months, however, Mr. Errington saw another beautiful object, possessed of a large fortune, to whom he transferred his affections, and, after a little time, he gave her his hand. On this he settled what he deemed a suitable provision on Miss Broadric, stated to her explicitly the variation of his sentiments, and added that he never could see her more! After the first agonies of her grief, she sent the most affectionate remonstrance on his conduct, and requested, as the last boon, that he would grant her one interview. This was refused: she still persisted, by letters, to move him to grant her this last request; but, finding him inexorable, she wrote him 'That, if nothing could induce him to do her this act of common justice, he must prepare himself for the fatal alternative, as she was determined *that he should not long survive his infidelity!*'

Receiving no answer whatever, after the lapse of a month, she dressed herself elegantly, very soon, on the Friday morning, went to the Three Nuns' Inn, in Whitechapel, and took a place in the Southend

coach, which passed very near Mr. Errington's house: she got out at the avenue gate, and, in her way up, was recognised by Mr. Errington, who told his wife that tormenting woman, Broadric, was coming; but that he should soon get rid of her, if she, Mrs. Errington, would retire a few minutes. Mrs. Errington, however, did not consent to this, but prevailed upon her husband to go up stairs into the drawing-room, and leave the interview to her management. Miss Broadric, being shown in, asked for Mr. Errington: she was told he was not at home. 'I am not to be so satisfied, madam,' replied Miss Broadric; 'I know the ways of this house, unfortunately, too well, and therefore, with your leave, I'll search for him!' on which she rushed up into the drawing-room, and, finding him there, she drew a small brass-barrelled pistol, with a new hagged flint, from her pocket, and presenting it at his left side, in a direction for his heart, exclaimed, 'I am come, Errington, to perform my dreadful promise!' and instantly pulled the trigger. Surprised at his not falling, she said, 'Good God, I fear I have not dispatched you! but, come, deliver me into the hands of justice!' Mrs. Errington bursting into the room, and seeing her husband bleeding, fainted away. Mr. Errington now remonstrated with her, and asked her 'if he had ever deserved this at her hands, after the care he had taken to settle her so comfortably in the world?' To this she gave no other answer than by a melancholy shake of her head. Mr. Miller, a neighbouring surgeon, being called in, found that the ball had penetrated at the lowest rib, cut three ribs asunder, and then passed

round the back, and lodged under the shoulder bone, from whence every painful effort was made to extract it, but in vain. Mr. Button, a magistrate, now came, who took the examination of Mr. Errington after his wound was dressed. He asked Miss Broadric what could induce her to commit such an act of extreme violence. Her answer was 'That she was determined that neither Mr. Errington nor herself should long outlive her lost peace of mind!' Mr. Errington entreated of the magistrate not to detain her in custody, but let her depart, as he was sure he should do well; but this request Miss Broadric refused to accept, and the magistrate to grant. Her commitment being made out, she was conveyed that evening to Chelmsford gaol, where she remained tolerably composed till she heard of Mr. Errington's death, when she burst into a flood of tears, and lamented bitterly that she had been the cause of his death. The coroner's inquest sat on the body on Tuesday, the 19th of May, and brought in their verdict, 'Wilful murder, by the hands of Anne Broadric.' Mr. Errington was in the thirty-ninth year of his age, and possessed a very large landed and personal property.

Some months before this melancholy event the following letter was addressed to Mr. Errington by Miss Broadric, dated the 11th of September, 1794:—

'Dear Errington,—That you have betrayed and abandoned the most tender and affectionate heart that ever warmed a human bosom, cannot be denied by any person who is in the least acquainted with me. Wretched and miserable as I have been since you left me, there is still a method remaining that would suspend, for a time, the melancholy sufferings and distress which I la-

bour under at this moment; and still, inhuman as thou art, I am half persuaded, when I tell you the power is in your hands, that you will not withhold it from me.—What I allude to is the permission of seeing you once more, and, perhaps, for the last time. If you consider that the request comes from a woman you once flattered into a belief of her being the sole possessor of your love, you may not perhaps think it unreasonable. Recollect, however, Errington, ere you send a refusal, that the roaring of the tempest, and the lightnings from heaven, are not more terrible than the rage and vengeance of a disappointed woman. Hitherto you can only answer for the weakness and frailty of my nature. There is a further knowledge of my disposition you must have if you do not grant me the favour demanded. I wish it to come voluntarily from yourself, or else I will force it from you. Believe me, in that case I would seek you in the farthest corner of the globe, rush into your presence, and, with the same rapture that nerved the arm of Charlotte Cordet, when she assassinated the monster Marat, would I put an end to the existence of a man, who is the author of all the agonies and care that at present oppress the heart of

ANNE BROADRIC.

'P. S. This comes by William, (the servant you have discarded on my account) who has orders to wait for your answer.'

On Friday, July the 17th, at six o'clock, Anne Broadric was conveyed from the gaol, in a chaise, to a room in the shire-hall; and about ten minutes before the Lord Chief Baron Macdonald, the sheriffs, and magistrates, appeared on the bench, she was conveyed into the bail-dock in the criminal court, attended by three ladies and her apothecary:

she was dressed in mourning, without powder; and, after the first perturbations were over, occasioned by the concourse of surrounding spectators, she sat down on a chair prepared for her, and was tolerably composed, except at intervals, when she discovered violent agitations, as her mind became affected by various objects and circumstances. When the indictment was reading she paid a marked attention to it; and on the words, 'that on the right breast of the said G. Errington she did wilfully and feloniously inflict one mortal wound,' &c. she exclaimed, 'Oh, my great God!' and burst into a torrent of tears.

The prosecution for the crown was opened by Mr. Garrow, who demonstrated the painful execution of this office by the humane and affecting exordium with which he addressed the jury, preparatory to the statement of the evidence he was instructed to adduce. He thought it his duty, however, to inform them what his learned brethren, who had the conduct of the defence of the unhappy female at the bar, were precluded by the rules of law from stating, viz. that the defence intended to be set up was unquestionably of great importance, requiring their most serious deliberation: it was no less than the plea of lunacy; and therefore it became their peculiar duty, as jurymen, before they visited a deed with death, to be perfectly satisfied in their own minds that the prisoner committing it was in the possession of her reasoning faculties; otherwise it must have been insanity, and not the moral agent, which perpetrated the bloody act.

George Bailey sworn—said he was servant to the deceased, Mr. Errington; saw Miss Broadric come into the kitchen on the 15th of May last; did not know her; she asked

whether Mr. Errington was at home. He answered 'Yes;' and desired the gardener to show the lady into the parlour, while he put on his shoes, and went up to inform his master, then in the drawing-room; that he saw Mrs. Errington and the lady meet at the parlour door. [Here Miss Broadric shook her head and groaned deeply.] He perceived that the ladies were strangers to each other. Miss Broadric asked Mrs. Errington if Mr. Errington was to be spoken with. She answered 'Yes, ma'am; pray walk up stairs.' His mistress went up first; he returned to the kitchen, and in the space of a minute he heard the report of a pistol, the shrieks of his mistress, and also his master cry out and groan! He ran up stairs, and, passing some workmen, desired them to go with him, as something dreadful had happened. On entering the drawing-room he beheld his master all over blood, and leaning with his left hand on his right breast, who exclaimed, 'Oh God, I am shot! I am murdered!' Mrs. Errington instantly ordered him to take that woman into custody, for she had murdered her husband; on this Miss Broadric threw a pistol out of her left hand on the carpet, and laughed, crying out, 'Here, take me! hang me, and do what you will with me; I don't care now!' He told the workmen to take care of the prisoner till he came back: he then ran to the stable, took a horse, and rode for Mr. Childers, the surgeon, about a mile off; desired him to mount the horse, and make haste to his master, who was shot: he followed soon after with two constables, when he found the doctor and Mrs. Errington with his master. Miss Broadric he saw afterwards in the parlour below: that, on seeing her right hand in her pocket, he told the constable

he thought she had another pistol in her pocket; that the constable went behind her, and took hold of both her arms, when she said 'What are you going to do?' He replied, 'Not to hurt you in the least, madam, but it is our duty to put these handcuffs upon you;' which they did. She rejoined, 'Let me put my hand in my pocket first.' The constables answered 'No!' She said 'I want to give you something.' 'Some other time,' replied the other. The witness then asked her whether she had not another pistol. She answered 'I have!' and in a lower tone of voice said to him, 'This I intended for myself!' He then sent for a woman servant, and desired her to search her; which she did, and immediately drew another pistol from her pocket. (The pistols were here produced, and sworn to be the same.)

John Eves lived at the Bull Inn, Whitechapel. Miss Broadric, about the 11th of May, gave him the following letter to carry to Mr. Errington; he delivered it to him on the 13th, at Grays, who asked him whether it did not come from Miss Broadric. He replied it did. Mr. Errington then bade him take it back, as he should see her at the fair; he took the letter to her again, unopened, the next day.

'Dear Sir,—As I intend going to Southend on Wednesday, I wish to speak a few words to you on money affairs, as I have received no answer to the letter from Mr. — (Mr. Errington's solicitor). I fear you are deceived in the person you intrust. I wish you would meet me at the Dog and Partridge, at Stifford, as I have not had the money you promised me I should receive.'

Here the evidence for the crown was closed, and several persons were called in, who proved the prisoner's insanity.

The Lord Chief Baron, before he summed up the evidence, called the attention of the jury to the particular plea of insanity, on which the defence of the prisoner had been rested; no denial having been set up against the perpetration of the deed, of which, indeed, there had been given the fullest and clearest evidence. The law certainly required that the will should accompany the act, to constitute a felonious murder. The defence in the present case was, that the prisoner was incapable of lending her will to the perpetration of the crime with which she stands charged. His lordship here entered into an illustrative detail in support of this general proposition. He said the unhappy woman laughing in the midst of an act of horror bore a strong appearance of mental derangement; indeed this was often made a test of madness in the finest-wrought theatrical representations. The letter which had been given to the magistrate, and the receipt of which he had so humanely and wisely expostulated against, did not convey any idea of insanity; though the chain of such very tumultuous circumstances, for so long an antecedent period as six months, certainly did carry with them strong symptoms that the person acting under them was unlike to rational persons. The family derangements which had been stated were not of themselves sufficient evidence; but were certainly a strong ground-work on which to build other circumstances more immediately applicable to the individual herself.

On the whole, if the jury thought the latent seeds of derangement, after a convulsive struggle of six months, had been called forth on this horrible occasion so as to overwhelm the senses of the unhappy prisoner, they were bound in con-

science to acquit her. If, on the other hand, they believed that it was the preparatory pangs of a mind intent on gratifying its revenge by the death of its object, they must find her guilty; but they scarcely need be told that, should a doubt remain on their minds, common charity required that the balance should turn in the prisoner's favour.

The jury consulted about two minutes, and then gave their ver-

dict—Not Guilty, to the general satisfaction of the whole Court.

The judges, on leaving the town, after the assizes were over, directed that Miss Broadric should be examined before two magistrates, that she might be safely removed, under their order, to the place of her settlement, with a particular recommendation annexed thereto, that she might be taken all possible care of.

JOHN WHITE,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

JOHN WHITE, a young man about nineteen, got up early in the morning, June 19, 1795, procured a brace of pistols, which he loaded, and with coolness and deliberation walked into the school-room of Miss Maria Bally, in Corn Street, Bath, an amiable young lady, to whom he was affectionately attached, and, after a short conversation, presented one of the pistols to her head, and shot her instantly dead. The noise and smoke of the pistol greatly terrified the children in the school, and, their cries alarming the neighbours, he was taken coming out of the door. The mayor shortly after summoned a jury, and a verdict of wilful murder was brought in against him.

On the trial it appeared that the deceased had forbidden the addresses of the prisoner, which urged him to this rash act. When the witnesses for the crown had been examined, he was asked if he had any thing to say in his defence. He replied that he left his case entirely to his counsel, who called three witnesses to prove the insanity of the prisoner; but their evidence went merely to a dejection of spirits, which he had manifested previous to the murder.

The jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict—Guilty.

The learned judge then observed that virtuous love always harmonized the mind, but in him that passion had shown itself savage and ferocious. He then proceeded, in a most solemn manner, to pass upon him the following dreadful sentence:—‘That he should return to the place from whence he came; on Thursday next to be hanged by the neck until he was dead, and his body to be delivered to a surgeon to be anatomized.—To be allowed bread and water only, unless he wished to receive the sacrament; to be kept private, and no person admitted to him but by the direction of the sheriff.’

White was composed during the greater part of his trial, and heard the sentence with resignation, bowing submissively to the Court, and particularly to the prosecutor. He then shook hands with the witnesses who had appeared against him, saying they had spoken nothing but what was truth.

He was taken from the prison about half an hour after ten o'clock on Thursday morning (his trial having been the preceding Tuesday): the cart in about ten minutes arrived at the place of execution. He spent half an hour in fervent prayer with the county chaplain and another

minister. He afterwards addressed the numerous spectators in a clear and connected speech of full twenty minutes, in which he quoted many passages from Dr. Young's 'Night Thoughts;' and cautioned the younger part of his hearers to be careful how they formed connexions,

and, when formed, not to trifle with each other's feelings. When the clergyman left the cart he remained composed, and met his fate with becoming fortitude.

The body, after receiving some incisions from the surgeon, was delivered to his friends.

THE REVEREND MR. JACKSON, CONVICTED OF TREASON.

IN our account of the conviction and escape of Archibald Hamilton Rowan we have mentioned the apprehension of this offender.† He was a native of Ireland, and a minister of the Church of England. Early in life he preached at Tavistock Chapel, London, and for several years resided in chambers in Lyon's Inn; but the emoluments of his clerical occupation not affording him a sufficient subsistence, he applied his talents to literature, and was for a considerable time editor of a newspaper, in which situation he made himself very conspicuous. He took a decided part in the quarrel between the Duchess of Kingston and Mr. Foote, and treated the latter with much asperity. He was a sharer in the romantic scheme of the Royalty Theatre, and was obliged for a considerable time to abscond, on account of the pecuniary difficulties in which it involved him. Afterwards he entered into a criminal conspiracy, and was tried at Dublin for high treason, on the 23d of April, 1795.

The indictment charged the prisoner with two species of treason, namely, compassing the King's death, and adhering to his enemies; and stated fourteen overt acts. The attorney-general opened the prosecution on the part of the crown; and, having dwelt at some length on the doctrine of treason, proceeded to substantiate the charges in the

indictment, for which purpose he called Mr. Cockayne, an attorney of London, who deposed that he had been for a series of years the law-agent and intimate friend of Mr. Jackson, who a few years since went to France (as the witness understood) to transact some private business for Mr. Pitt, where he resided a considerable time. Soon after his return, Mr. Cockayne said he called on Jackson, who told him in confidence that he had formed a design of going to Ireland, to sound the people, for the purpose of procuring a supply of provisions, &c. from them for the French, and requested him (the witness) to accompany him. Having accepted the invitation, he immediately waited on Mr. Pitt, and discovered to him the whole of Mr. Jackson's plans. The minister thanked him for the information, and hinted that, as the matter was to become a subject of legal investigation, it would be necessary for him to substantiate the allegations; but this Mr. Cockayne wished to decline, on the principle that, if the prisoner should be convicted of high treason, he should lose by it three hundred pounds, in which sum he then was indebted to him. This objection was soon removed by Mr. Pitt agreeing to pay him the money, provided he would prosecute to conviction; and the witness accompanied Mr. Jackson to Ireland, for the purpose of making

himself acquainted with his proceedings. Shortly after their arrival in Dublin, where they lived together, the prisoner expressed a wish to be introduced to Mr. Hamilton Rowan, who was then confined in Newgate; and at length, through the interference of a friend, he obtained an interview, at which Mr. Cockayne was present. In the course of conversation the prisoner delivered two papers to Mr. Rowan, for the purpose of convincing him that he was a person in whom he might confide. From that time an intimacy took place between them; the witness always accompanied Mr. Jackson in his visits to Mr. Rowan, and constantly took a part in their conversation. They agreed, he said, that a person should be sent to France to procure a force to make a descent on Ireland, and Connellor Wolfe Tone was mentioned as a fit person for that purpose, who at first appeared to acquiesce, but afterwards declined the office. Dr. Reynolds was then proposed by Mr. Rowan, but objected to by the prisoner, as he did not understand the French language. It was, however, at length agreed that the doctor should take the embassy; but in a short time he also refused to enter into the business. On this it was agreed that Mr. Jackson should write several letters, which were directed for a Mr. Stone, of the firm of Lawrence and Co. London. These contained enclosures for houses at Hauburgh and Amsterdam; and some of them to the French agents described the situation of Ireland at the time, invited an invasion, and pointed out the proper places to land. These letters having been sent to the Post-office, the witness went to the secretary, and informed him of the subject of them, on which they were detained. The plot matured thus far having been discovered, the pri-

soner was taken into custody. Such is the substance of the examination and cross-examination of Mr. Cockayne, which, together with the documentary proofs alluded to, were the only evidence adduced. Throughout the whole of the investigation he appeared very much agitated and confused.

Mr. Curran, Mr. Ponsonby, and Mr. M'Nally, exerted their abilities in behalf of the prisoner. The former spoke at much length. He treated the conduct of Mr. Cockayne as extremely suspicious; and, from the pecuniary temptation thrown in his way to act the part he had done in the business, suggested to the jury that his evidence was entitled to very little credit. The prime-sergeant replied, and Lord Chief Justice Clonmel delivered a very able and impartial charge to the jury, who retired at forty-five minutes after three in the morning, and at half past four brought in a verdict—Guilty, but recommended the prisoner to mercy.

The chief justice inquired of the jury if they had any doubts on their minds which led them to such recommendation. The foreman answered immediately 'No, my Lord.' The jury would, in all probability, have acquitted the prisoner, had he not inadvertently acknowledged the letters (which Mr. Cockayne swore to be his handwriting) by explaining some mysterious passages in them. The witness's agreement with Mr. Pitt would otherwise, it is said, have invalidated his evidence. The trial lasted seventeen hours and a half.

After the judges Clonmel, Boyd, and Chamberlain, had consulted for a few moments, the chief justice addressed the jury, saying, 'You have acquitted yourselves with honour, and a conscientious regard for justice. It is more than a century

since this land has been cursed with such a crime, and we trust your verdict will operate in preventing a repetition of it. Your recommendation shall be laid before government.'

Mr. Jackson heard the verdict with much apparent composure, and was brought into Court to receive judgment on the 30th of April, 1795, when having been asked the usual question by the clerk of the crown, what he had to say why judgment of death should not be passed upon him, Mr. Curran prayed that the caption of the indictment might be read, which being done, he objected that the Court could not proceed to pass judgment, inasmuch as the copy of the caption of the indictment had not been served on the prisoner, and that the names of the grand jurors who found the bill of indictment were not set out in the record; and inasmuch as it did not appear what such grand jurors were sworn to do.

The attorney-general said that, if there were any objection on the part of the prisoner, going to the legality of finding the indictment, or to the competence of any of the grand jury who found the bill of indictment against the prisoner, or even to the sheriff, who empanelled the grand jury, it should have been made before he had pleaded to the indictment.

It was now intimated to the Court that the prisoner appeared to be in a very dangerous situation, in point of bodily weakness, having for some time appeared to be uncommonly agitated, on which the Court ordered that, if any medical gentlemen were present, they should examine into the situation of the prisoner, and report their opinion. Doctor Waite, who was in the county jury-box, went down to the dock, and, after examining the prisoner, reported that he was in a sinking

situation, and had every appearance of immediate dissolution. Mr. Kingsley, druggist, who said he was bred an apothecary, also examined the prisoner, and reported that he was dying. On this the Court ordered that the prisoner should be remanded until further orders; but in a few moments the unfortunate man expired in the dock, and the Court immediately adjourned.

The coroner's inquest was held the next day, when Surgeons Hume and Adrian opened the body, and deposed that he died in consequence of having taken some acrid substance, but they could not tell what. His bowels and chest were greatly inflamed. In his pocket was a handkerchief, one of his pamphlets, and a very elegant short prayer, written by himself, praying to God to deliver him from his enemies, who were very great and violent. In a little box, left in the gaol, was only a miniature of his wife, and a letter from Mr. Ponsonby. He was brought into Court in a very light pair of irons.

It has been questioned whether his days were terminated by suicide or treachery; but the editors of these volumes have reason to know that he was his own murderer. When he was brought into court to receive judgment, Mr. Curran, his leading counsel, was not arrived. Mr. Jackson beckoned Counsellor McNally to him as he stood in the dock, to whom, on being informed that an arrest of judgment would be moved, with a forced and dying smile he replied, 'We have deceived the senate,' alluding to the dying exclamation of the conspirator Pierre to his friend Jaffier, in Otway's admired tragedy of 'Venice Preserved.'

The fate of this man holds out a dreadful warning to those who seek to rectify internal abuse by

foreign arms. Traitors, from the very nature of their dark and secret plans, are necessarily constrained to depend on the secrecy of the most abandoned and profligate; and thus they are betrayed.



Avershaw on his Way to Execution.

LEWIS JEREMIAH AVERSHAW,

EXECUTED FOR SHOOTING A PEACE-OFFICER.

THIS criminal was one of the most daring and unrepentant sinners that ever died by the hands of the executioner. There has too frequently been, among the most hardened, an affected contempt of death, and a fool-hardiness of behaviour on their exit from this world, which makes every one shudder except themselves.

Avershaw was an old offender, and often committed numerous crimes which called aloud for justice: he was brought to trial, at Croydon, in Surrey, on the 30th of July, 1795, charged on two indictments, one for having, at the Three Brewers' public house, Southwark, feloniously

shot at and murdered David Price, an officer belonging to the police office held at Union Hall, in the Borough. The other for having, at the same time and place, fired a pistol at Bernard Turner, another officer attached to that office, with intent to murder him. Mr. Garrow, the leading counsel for the prosecution, opened the case, by stating that the prisoner at the bar, being a person of ill fame, had been suspected of having perpetrated a number of felonies; and the magistrates of the police office in the borough of Southwark, having received information against him, sent, as was their duty, an order for his

apprehension. To execute the warrant, the deceased, Price, and another officer, went to the Three Brewers, a public house, where they understood he was drinking, in company with some other persons. At the entrance of a parlour in the house the prisoner appeared in a posture of resistance. Holding a loaded pistol in each of his hands, he, with threats and imprecations, desired the officers to stand off, as he would otherwise fire at them. The officers, however, attempted to rush in and seize him, on which he discharged both the pistols at the same instant, lodging the contents of one in the body of Price, and with the other wounding Turner very severely in the head. Price, after languishing a few hours, died of the wound. Mr. Garrow was very pathetic and animated in his description of the several circumstances composing the shocking act of barbarity. To prove it, he would call four witnesses, whose evidence, he said, would but too clearly establish the prisoner's guilt. He accordingly called Turner, the landlord of the house, a surgeon, and a fourth witness; but, as the substance of their evidence is comprised in Mr. Garrow's opening, it would be superfluous to repeat it. Turner said positively he saw the prisoner discharge the pistols, from one of which he himself received his wound, and the contents of the other were lodged in the body of Price, who died very shortly after. The surgeon proved that his death was the consequence of the wound. Mr. Knowles and Mr. Best were counsel for the prisoner; but the weight of evidence was too strong to be combated by any exertions.

Mr. Baron Perryn, in summing up, remarked to the jury that the counsel for the prisoner had principally rested his defence on the cir-

cumstance of several other persons being present when the pistols were discharged, by some of which, they contended, the death-wound might possibly have been inflicted. But the witness, Turner, had sworn positively to his having seen the prisoner in the act of discharging the contents of the pistol. The jury, after a consultation of about three minutes, pronounced the verdict of Guilty. Through a flaw in the indictment for the murder, an objection was taken by counsel. This was urged nearly two hours, when Mr. Baron Perryn intimating a wish to take the opinion of the twelve judges, the counsel for the prosecution, waving the point for the present, insisted on the prisoner's being tried on the second indictment, for feloniously shooting at Barnaby Windsor, which the learned counsel said would occupy no great portion of time, as it could be sufficiently supported by the testimony of a single witness. He was accordingly tried, and found guilty on a second capital indictment. The prisoner, who, contrary to general expectation, had in a great measure hitherto refrained from his usual audacity, now began, with unparalleled insolence of expression and gesture, to ask his lordship, if he was to be murdered by the evidence of one witness? Several times repeating the question, till the jury returned him Guilty.

When Mr. Baron Perryn put on the judicial cap, the prisoner, regardless of his sad situation, at the same time put on his hat, contemptuously looking at the judge while passing the awful sentence.

When the constables were removing him from the dock to the coach, he continued to vent torrents of abuse against the judge and jury, whom he charged with, as he styled it, his murder; and, as his desperate

disposition was well known, he was, to prevent resistance, handcuffed, and his thighs and arms bound strongly together.

So callous was this ruffian to every degree of feeling, that on his way to be tried, as he was passing near the usual place of execution on Kennington Common, he put his head out of the coach window, and, with all the *sang froid* imaginable, asked some of those who guarded him if they did not think he would be *twisted* on that pretty spot by Saturday.

After receiving sentence of death he was conducted back to prison, where, having got some black cherries, he amused himself with painting, on the white walls of the room in which he was confined, various sketches of robberies which he had committed; one representing him running up to the horses' heads of a post-chaise, presenting a pistol at the driver, and the words 'Damn your eyes, stop!' issuing out of his mouth; another, where he was firing

into the chaise; a third, where the parties had quitted the carriage; and several others, in which he was described in the act of taking the money from the passengers, being fired at, and where his companion was shot dead, &c.

At the place of execution he appeared entirely unconcerned, had a flower in his mouth, his bosom was thrown open, and he kept up an incessant conversation with the persons who rode beside the cart; frequently laughing and nodding to others of his acquaintance, whom he perceived in the crowd, which was immense.

He suffered August 3, 1795, at Kennington Common, with John Little, who, having had employment at the laboratory of the palace at Kew, became acquainted with Mr. Macevoy and Mrs. King, persons of very advanced years, and who had been many years resident at Kew. Supposing that they had some property at home, he watched an opportunity, and murdered them both.

WILLIAM TILLEY, JOHN CROSSWELL, GEORGE HARD-
WICK, JAMES HAYDEN, JOHN HAWDEN, SIMON
JACOBS, JOHN SOLOMONS, JOHN PHILLIPS,
AND JOHN HENLEY,

CONVICTED OF A CONSPIRACY.

A MOST desperate attempt was made on the 4th of April, 1795, in the morning, between one and two o'clock, to rescue Isdwell, a Jew, who stood charged with being concerned in a forgery on the Stamp-office, but who, in the scuffle, lost his life in the following manner:—

Isdwell, who was confined in New Prison, Clerkenwell, persuaded two of the turnkeys that an aunt of his, who was very rich, then lay at the point of death, and that he had been informed that, could she see him before she died, she would give him one thousand pounds; and therefore,

if they would let him out, and accompany him to the place, he would give them fifty guineas each for their trouble: and that the matter might be effected without the knowledge of the keeper of the prison, or any other person, they having the keys of it at night, and the time required being very short.

To this proposal the turnkeys agreed; and accordingly, about one o'clock in the morning, the gates were opened, and Isdwell, with his irons on, was conducted in a hackney-coach by one of them, armed with a blunderbuss, to the house in

Artillery Lane, Bishopsgate Street, where, inquiring for the sick lady, they were ushered up stairs.

Isdwell entered the room first, on which several fellows rushed forth, and attempted to keep the turnkey out; but, not succeeding, they put the candles out, wrested the blunderbuss out of his hand, and discharged it at him; at this instant it was supposed Isdwell was endeavoring to make his escape out of the door, as he received the principal part of the contents of the blunderbuss in his back, and fell dead; the turnkey also fell, one of the slugs grazing the upper part of his head; and the villains by, some means finding their mistake, though in the dark, beat him in so shocking a manner with the butt-end of the blunderbuss, while he lay on the ground, as to break it to pieces, fracture his skull in two places, and bruise him dreadfully about the body. The noise which the affair occasioned brought a number of watchmen and patrols to the house, who secured ten persons therein, mostly Jews.

They were all examined on the 4th, as also the turnkeys, who related the foregoing story, and who, as well as the others, were ordered to be committed for further examination.

The plan of Isdwell's escape appeared to have been formed by the widow of the notorious Laurence Jones, she having taken the lodgings in Artillery Lane; and, though in reality aunt to Isdwell, had cohabited with him ever since her husband's death.

The bed in the room where the business happened was decorated with all the paraphernalia of a sick person: a number of phials stood on an adjoining table, and, to make the farce (which in the last act proved a tragedy) more perfect, the

image of a woman's head, with a cap on, appeared just above the bed-clothes.

The parties supposed to be concerned in this assault and murder were tried at the Old Bailey, on the 21st of April, 1795, and, after a trial which lasted from eleven till half past one the following morning, acquitted, the darkness of the deed excluding the possibility of full proof; but they were detained on an indictment for a conspiracy.

Day, one of the turnkeys, related the story of his and Crosswell's agreeing to let Isdwell go to Artillery Lane; that Tilley and Jacobs frequently came to the prison; and on Good Friday the former said to Isdwell that Moses Solomons (who was confined in Bridewell upon the same charge) was to be suffered to go home and keep the passover with his family. This had some weight in inducing the witness to consent, and at night he accompanied him to Artillery Lane, in which he met Tilley, who did not go into the house where he was so dreadfully beat and Isdwell was shot.

Moses Solomons was a servant of Isdwell, and, as on the former trial, gave a detail of the circumstances of Jonathan Jones taking the lodging in Artillery Lane; and of Isdwell's being expected that night; that the trick of a sick aunt was to be played off on the turnkey; that Isdwell did come; that most of the prisoners were there; and that, after the accident, he, and all the rest, were taken into custody.

Mrs. Cumming, who kept the house, and a little boy, her son, proved that they had seen Hardwick, Jacobs, and Hayden, come to Mrs. Isdwell.

Ray, Spencer, and Brummel, were the persons who apprehended all the prisoners, but Tilley, Jones, and Crosswell, in and about the house;

and they were all particularly sworn to by Day and Solomons, as being in some way concerned, except Delaney, who was no otherwise identified than as being taken in the house.

In their defence, Tilley said he was employed by the Isdwells as their attorney: and, as the two brothers were confined in two different prisons, the going backwards and forwards from one to the other occasioned his seeing them oftener than he otherwise should. He denied that he ever made use of the expression about Moses going out, as sworn to by Mr. Day, or that he had the smallest knowledge of any intention of an escape.

John Crosswell left his defence to the counsel.

Jonathan Jones, also indicted, did not deny that he had taken the lodging for Mrs. Isdwell, but he had not done it secretly; for, on her husband's being taken up, she sent for him to come to town from Gosport: he did so; and, as she was obliged to leave her house at St. Mary Axe, he had taken this lodging for her; and, in so doing, thought he did no more than his duty for a niece. Before the accident happened he had returned into the country; all of which was admitted to be true by the witness Solomons.

George Hardwick stated himself to have been employed as a porter, to assist in carrying the goods to the lodging, and, not having been paid the whole of his demand, had gone that night, and was waiting to get the remainder.

James Hayden said his wife washed for Mrs. Isdwell; and that she being lame, he had gone to Mrs. Isdwell's with some things that night, and was staying for some money.

John Hawden had been out drink-

ing, not being able to work from its being Good Friday, and was so much intoxicated that he could not say how he came into the house.

Henry Delaney, also in the same indictment, said he was passing by the door just after the accident, that he stopped to see what was the matter, that he was pushed in by the mob, and had not been in the house before.

Simon Jacobs described himself to be a brother-in-law to Isdwell; that he was constantly going backwards and forwards to him; and that by his desire he passed most of his time at their lodgings. He had no doubt but Day was the man who shot his brother. He then entered into a long and vehement attack upon the keepers of Clerkenwell, both for their conduct to Isdwell and to himself, after he was taken; drawing a conclusion with respect to the former, that the governor, lieutenant-governor, and turnkeys, were principals in the escape; and that he and his fellow-prisoners, even had they intended to assist, could only be accomplices; and that it could not be just to punish accomplices before the principals; nay, more, he insisted that the escape was made the moment he was out of prison, and, consequently, long before they could be concerned with it.

John Phillips and John Solomons related the same story, namely, that, upon a promise of a reward of two hundred pounds, they were endeavoring to get the dies from Mrs. Isdwell, by which the stamps had been forged; and upon their making her some promises, she had appointed them to come that evening.

John Henley said he had called upon Mrs. Isdwell that night, respecting a watch he had bought, and which had been stopped.

A great number of very respect-

able witnesses were then called to their different characters.

Mr. Justice Buller summed up the evidence with much attention and perspicuity; and the jury, in

about half an hour, returned a verdict of Guilty against the nine already named, acquitting Jonathan Jones and Henry Delaney. They received sentence of transportation.

EDWARD COOKE AND HENRY PARISH,

SHOT FOR MUTINY.

THE severity of military discipline, and the summary powers of courts-martial, are too well known to render it necessary that we should occupy much of the attention of our readers with cases which come under their jurisdiction; and, as we have already described the nature of those courts, we notice the case of these men, who were soldiers in the Oxfordshire militia, and were convicted of mutiny, merely to introduce a description of the solemn ceremony of a military execution.

From the hour of four in the morning of the appointed day the whole line of encampment were ordered to hold themselves in readiness; at five, however, in the evening, the officers were given to understand that the execution was countermanded for that day.

The cause of this short respite was attributed to the absence of the Prince of Wales's 10th regiment of light dragoons, which did not march into Brighton till nine o'clock on the following morning, and of course could not pitch their tents till late in the evening.

When this regiment were seen on their march to their station, all hopes of an expected reprieve seemed entirely to vanish; the most respectable people, however, of the place, took this opportunity of one day's delay to repeat their petitions in favour of the two men; but all proved ineffectual, for, early on the 13th of June, 1795, the Oxfordshire militia (the regiment to which the mutineers belonged) began their

march from the barracks at Blachington to Brighton, to be made awful spectators of their unhappy comrades' punishment, and to be their executioners! At four o'clock the whole were ordered to accompany them from the ground to Colestoun Bottom, at which place they arrived about five. The six men (for there were thirteen mutineers) that were sentenced to be flogged proceeded afterwards in a covered waggon, guarded by a strong escort, which was composed of select men, picked from every regiment in the line: the two condemned to be shot followed in the rear in an open cart, attended by the Rev. Mr. Dring, and guarded by a second escort, under the command of Captain Leigh, of the 10th regiment of light dragoons, and one of the captains belonging to the Lancashire fencibles. When they arrived, however, at the winding road which leads to Colestoun Vale, and which is surrounded by an eminence, both the escorts were commanded to halt. The six men sentenced to be flogged were then taken from the covered wagon, and having been marched through the whole line, who were under arms to receive them, they were brought back to a whipping-post which was fixed in the centre of the different regiments. The drummers selected to flog them were men belonging to their own corps. Three of them received three hundred lashes each; this was all the number they then received, as, from their long durance, and conse-

quent weakness, the surgeon of the regiment pronounced that they could suffer no more. The fourth was then stripped, and, after being tied to the flogging-post, was reprieved; as were his two other comrades.

This part of the distressing ceremony being gone through, the two unfortunate men condemned to be shot were taken from the cart, and marched, as the others had been, up the line, with this difference only—of being conducted also through part of the outer one, which was composed of the Prince's regiment, the Lancashire and Cinque Port fencibles; they were then marched to the front of the Oxfordshire militia, where their coffins stood to receive their bodies: the artillery being planted on the right, with lighted matches, in the rear of the Oxfordshire, to prevent any mutiny, if attempted, and the whole height commanded by two thousand cavalry.

Cooke and Parish, being conducted to the fatal spot, exchanged a few words with the clergyman, and then kneeled with the greatest composure and firmness on their coffins: the first time, however, they kneeled, it was done the wrong way; but, being placed in a proper situation, they put the caps over their eyes, and received their death from a delinquent platoon of twelve of

their own regiment, at the distance only of six paces. One of them was not quite dead when he fell, and was therefore shot through the head with a pistol. This, however, was not the last awful ceremony the line had to experience; for, to conclude the dreadful tragedy, every regiment on the ground was ordered to file off past the bodies before they were suffered to be enclosed in their coffins. The whole scene was impressively awful beyond any spectacle of the kind ever exhibited.

No disturbance whatever resulted from the above melancholy affair: every thing was conducted with the greatest solemnity and order: the awe and silence that reigned on the occasion infused a terror, mingled with an equal degree of pity, that was distressing beyond conception. The Oxfordshire militia naturally experienced more afflicting sensations than any other regiment on the ground.

Cooke and Parish were both young men, and behaved with uncommon firmness and resignation; they marched through the lines with a steady step, and regarded their coffins with an undaunted eye. The former was called Captain Cooke, from his having headed the Oxfordshire soldiers at the fatal period of the mutiny.

GEORGE COLLEY, MICHAEL BLANCHE, AND FRANCIS COLE,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS was the shocking case of a motley set of desperadoes, composing the crew of an American vessel, rising and murdering their commander, in order to possess themselves of the ship and cargo.

This desperate gang consisted of seven villains of different countries, viz. Samuel Dearborn, Archibald

Hart, and John Cassado, American citizens, of the United States; Francis Cole, an American savage, of the Cherokee nation; George Colley, an Irishman; and Emanuel Batha and Michael Blanche, Spaniards. They were apprehended in the Isle of Wight, on a charge of having murdered William Little,

and possessed themselves unlawfully of the ship called 'The American Eagle,' upon the high seas, and within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty of England.

They were brought to trial at the Admiralty sessions in the Old Bailey for 1796, when Dearborn, Hart, and Cassado, were admitted evidence for the crown.

It appeared from their depositions that the murder of William Little, the captain of 'The American Eagle,' was committed at twelve o'clock at night of October 27, 1795, within three days' sail of the chops of the Channel; and the command of the vessel was then taken by George Colley, who had before been appointed mate, in consequence of the death of Richard Little, the original mate.

The circumstances attending this murder were truly horrible. Cole was the chief murderer, Colley the director, and the two Spaniards, Blanche and Batha, the assistants. Between one and two o'clock the witness, Dearborn, was alarmed at the cries of the captain, who called out 'Murder!' while some one was saying 'Rub him down, damn him, rub him down well!' He was then heard to say, 'I am not dead, though you think me so;' and in a short time after exclaimed, in a faint voice, 'Cook, for God's sake let me lie down and die quietly!' These last words must have been addressed to Cole, as he acted in the capacity of cook. Michael Blanche then came down from the deck, and attempted to murder the witness, Dearborn, who was lying in his hammock: when a scuffle ensued, and the witness got upon deck, and begged his life of Colley, who then directed the body of the captain to be drawn up from the cabin and thrown overboard. During this operation Cole said, 'I can haul him up with a

hearty good will;' and when the body was drawn up, and thrown overboard, Colley said, 'There, let him go to hell and be damned! The body had no covering but a shirt, a pair of stockings, and drawers; the trowsers having been stripped off by Cole, who kept them. Colley then took possession of the captain's effects, among which were two hundred and forty-five dollars, which were afterwards sold by him at Cowes, and divided between the witnesses and the others, together with the clothes of the deceased. Colley, the mate, had entered in the log-book that the deceased died, on the 27th of October, of a yellow fever. On the ship's arrival in the Isle of Wight Colley attempted to make an alteration of the entry of the death he had recorded before, and place it at a former period. A variety of other circumstances appeared, which tended to prove that the part the witnesses took in this horrid transaction was entirely through fear, and that it had been set on foot by Colley.

Blanche and Batha, being unacquainted with the English language, had an interpreter, who explained the evidence: they denied being guilty of the murder, though they acknowledged they knew of its being done. Cole said it was perpetrated by Colley, and Colley that it was done by Blanche and Cole, but did not say who directed it to be done. The manner of the murder was exceedingly barbarous, a knife and an iron tea-kettle being used to effect it.

Batha, in his defence, delivered a paper, translated from Spanish, which was as follows:—'I, Emanuel, declare before God that I am innocent of having any share whatever in the death of Captain Little. I was at that time at the helm, and could not have concerted with any one, as

I cannot speak English at all, and my language is that of the Bay of Biscay.' Foreigners appeared to his character, one of whom said he was an angel of God, meaning a good man.

The jury acquitted Batha, and found the rest guilty. Blanche expressed much astonishment at the verdict.

Sentence was immediately passed by Sir James Marriott on the prisoners—to be hanged on the ensuing Monday at Execution Dock, and afterwards dissected and anatomized. Sir James Marriott subsequently respite the execution to the following Thursday, on account

of the tide, but desired they might be told not to flatter themselves on that account with any hopes of further time, and on the 22d of January, 1796, pursuant to their sentence, they suffered at Execution Dock. The concourse of spectators who attended to witness this act of justice was immense. Cole laughed, and behaved in the most indecent manner. He and Hart (the witness) were Americans of colour. Colley was an Irishman. They would make no confession, but remained obstinate and sullen. Their bodies were brought back to Surgeons' Hall, and publicly exposed.

KIDD WAKE,

CONVICTED AND IMPRISONED FOR AN ASSAULT UPON HIS MAJESTY.

THE excellent address of the judge, in passing sentence on this disaffected man, renders it unnecessary to preface his case with any comments.

The indictment charged that, on the 29th of October, 1795, as the king went in the state coach to the House of Peers to meet his parliament, Kidd Wake, and a number of other disorderly persons, made a great noise, by shouting, hissing, hooting, groaning, and calling out 'No war! down with him!' &c.: the same indecent behaviour was repeated on his majesty's return, and a window of his coach was broken.

Dr. Wolford and Mr. Stockdale were called on the part of the crown, and clearly proved the charge.

Lord Chief Justice.—'Gentlemen of the jury, I have nothing to sum up to you; the question is, whether the law which protects every subject under the king's government is sufficient to protect the king?'

The jury returned a verdict of Guilty.

On the 20th of February, 1796,

when brought up to receive judgment, Mr. Justice Ashurst addressed the defendant—He said he had been convicted, upon the clearest and most satisfactory evidence, of a crime of a most atrocious, and, he was happy to say, almost of an unprecedented nature. He had experienced much mercy from those by whom he was prosecuted; for, if the law had been stretched to its utmost rigour, he might have stood convicted of a crime of a much higher nature. The present case afforded a very strong instance of the unequalled mildness of the laws of this country; for, he believed, this was the only country in the world in which, for such an offence, he would not have paid the forfeit of his life. The evidence adduced at the trial afforded the most convincing proofs that the defendant was a man of a bad and malignant heart; and the explanation which he had since attempted to give of his conduct, in the affidavits which he had filed, was by no means satisfactory.—He had endeavored to account for the contortions of his countenance by a

defect in his sight, which always had the effect of producing a distortion of his features when he attempted to look particularly at any object; but, if this could be supposed to account for the contortion of his countenance, it could not for the language he used, such as 'No George!' &c.

'It has been urged, as a matter of compassion, that you are a married man, and that you and your wife depend on your daily labour for support. It is lamented that it should be the lot of the innocent to suffer with the guilty. That, however, will sometimes necessarily happen in the course of human events; but the claims of your country have a much louder call than those of any individual whatever; and I hope when you think hereafter on the misery you have brought on your innocent family, by your own misconduct,

that it will operate as a check to restrain you from future mischief, and will likewise be a warning to the rest of the world.

'It now becomes my duty to pronounce the sentence of the Court: which is, that you be committed to the custody of the Keeper of the Penitentiary House in and for the county of Gloucester, and be kept to hard labour for the space of five years; and within the first three months of that time that you stand in and upon the pillory for one hour, between the hours of eleven and two o'clock in the afternoon, in some public street in Gloucester, on a market day; and that you give sureties in one thousand pounds for your good behaviour for the term of ten years, to be computed from the expiration of the said five years; and that you be further imprisoned till you find the said sureties.'

ELIZABETH HALL,

CONVICTED OF CRUELTY TO HER FEMALE APPRENTICES.

WE have now before us another woman of the demoniac disposition of Mother Brownrigg, and who, like her, might have satiated the utmost extent of her ferocity, had not she been detected while the children yet lived.

She was prosecuted by the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, at the quarter sessions for Surrey, for assaulting Jane Bray and Sophia Ingram, her apprentices.

Jane Bray deposed that she was bound apprentice to Elizabeth Hall, a pin-header, on the 5th of April, 1796.

The prisoner for a little while used her and Sophia very well, but after some time began to beat and kick them about, and would drag them up and down stairs, making use of the most horrible expressions. She always kept a rod soaking in brine,

with which she used to beat them on their bare skin, when they were undressed to go to bed; if she could not find the rod immediately, she would beat them with her fist, and sometimes with the kettle ladle. They both did as much work as they could; but their mistress made them begin at four o'clock in the morning, and continue close at it until ten or eleven at night, always beating them for no particular cause, and very frequently going out without leaving them either a dinner or supper; they never had a belly-full; sometimes they had nothing all day long but six potatoes and a little salt for their dinner.

Anne Harland served her apprenticeship to Hall, and wrought there three or four weeks with the children. She described them as very good girls; but rather weakly, and

said they earned their mistress from one shilling to one shilling and four-pence daily, which was as much as she could do when she had served twelve months of her time. She corroborated the evidence of the child as to the beating and hours of labour, which, she said, were unusually long, as the custom of the trade is to work only twelve hours.

Catharine Heman worked also for Hall, and generally carried her work home to the shop. On calling one day, the mistress was out, as she learned from the children, drinking. When she came to the door and knocked, the children begged her for God's sake to go to the door, as their mistress would knock them down as she came in. The witness accordingly went to the door, and, as soon as the prisoner was admitted, she knocked the witness down. She then went down stairs, and brought up a board, with which she beat the children very severely. Bray had a large lump on her shoulder; and the little girl Ingram's arms and hands were so bruised by

continual beating, as to be scarce able to hold her work.

The beadle of Bermondsey deposed that he found the children straying in the street, between nine and ten at night: he took them home to the prisoner; on his going to leave them there the children cried, and said they should be murdered. The mistress then said she would not take them in at all, as that was the case. He then took them to the master of the work-house; and the parish, much to their credit, instituted the present prosecution.

The evidence is given as it relates to both, (though the assaults were tried separately,) as the same witnesses were on both. Jane Bray was only eleven years of age, and Sophia Ingram only nine.

The jury found the prisoner guilty on both indictments, and the chairman passed sentence, that she should pay a fine of three shillings and four-pence, and be imprisoned in the House of Correction six months for each offence: a lenient punishment for such inhuman conduct.

HENRY WESTON, EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE pernicious vice of gaming never raged in the human breast with a more ruinous and speedy course than in this unfortunate and much-lamented young man; the particulars of which cannot fail to prove a warning to all intrusted with the property of others to be faithful to their employers.

Mr. Weston belonged to a very respectable family in Ireland, and was recommended to Mr. Cowan, of Ely Place, to manage his army-agency business. His attention to business was such as soon gained him the confidence of his employer. Mr. Cowan, having occasion to be

absent in the country, gave Weston an unlimited order to draw upon his banker for any sums he might want: to this implicit confidence of his employer he may date the origin of his ruin; for, having no person to overlook or to be a check upon him, he was tempted to hazard a large sum of money at a gaming-house in Pall Mall, which he lost; and, having gamed away nearly the whole property of his employer, he was at length induced, by the fatal hope of recovering it, to forge the name of General Tonym to a warrant of attorney, whereby he received upwards of ten thousand pounds at the Bank,

which did not uphold his extravagance more than two nights.

This matter lay undiscovered for some time, as he remitted the general's dividends regularly as they became due: he likewise obtained from his cousin, Mr. Walter, (afterwards Sir Hugh Walter,) a large part of the fortune left him by his uncles, under the idea of laying it out to advantage in the stocks, all of which was sunk at the gaming-table. This brought him to such a state of desperation, that, to obtain more money at any rate—at any risk—he had the audacity to take a woman to the Bank, to personate the sister of General Tonyn, and in consequence obtained another considerable sum. This he had a favorable opportunity of doing, as he was in the habit of transacting money affairs for that lady, who met him about two months afterwards at the Panorama, where she accused him of neglecting her payments; he immediately set off for Ipswich, and arrived at the Post-office in time, next morning, to intercept her letter to her brother, which he answered, as from the general, to the lady's satisfaction.

Finding at length that he could hold it out no longer, he set off about four o'clock on Friday for Liverpool, attended by the servant of Mr. Cowan, who accompanied him as far as Finchley Common: when they parted, the servant returned home, and was immediately taken into custody, under the supposition that he was his confidant, as his name was signed as witness to the warrant of attorney.

Weston was taken in Liverpool, on board of a vessel on the point of sailing for America, to which place he intended to emigrate. When he was about to be taken, he made several attempts to destroy himself by cutting his throat.

His trial came on May 14, 1796, at the Sessions House in the Old Bailey, before the Common Sergeant.

James Bolton, John Staples, and John Sleeth, each of them clerks in the Bank, were sworn, and deposed that General Patrick Tonyn was possessed of sixteen thousand pounds three per cent. consol. Bank annuities standing in his name.

William Kinsale proved that the prisoner, on the 22d of January last, transferred five thousand pounds by power of attorney; two thousand pounds to Mr. Bennet, two thousand pounds to Mr. Sleeth, and one thousand pounds to Mr. Boldew.

General Patrick Tonyn deposed that on the 16th of January he had sixteen thousand pounds stock in the three per cents.—The Bank had made up every deficiency that was in that stock. In the month of April last he gave directions to Mr. Aldridge to examine into his stock, for the purpose of transferring it; in consequence of which he saw the prisoner on Friday following at Mr. Aldridge's: he intended to go immediately from thence to the Bank to make the transfer, but the prisoner said it was likely they should be detained several hours at the Bank, as it was the first transfer day, so he did not go till the Monday following, and the prisoner promised to meet him and Mr. Aldridge on Monday at the Bank: he went to the Bank on Monday, but did not meet the prisoner. He found there was no stock in his name. He did not see the prisoner after that till he was in custody.

Walter Tone said he was servant to Mr. Cowan, of Ely Place; that the prisoner came to his master's house, and asked him to go with him to a coffee-house, which he did; when they were there he took a blank instrument out of his pocket,

and asked him to sign his name to it, which he did, having no suspicion; and he added to it, 'servant to Mr. Cowan.'

John Aldridge said, on the 7th of April last, he received orders from General Tonyn to go to the Bank, in consequence of which he went: there he saw the prisoner; he told him the general would be there the following day, to transfer sixteen thousand pounds, standing in his name, under certain trusts, to the executors under his brother's will; the prisoner said he wished to have the business postponed to a future day. He then told the prisoner he had been informed by Mr. Vickery, of the Bank, that all the general's stock had been sold out; he said it was true that the stock had been lent to Mr. Cowan, to be invested in navy bills, and that they were then rather low, but they were expected to be higher; and he told him he would speak to the general on the subject. The prisoner desired the witness not to say any thing to the general about the stock being sold out, because he said it was the wish of the general, as well as Mr. Cowan, that it should be a secret.

Other witnesses were examined, particularly Mr. Cowan, of Ely Place, who was much affected while he gave his testimony, and retired, after his evidence, dissolved in tears.

The prisoner, after a most affecting trial, was found guilty. The jury having delivered their verdict, the prisoner addressed the Court in these words:—

'My lord, and gentlemen of the jury,—The verdict which has now been passed upon me I hear with a calmness and resignation I am happy in possessing upon so awful an occasion. I am, my lord, as my appearance may very easily show, a very young man. I hope the nu-

merous young men who surround me will take example by my fate, and avoid those excesses, and fatal vice of gambling, which have brought me to ruin and disgrace; and I hope, too, that those farther advanced in years will be cautious not to confide, with too unlimited a control, the management of their concerns to the care of inexperienced young men.

'At the time I was ushered into life I possessed that controul over property, the value of which I could not justly estimate, from which I date my present dreadful situation. I have been ruined by too much precipitation in myself, and by too great want of attention in those that have had the superintendence of my conduct. The justice of my condemnation I acknowledge, and shall submit to it with patience, and I hope with fortitude.'

When sentence of death was passed, he addressed the Court as follows:—

'My lord,—I beg to return my humble thanks to this honorable Court for the great attention and kindness which I experienced on the awful day of my trial; and would now beg to trouble your lordship with a few observations.

'My lord, I acknowledge the crime for which I have been convicted; but I solemnly declare that I did not do the act with any intention ultimately to defraud General Tonyn. If I had any such intention, it is plain that I had an opportunity to have escaped from justice, and to have gone to the remotest part of the globe: but, although I was too much attached to the vice of gambling, yet I fully intended to make restitution, to the utmost of my power, of that property which I became possessed of through this forgery.

'My lord, I solemnly declare I have never committed any bad act,

except the unfortunate crime for which I am now justly sentenced to die. I put my trust in God, hoping that he will enable me to bear my sufferings with resignation; and that He, who knows the hearts of every one, will judge me according to my intentions: and I most humbly request that the execution of my sentence may be delayed, so as to allow me time to prepare for that awful and important event which awaits me.'

Weston entertained an abhorrence of being seen by the mob upon the scaffold, and he expressed an earnest desire that the platform should drop the moment he was tied to the gallows.

Another malefactor, named John Roberts, was sentenced to die at the same time, and Weston found it necessary to have his consent. One of the clergymen who attended Weston undertook to negotiate the melancholy business.

Upon Roberts being informed of the wish of his fellow-sufferer, he replied, 'What! is Weston afraid of being seen? That is not my case: I am not only willing that the people should see me, but likewise to take warning by my untimely end; and therefore I desire to have the usual prayers under the gallows.' The Ordinary replied that he had a right to that indulgence, and it should be granted.

On the morning of execution Weston was conducted to chapel, in order that he might receive the sacrament with his fellow-sufferer, who particularly expressed how happy he should be if Mr. Weston would grant him that favour: 'If not,' said he, 'I hope, nevertheless, we may meet in heaven.' For it must be observed that Weston did not usually come to chapel, not being there above three or four times during his confinement, hav-

ing been waited upon by some clergyman or other in his own room. However, on the morning (July 6) he attended, and communicated with the reverend gentlemen and his fellow-convict. The sacrament was administered by the Ordinary, who afterwards prayed with the unhappy prisoners on the scaffold, attended by one of the divines alone, as the other two could not make up their minds to go on the platform, though requested by the unhappy young Weston.

Upon the executioner's putting on the cap, he pulled it as far as he possibly could himself over his face, and at the same time held a white handkerchief to his mouth, so that during prayers the populace could by no means see his countenance. He wept abundantly just before he was turned off, and squeezed his friend the minister's hand, being no doubt at that time much agitated.

He suffered in front of Newgate, July the 6th, 1796.

It is said that his mother died in Ireland, a few days before his execution, of a broken heart.

It is not possible to conceive a more affecting or interesting example offered to the consideration of men, who speculate and waste their own and friends' property, with which they may be intrusted, than that of Henry Weston, who closed his sad account with the ignominious sacrifice of his life.

His plea of not having any bad-intention is a deceiving argument, and in the scale of religion or morality can have little weight. From small gains at first, men are inveigled to pursue the visionary phantom; they forfeit the trust confided to them by their friends, under the expectation of soon being able to replace it; but succeeding attempts strip them of all hopes, inextricable difficulties

entangle them, and, if the last effort brings them not to the gallows, despair often drives them to self-mur-

der. When on the gallows Weston refused to shake hands with his fellow-sufferer.

JOHN CLARKE,
EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS is a horrid case of a man seducing, and then murdering a female, with the aggravation of having been at the time a married man.

The Romans esteemed chastity in women their dearest virtue, and punished with dreadful severity the man who seduced a virgin. Of the veneration of these, once a noble race, for chastity, the poet says—

‘Bright goddess!

Thou to whose honour ancient Rome de-
creed

Temples and altars, when thy Lucretia
For glory bled! do thou protect thy vir-
tary

From violence and shame!’

John Clarke was gardener to Charles Long, Esq. near Bromley, in Kent, and at the summer assizes for 1796, at Maidstone, was indicted for the wilful murder of Elizabeth Mann, his fellow-servant, who lived as dairy-maid with that gentleman, at his country seat near Bromley, in Kent.

The deceased, it appeared by the testimony of Mr. Long’s servants, was observed, a few days before she was murdered, to appear very much dejected, in consequence of the prisoner’s not paying that attention to her he was accustomed to do, and by whom they strongly suspected she was with child.

The day on which she disappeared was a Monday; and on the Tuesday she was found by the steward and coachman in the dairy, with a deep wound in her throat, and a cord fastened tight round her neck. From the intimacy which subsisted between the prisoner and her, their suspicions fell on him; in conse-

quence of which two officers from Bow Street were sent for, who, on their arrival at Mr. Long’s house, went to the dairy, where, after a strict search, nothing was found that could possibly create a suspicion that the unfortunate young woman had been guilty of suicide.

They immediately took Clarke into custody: he denied knowing any thing of the matter; and, in stating how he had been employed on the Monday evening on which the murder was perpetrated, he contradicted himself in his several relations.

But the most material part of the evidence adduced against him was that of one John Johnson, a painter, who lodged in the prisoner’s house: he swore that, on the Monday evening on which the deceased was murdered, he went home about a quarter before nine, and asked Mrs. Clarke (the prisoner’s wife) for his supper; after eating it he went to the Greyhound public house, where he remained till about a quarter past ten, when he returned back to his lodging: Clarke was then at home, and was sitting very much dejected, leaning on the table, with his arms folded.

From the behaviour of Mrs. Clarke, the witness thought they wanted him gone; and, on Mrs. Clarke giving him a candle, he went up to bed: he was sitting on the bed-side, reading, when he heard Mrs. Clarke come softly up stairs, and say in a low voice to her husband, ‘Not yet, he is not in bed.’ Soon after he went to bed, and got up about six o’clock in the morn-

ing : seeing Mrs. Clarke up, he said she was up early ; she replied she was washing : he heard of the murder soon after this, and communicated his suspicions to his comrade (Stedman) as to the guilt of Clarke ; on which they both went to him, and told him the rumour that was spread respecting the murder of Mr. Long's dairy-maid : he trembled exceedingly, and appeared very much agitated : he asked them if any person was suspected ; and added, that he wished some heavy misfortune would fall on him if he had been guilty of the deed. Some other conversation passed between them, all of which tended greatly to confirm their suspicions.

A piece of rope was then produced, found in the tool-house of the prisoner, which proved to be of the very same manufacture, texture, and size, as that found about the neck of the deceased.

The jury, after a short deliberation, found him guilty. He was ordered for execution, and his body afterwards to be dissected.

Clarke was executed, pursuant to his sentence, on the 29th of July,

near Bromley, in Kent. He made a circumstantial confession of seducing the deceased to the clergyman who attended him after conviction, but which appears very extraordinary, and in some cases improbable, as he attempted to exculpate himself of any premeditated intention of committing murder : he said it was entirely brought about by the deceased herself, who, when he went by her own appointment to the dairy-house, locked the door, took away the key, and put her apron over the key-hole, and he attempted to leave her by getting out of the window ; she held him back, and desired he would kill her, declaring she had rather die than live and be slighted ; that the rope with which he did it he found in the dairy-house, but which not dispatching her quick enough, he cut her throat with a knife he had about him, which he afterwards threw into a pond, where he went to wash the blood from his hands. The circumstance of his clothes being washed or burnt, to prevent discovery, he also positively denied, and declared his wife had no knowledge of the business.

SARAH PENELOPE STANLEY, CONVICTED OF PETTY LARCENY.

THIS female was born at Mereival Hall, in Warwickshire, the seat of Mr. Stratford, to whom her father was steward, whose name was Brindley. She was put apprentice to a milliner at Lichfield, and married to a shoemaker. Her husband being an idle dissolute fellow, they were reduced to very indigent circumstances, and she left him to come to London. Having had a good education, and writing an excellent hand, she put on men's apparel, and for some time wrote for gentlemen in the Commons ; but, meeting with a re-

cruiting sergeant at Westminster, she engaged to serve in a regiment of light horse, then raising, called the Ayrshire Fencible Cavalry. She served upwards of a year with great credit to herself, and was promoted to the rank of corporal ; rode extremely well, and had the care of two horses ; but was discovered at Carlisle to be a woman, when she was honorably discharged, after many marks of friendship shown her, not only by Major Horsley, in whose troop she rode, but by the other officers, and many of the in-

habitants of Castle. She came to town, was much reduced, and through mere necessity, stole the cloak for which she was tried and convicted. She acknowledged her crime, said it was the first offence of the kind she had committed, and meant to make satisfaction. The Court passed a slight sentence upon her, and she was discharged from

Newgate. The two undersheriffs, and the keeper, gave her some money to provide her a few necessaries, and she left the court, promising henceforward to seek an honest livelihood, in the proper habit of her sex. She was a stout woman, of about thirty years of age. Her trial took place in the October sessions, 1796.

VALLERIE COFFRE,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS FELLOW-PRISONER.

It is a melancholy reflection on the state of human nature to find men, under the misery of imprisonment in a foreign land, quarrelling with each other, to a height ending in murder.

That men, side by side, fighting the battles of their country, and by the fortune of war made prisoners by their enemy, should, in their confinement, begin to murder each other, is a dreadful reflection.

Vallerie Coffre was a French prisoner of war, confined, with a number of his countrymen, at Portchester Castle, in Hampshire. He quarrelled with his countryman and fellow-prisoner, Nicholas Chartier, and, by a secret stab with his knife, an instrument all Frenchmen carry about them, chiefly for the purpose of cutting their food,* deprived him of life.

This was fully proved on his trial. He pleaded intoxication, and behaved with great contrition. He was a well-made young man, and only twenty-two years of age. He

was attended by a Catholic priest, and was very earnest in his devotions. The whole of the French prisoners were guarded to the place of execution, to witness the dreadful example.

He signed a confession, according to the custom of his country, acknowledging his crime, and the justice of his sentence, and asking pardon for it. The priest who attended him, just before he was turned off, read the paper to the prisoners assembled, which it is hoped had a good effect on them.

The following is a correct copy of the paper above mentioned:—

‘In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.—Fatal drunkenness! without which I should not have killed my friend, since I loved him, and regret him sincerely, and with all my soul. Truth obliges me to say, to the end, that I have no knowledge of that which I did then, so much were my senses lost; nevertheless, I have committed a great crime.—I

* At French tables, knives are seldom laid with each plate. A carver is sometimes found near the dish of roast meat, but there is little occasion for this, their victuals being always cooked, as we would express it, to rags. Thus they easily pull it to pieces with their three-pronged forks. With one of these and a knife, (the latter each individual takes from the pocket,) aided occasionally by their fingers, they consume an enormous quantity of salad, greens, and bread; with no small allowance of overdone animal food. Of this part of their aliment, the stews, ragouts, and soups, are excellent; but no Englishman can relish their roast beef, their steak, or their leg of mutton.

acknowledge the justice of my condemnation—I entreat pardon for it from my friends, from all those who were witnesses to it, and, above all, from God, who is the Father and the Saviour of all men, and to whom I recommend my soul, trusting myself to the merits of Jesus Christ, and blessing his divine bounty. I die

a member of the Apostolic Roman Church. VALLERIE COFFRE,

July 11, 1796.

Witness, Delabaye.

He was executed at Winchester, July the 11th, 1796, after which his body was immediately delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

JOSEPH HODGES AND RICHARD PROBIN, CONVICTED OF CROSS-DROPPING.

FORMERLY this description of fraud was frequently practised in London upon countrymen: but in the present times it has become too well known to be often carried into effect. The dupe, in the present instance, was William Headley, an ironmonger, at Cambridge, who, on the trial of these robbers, deposed that on the 7th of July, 1796, he was in town, going from Shoe Lane to the Angel Inn, St. Clement's, to take a place on the outside of the coach, to see his brother in Wiltshire: he met Hodges in Butcher Row, and left him to take his place. Having taken it, Hodges overtook him in Clare Market: the witness staid in Clare Market, at Mr. Gardener's, about ten minutes, and, when he came out, he went to go back to Shoe Lane, to his friends. Near Portugal Street he was overtaken by Hodges again; but, before he saw him, he beheld a parcel lying at his right foot: Hodges clapped a hazel cane on the parcel; he was behind the witness; he picked up the parcel, and tore away the middle part of the paper, and showed the red, which appeared like a pocket-book; he put it into his pocket, and took it out again in a minute, and opened the end, and doubled it as large as he possibly could, to satisfy the witness that there was something in it, and he

told him he had got a finding; the witness asked him what it was, and he stopped near Mr. Chorley's, the Castle, in Portugal Street: he said this was not a proper place to show it in; and if the witness would go in, and have something to drink, he would show it him: accordingly he went in with him, and the prisoner, Probin, was there (that was the first time he saw him). Hodges took out the pocket-book, unfolded it, and produced a receipt from Mr. Smith (which the witness showed the Court), and read as follows:—

‘London, 20th June, 1796. Received of John King, Esq. the sum of three hundred and twenty pounds, for one brilliant diamond cross, by me, William Smith.’

This was upon a fourpenny stamp. Hodges held it rather under the table, read the receipt, and seemed very much alarmed and confused at finding it. The witness read it, and then Hodges asked what must they do with the book and its contents; then he showed the witness the cross, who thought it should be taken to this William Smith, the jeweller: he confessed himself much at a loss what to do with it, as he did not approve of sending it to the jeweller, and asked the witness if he had any objection to its being mentioned to that gentleman (that was Probin); there was no other person

then in the room, and they did not appear before that to know one another: the witness consented to its being shown to him, and he asked him to give his opinion of this finding. Probin addressed himself to them with a great deal of politeness, and said, 'Gentlemen, if you are in any difficulty, I will assist you;' and he asked if any body was near, or if they were both together; they told him nobody was near: he asked who picked it up; the witness told him Hodges. Probin then said he thought Hodges ought to make the witness a present, as being a party concerned. Hodges agreed to that proposal, and said he would go to his banker's to get change for some drafts, to make him a present, as being with him when the parcel was found: he said he should not be gone above ten minutes; but Probin said, 'I think you should not take the pocket-book with you,' and proposed it should be left with the witness. Hodges went, and returned in about ten minutes, very hot, and said he had seen his banker, but he was obliged to go to 'Change, and he should not see him any more till four o'clock: the business was then put off till four o'clock, and a meeting was appointed at the Angel, behind St. Clement's. Probin asked the witness his name, and where he came from, and he told him; and Hodges gave his name and address, saying he came from Worcester, and was in the hop business. The witness forgot the name Hodges gave, but was sure it was not that of Hodges. Probin gave his name as 'William Jones, No. 7, Charing Cross.' Probin then said Hodges ought to have the pocket-book, and the valuable property in it, till four o'clock. Probin then asked the witness what he would leave to have the pro-

perty left with him till four o'clock; he asked him if he would leave one hundred pounds as a security for his meeting them. The witness pulled out some papers he had concealed in his stocking, and took out a bill of one hundred pounds; it was a bank-bill, on demand: Probin took it out of Hodges's hand, turned it over, and examined it; said it was pieced, but it would do very well. The witness left the note in the care of Hodges, and departed.

About five minutes after he showed the cross to a friend; and, from what he said, the witness was alarmed, and went to inquire for Mr. Jones, No. 7, Charing Cross, but he could find no such person; and about two or three o'clock he gave information at Bow Street, and described the persons of the parties concerned. This event took place on Thursday, and Mr. Headley saw them in custody at Bow Street on the Monday following.

Mr. Lamb produced the bank-note, which the prosecutor deposed to as the same note he left with Hodges, the same number, and also knew it by being pieced.

Isaac Coxall, of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, swore that on the 6th of July he paid Mr. Headley a note of one hundred pounds, which he had received the day before at the Hitchin Bank, with some other notes, making seven hundred and thirty pounds.

Mr. J. Thackery, cashier to the Hitchin Bank, remembered paying Mr. Coxall some notes on the 5th of July, and had no doubt whatever that the hundred pound note in question was one of them.

John Rivett, a police officer, went, with others, on the 6th of July, in consequence of Mr. Headley's information, to Hodges's house, No.

12, Wild Court. Hodges was not at home; Mrs. Hodges was. Rivett searched her, and found on her five ten pound notes of the Bank of England: he, Carpmeal, and Miller, remained in Hodges's house all night. About seven in the morning, Carpmeal and Rivett, being obliged to go about other business, left Miller and Berresford in the house. Probin was brought to Bow Street by Berresford, on the 8th, in the morning. Rivett searched Probin, and found four ten pound bank-notes on him, and five guineas. Hodges was taken soon after. He also searched him, and found two guineas and a half, and two red morocco pocket-books; one of them contained another cross, and the other nothing but a direction, 'William Headley, Cambridge;' which was the direction Hodges wrote down in the presence of the prosecutor.

Robert Berresford, a constable of St. Clement's, swore that on Friday morning, the 8th of July, he went to Hodges's house, and in about a quarter of an hour Probin came to the window; the shutters were a little open; he peeped in, and Hodges's wife waved her hand to him to go away; he did not take the hint directly, but came and peeped in again, and she waved her hand again; the witness then ran out of the room, and said, 'Mr. Hodges, I want you;' the witness seized him, supposing him to be Hodges. He said his name was not Hodges, and refused to go with him; but, finding the witness resolute, he went quietly to Bow Street, where he was left in custody. The witness then went back to Hodges's house, and in about twenty minutes Hodges opened the door and came

in. Hodges's wife got up and asked 'When did you hear from our friends in Cirencester? my husband will be there next week.' The witness thought he answered the description of Hodges, and secured him also.

John Furmean, a jeweller, said there was no intrinsic value in either of the diamond crosses. He would not give any thing for either if offered to him for sale.

Mr. Francis Salkeld, one of the cashiers of the Bank, swore that he gave value for the one hundred pound bank-note, and also to his writing on the face of it, 'W. Hodges, Holborn.' The prisoner represented himself to be William Hodges, the witness supposed, by his writing that upon it: he gave ten ten-pound bank-notes, as appeared by the book. On looking at four bank-notes, which were found on Probin, the witness said they answered in date and number to the four in his entry.

Probin, in his defence, said that the notes which were found on him were Hodges's, who, having been intoxicated the preceding night, had given him his pocket-book to take care of. Hodges made no defence. They were both found guilty, at the Old Bailey sessions, in 1796, and sentenced to be transported each for seven years.

Mr. Headley's conduct was not only extremely simple, but indirectly dishonest, and he would have deserved but little sympathy even had he lost his hundred pounds; for he gave it in the hope of shaming in that property, which, if genuine, he knew was not his, and which, if he had been an honest man, he would have endeavored to return to its proper owner.

CHARLES SCOLDWELL,

CONVICTED OF STEALING TWO DUCKS.

THIS extraordinary transaction took place at Beilfont, in Middlesex; and the trial came on at the Old Bailey, before the Recorder, July 23, 1796. The indictment merely went to the feloniously stealing two live tame ducks; and it was stated by Mr. Alley, counsel for the prosecution, that this theft, or act of grand larceny, was attended with many aggravating circumstances of oppression. The prisoner, who was a servant of the law, was executing a writ which he had against the prosecutor, Mr. Spurling; the debt amounted to sixteen pounds, seven shillings. At ten at night the prisoner obtained admission to Mr. Spurling, and informed him he had a writ against him, and he must immediately go with him to Newgate: to this the prosecutor demurred, as to the harshness of the intended removal; for, if there was any demand against him, he was ready to settle it. The prisoner replied, 'No, no, you shall not settle it; you must immediately come with me to Newgate, and you must hire a post-chaise.' Poor Mr. Spurling replied, 'That is hard to be obliged to hire a post-chaise to carry one's self to Newgate; if you will take me in an humble single horse-chaise, which I have of my own, I will go with you to Newgate.' The prisoner's follower, whose name was Taylor, said he thought they had better settle the matter; and, in the prisoner's presence, asked him what kind of accommodation he could afford. Mr. Spurling said, 'I have fifteen pounds in the house; that you shall have, and something else to secure the balance, being one pound, seven shillings.' Upon this the prisoner asked him if he had a

watch; and he replying in the affirmative, the prisoner immediately said, 'I must have that.' This treatment was the more oppressive at that period, as his wife was then very near that crisis, when every good husband is more than ordinarily careful of her safety; and therefore Mr. Spurling, rather than leave his wife, gave the prisoner his watch, which he took, together with the fifteen pounds already mentioned. Scoldwell had no sooner got possession of these, than he increased his demand: says he, 'This is a trifling thing; such gentlemen as we are cannot come into the country without something to bear our expenses.' Upon that he asked the prosecutor for some money; who replied that 'he had only a few halfpence left, which he had taken in the course of his trade on that day, and which amounted to about ten shillings.' Scoldwell received that ten shillings also. The prisoner soon after asked if there were no fowls about the house. Mr. Spurling told him he had only one or two. Then the prisoner inquired for a goose, because he said his wife was very fond of goose. The prosecutor said he had one; and the prisoner said he would take it to town. On the prosecutor's remonstrating with him, the prisoner said he must have a goose; the prosecutor then let him have one. Still the rapacity of this man was not satisfied; he was no sooner possessed of this, but, taking advantage of the prosecutor's peculiar situation with respect to his wife, he pursued his demands, extending even to the lease of the house. The prosecutor, wearied with his repeated exactions, told him the lease was his all, for he

had expended three hundred pounds on the premises a short time before; however, the prisoner obtained possession of this lease also. These demands being thus complied with, the prisoner at the bar was still discontented: he said, 'I must have a note for forty pounds, on condition that the lease, watch, and every thing, shall be mine, unless this debt and costs are legally settled within twenty-one days. This note, also, the prosecutor gave him; and here was a termination to such almost boundless rapacity. The prisoner left the prosecutor at about four or five in the morning, who, having to prepare his bread, retired to his bakehouse: he saw the prisoner, however, going towards the stable, in which were those two ducks which are the subject of inquiry. The prisoner soon after left the stable, and went away. About six in the morning the prosecutor's wife ordered the ducks to be let out and fed, as they formerly had been; the ducks were gone from the stable. The prosecutor, it appears, saw those two ducks there about two hours before; and he could prove positively that they were actually in the stable at that very time. He could also prove that nobody went into the stable but the prisoner; and a sort of confession, or, at least an admission by the prisoner himself, was established, that he was the person who stole these ducks; for it happened that the prisoner, as he was coming back to town, met with a driver of a stage-coach: he got on the top of the coach; and, in the course of a few miles, not foreseeing, at the moment, the event of this evening, tapped the coachman on the shoulder, and cried out, '*Quack! Quack! Tick! Tick!*' The coachman asked what he meant; the prisoner replied, 'I have done the baker out of his

ducks! I have done the baker out of his watch!' When they had proceeded a great way further, the coachman stopping to water, the ducks were falling out of the prisoner's pocket, and the coachman said to him, 'Mr. Constable, if you do not take care you will lose the ducks you have stolen.' His reply was not a denial of that charge: 'No, no,' says he, 'I will take care, I will keep them fast.'

The prosecutor deposed that the prisoner came to Bedford on the 22d of July last, about ten at night; Mr. Spurling and his servants were at supper. The prisoner came in, and looked hard at him, and said, 'Do not you know me?' Spurling said 'No.' He said 'Is this all you have for supper?' It was some bacon: he then sat down, and said he had a writ for the prosecutor from Mr. Allen. Spurling said if he sat down he might probably settle it, or give bail. The prisoner said he should have no bail, for there was no bail; but he should go to London directly, whether the horses had ate their victuals or not; he should go to Newgate, and that would cost him two guineas. Spurling then went into the house with the prisoner, and staid about an hour, when the prisoner took all the things: they then went into the bakehouse: the prisoner looked into the oven, and then he went into the wash-house: that was about half past five; he went out of the wash-house into the stable; he staid there seven or eight minutes; Spurling remained in the bakehouse, making his dough, and lighting his fire; he went out of the stable, and said 'Good morning to you.'

In about half an hour after he was gone, the maid went in first, and the ducks, which were white ones, were gone. The prosecutor denied ever having made a present

to the prisoner of a duck. He had given him a forty-pound note, and his lease, for security.

The prisoner also had a great bason of halfpence, and the prosecutor's watch. On the 13th of August he came down to arrest him the second time upon another suit: he then brought a note which Spurling had given him before, for four pounds nineteen shillings, 'and,' says he, 'here is your note, it is good for nothing; take your balderdash note.' Spurling said, 'You have never been to see whether the man would take it or not?' says he, 'I will have none of your notes, nor your nonsense; pay me the money you owe me.' The prosecutor asked him, 'What do I owe you?' 'Why,' says he, 'now I must have nine pounds.' The prosecutor did not know then that he had stolen his ducks. He did not charge him with the offence till the 16th of August, when he came to give the bail-bond in London, as he did not know it for a certainty before. They then dined together in the city, at the Red Lion; and, when filling up the bail-bond, the prosecutor accused him of stealing his ducks; when the prisoner was very angry, and called him out of the room, saying, 'I did have your ducks; but, if you make any more piece of work, I will lock you up directly.' Mr. Wager (the prosecutor's bail) said his friend should not be locked up, for he had fifty pounds by him, and he should not be locked up.

Joseph Sadler, the coachman, swore that the ducks were white, which the prisoner boasted he had done the baker out of.

William Wager, who keeps the Duke's Head at Bedford, deposed that on the 16th of August he went to Mr. Scoldwell's house, who asked him where the baker was. The

witness told him, gone into the city about some business; he said he wanted him there to lock him up. The witness asked him what he could want to lock him up for—was he not come to give bail? The prisoner said he must do his duty, and lock him up. The witness told him to come with him into the city, and they should meet him. The witness then asked him how he came to do the baker out of his ducks: his wife said 'What ducks?' Wager told her two ducks which the baker missed, and which Sadler told him he had. His wife said she was sure he had brought no ducks there. When the prisoner and witness came out, the former was very angry that mention was made of the ducks to his wife. 'Do you think,' said he, 'that I take every thing home to my wife that I get? I had them dressed before I got home at night.'

After the examination of several other witnesses, the fact, as laid in the indictment, being clearly proved, the Recorder summed up the evidence; and the jury, after half an hour's consideration, returned a verdict of Guilty. The prisoner, who was aged forty-one, was sentenced to be transported for seven years.

The abuse of power, when placed in the hands of the rapacious and ignorant, is not, unluckily, of rare occurrence. The stealing the ducks was only a part, and not altogether the worst part, of this fellow's delinquency; but so difficult is it to frame laws which shall meet every emergency, that, had it not been for that part of his conduct, he would probably have not only escaped punishment, but even reprehension. We trust that the present general diffusion of education will so operate on the minds of the inferior ministers of the law, as to induce them to exercise their authority with a due degree of mildness.



The Execution of Parker.

RICHARD PARKER,
EXECUTED FOR MUTINY.

The magnitude of this man's offence, occurring at a period when the preservation of the state mainly depended on the exertions of the navy, threw the whole empire into consternation. Dissatisfaction had for some time existed, and a mutinous spirit evinced itself among the seamen, who, on this occasion, appointed delegates from all the ships at Sheerness and the Nore, and drew up a statement of grievances, dated 20th of May, 1797, requiring, among other demands, a more equal distribution of prize-money, and some modification of the articles of war. These delegates assembled on board the *Sandwich*, of 28 guns, and not only superseded all the captains in their command, but elected Parker president

of the convention, and his orders were implicitly obeyed as admiral of the squadron.

Richard Parker had received a good education, was bred in the navy, and, about the conclusion of the American war, was an acting lieutenant in one of his majesty's ships. He soon came into the possession of a considerable sum of money, shortly after which he arrived in this country, and married a farmer's daughter in Aberdeenshire, with whom he received a decent patrimony.

At this time, being without employment, he devoted himself to every species of dissipation, which soon finished his fortune, and involved him in debt, on account of which he was cast into the goal of

Edinburgh, where he was lying at the time the country was raising seamen for the navy.

He then entered as one of the volunteers for Perthshire, and was released from prison, upon paying the creditor a part of his bounty. He was put on board the tender then in Leith Roads, which carried him, with many others, to the Nore.

On the passage the captain distinguished Parker, both by his activity and polite address. He was known in the mutinous fleet by the appellation of *Admiral Parker*; for Captain Watson, of the Leith tender, before he sailed from the Nore, was ordered, by the crew of the *Sandwich*, to come on board, which he did, and was then introduced to, and interrogated by, Parker, whom he knew on first sight. Parker also recollected him, and from this circumstance he experienced great favour.

Parker ordered every man on board to treat Captain Watson well, saying he was a seaman's friend, and had treated him well, and that, if any man used him otherwise, he should instantly be —. Here he pointed to the rope at the yard-arm.

Captain Watson took an opportunity of hinting to Parker the impropriety of his conduct, and the consequences that might follow; which seemed to throw a momentary damp on his spirits; but he expressed a wish to wave the subject, and Captain Watson proceeded on his voyage.

The mutiny having been happily suppressed, and a considerable reward offered for the apprehension of Parker, the accused ringleader, on the arrival of Lieutenant Mott, with the proclamations, &c. the crews of all the ships readily submitted. Parker himself could not oppose this spirit.

In consequence of this, the *Sand-*

wich came under the guns of Sheerness, and Admiral Buckner's boat, commanded by the cockswain, and containing a picket-guard of the West York militia, went on board to bring Parker on shore.

Several of the officers of the *Sandwich* were on deck, but very few of the men appeared. As soon as Parker heard that a boat was come for him, he surrendered himself to four of the ship's crew, to protect him against the outrages of the other seamen, whose vengeance he feared.

Admiral Buckner's cockswain told the officers on deck his business, and claimed their assistance. The lieutenant drew his sword, and the party, consisting of eight or ten, went down below, where Parker was surrendered into their hands. They tied his hands together behind, and the officers conducted him into the boat, which had eight or ten rowers, and a party of the West York militia, seated in the head, with their faces towards the stern, and their muskets held upright in their hands, ready charged. Parker was seated near the stern, with his face towards the head; behind him was the cockswain, and before him the lieutenant of the *Sandwich*, holding a drawn sword over him. Parker, on landing, was much hissed, on which he said aloud, 'Do not hoot me. It is not my fault. I will clear myself.'

Parker was then sent to Maidstone gaol, under a strong guard; besides which a rope tied his arms behind his back.

Parker, after a long trial, which commenced soon after his apprehension, was found Guilty. His defence, which he had some time allowed him to prepare, he read from a paper, but with much rapidity and little feeling.

After a solemn pause of ten

minutes, the judge-advocate rose, and, with his head uncovered, read the awful sentence, viz.:—‘ The Court adjudges Richard Parker to suffer death, and to be hanged by the neck, on board any one of his majesty’s ships, and at such time, as the lords of the admiralty may think proper to appoint.’

The prisoner listened to the sentence without emotion, and addressed the Court as follows:—

‘ I have heard your sentence; I shall submit to it without a struggle. I feel thus, because I am sensible of the rectitude of my intentions. Whatever offences may have been committed, I hope my life will be the only sacrifice. I trust it will be thought a sufficient atonement. Pardon, I beseech you, the other men; I know they will return with alacrity to their duty.’

The president then briefly addressed himself to the prisoner. He said that, notwithstanding the enormity of the crimes of which he had been found guilty, on the fullest and clearest evidence, yet the Court, in order to afford him the necessary time to expiate his offences, and to make his peace with God, would not then name any day for his execution, but leave that point to the determination of the lords of the admiralty. The prisoner then withdrew, and was soon after put in irons.

The time of Parker’s execution was fixed for Friday, the 30th of June, 1797. At eight o’clock in the morning a gun was fired on board his majesty’s ship *L’Espion*, lying off Sherness garrison, Vice-Admiral Lutwidge’s flag-ship; and the yellow flag, the signal of capital punishment, was hoisted, which was immediately repeated by the *Sandwich*, hoisting the same colour on her fore-top.

The prisoner was awaked, a little after six o’clock, from a sound

sleep, by the provost-marshal, who, with a file of marines, composed his guard: he arose with cheerfulness, and requested permission for a barber to attend him, which was granted; he soon dressed himself in a neat suit of mourning, (waistcoat excepted,) wearing his half-boots over a pair of black silk stockings: he then took his breakfast; talked of a will he had written, in which he had bequeathed to his wife a little estate he said he was heir to; and, after that, lamented the misfortune that had been brought on the country by the mutiny, but solemnly denied having the least connexion or correspondence with any disaffected persons ashore; and declared that it was chiefly owing to him that the ships had not been carried into the enemy’s ports.

At half past eight he was told the chaplain of the ship was ready to attend him to prayers upon the quarter-deck, which he immediately ascended, uncovered: at his first entrance on the deck he looked a little paler than common, but soon recovered his usual complexion; he bowed to the officers, and, a chair being allowed him, he sat down a few moments: he then arose, and told the clergyman he wished to attend him: the chaplain informed him he had selected two psalms appropriate to his situation; to which the prisoner, assenting, said, ‘ And with your permission, sir, I will add a third, and named the 51st. He then recited each alternate verse in a manner peculiarly impressive.

At nine o’clock the preparatory gun was fired from *L’Espion*, which he heard without the smallest emotion. Prayers being soon after closed, he rose, and asked Captain Moss ‘ if he might be indulged with a glass of white wine;’ which being granted, he took it, and, lifting up his eyes, exclaimed, ‘ I drink first

to the salvation of my soul! and next to the forgiveness of my enemies!' Addressing himself to Captain Moss, he said 'he hoped he would shake hands with him;' which the captain did: he then desired 'that he might be remembered to his companions on board the Neptune; with his last breath sent an entreaty to them to prepare for their destiny, and refrain from unbecoming LEVITY!' His arms being now bound, the procession moved from the quarter-deck to the fore-castle, passing through a double file of marines on the starboard side, to a platform erected on the cat-head, with an elevated projection. Arriving there, he knelt with the chaplain, and joined in some devout ejaculations; to all of which he repeated loudly 'Amen.' Rising again, the admiral's warrant of execution, addressed to Captain Moss, was now read by the clerk, in which the sentence of the court-martial, order of the board of admiralty, and his majesty's approbation of the whole proceedings, were fully recited, which the prisoner heard with great attention, and bowed his head, as if in assent, at the close of it. He now asked the captain 'whether he might be allowed to speak;' and, immediately apprehending his intention might be misconceived, he added, 'I am not going, sir, to address the ship's company!—I wish only to declare that I acknowledge the justice of the sentence under which I suffer; and I hope my death may be deemed a sufficient atonement, and save the lives of others!'

He then requested 'a minute to collect himself,' and knelt down alone, about that space of time; then, rising up, said, 'I am ready;' and, holding his head up, said to the boatswain's mate, 'Take off my handkerchief' (of black silk);

which being done, the provost-marshal placed the halter over his head, (which had been prepared with grease,) but, doing it awkwardly, the prisoner said rather pettishly to the boatswain's mate, 'Do you do it, for he seems to know nothing about it.' The halter was then spliced to the reeve-rope: all this being adjusted, the marshal attempted to put a cap on, which he refused; but, on being told it was indispensable, he submitted, requesting it might not be pulled over his eyes till he desired it. He then turned round, for the first time, and gave a steady look at his shipmates on the fore-castle, and, with an affectionate kind of smile, nodded his head, and said 'Good-by to you!' He now said, 'Captain Moss, is the gun primed?'—'It is.—Is the match alight?'—'All is ready.'—On this he advanced a little, and said, 'Will any gentleman be so good as to lend me a white handkerchief for the signal?' After some little pause, a gentleman stepped forward and gave him one; to whom bowing, he returned thanks. He now ascended the platform, repeated the same questions about the gun; then the cap being drawn over his face, walking by firm degrees up to the extremity of the scaffold, he dropped the handkerchief, put his hands in his coat pockets with great rapidity, and at the moment, as he was springing off, the fatal bow-gun fired, and the reeve-rope catching him, run him up, though not with great velocity, to the yard-arm. When suspended about midway, his body appeared extremely convulsed for a few seconds, immediately after which no appearance of life remained. It being ebb of tide, the starboard yard-arm pointed to the Isle of Grain, where scaffolding was erected for the spectators on shore; a

considerable number of yachts, cutters, and other craft, surrounded the Sandwich. The last time the prisoner knelt with the chaplain at the cat-head, though he made his responses regularly, his attention was particularly directed the whole time to the armed boats of the fleet, which were plying round on duty. The whole conduct of this awful ceremony was extremely decorous and impressive; it was evident, from the countenances of the crew of the Sandwich, that the general feeling for

the fate of their mutinous conductor was such as might be wished: not a word, and scarce a whisper, was heard among them.

The behaviour of this unhappy man, throughout the whole of his trial, was firm and manly; while he was before the Court, decent and respectful; and from the time he received his sentence, till his execution, resigned and penitent. The uncommon fortitude he displayed during his trial did not forsake him even in the last moments of his wretched existence.

MARIA THERESA PHIPOE, *ALIAS* MARY BENSON,
EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MARY COX.

THIS was a woman of a masculine behaviour, and of a daring disposition, as will be fully shown in detailing the particulars of her very interesting trials.

Two years only, previous to her committing the horrid murder for which she suffered, she was convicted of forcibly taking from Mr. John Cortois a promissory note of hand for two thousand pounds.

The manner in which she extorted this property is highly characteristic of the ferocity of her nature. She then kept a house and a servant, for the purpose of receiving visits from the other sex.

Among other dupes to her artifice was Mr. John Cortois, whom she seized soon after he had sat down in her house, and, knowing that he possessed considerable property, bound him, with the assistance of the other desperate female, acting as her servant, to his chair with a cord, and with horrid imprecations threatening, and even attempting, to cut his throat, unless he gave her his note for two thousand pounds. In a state of terror he signed the written instrument. This done, the ferocious female

thought she might negotiate the note with more safety if he was killed, calling to mind Satan's proverb, that 'Dead men tell no tales.' For this diabolical purpose, she again attempted to murder him, and ordered him instantly to prepare for death, either by swallowing arsenic, by a pistol, or stabbing with a knife, which she brandished over his head. At length the terrified gentleman became desperate in his turn, and attempted to escape. Mrs. Phipoe seized him, from whose masculine gripe, with the utmost exertion, he extricated himself, but not without having several of his fingers badly cut with the knife in the struggle.

For this most atrocious offence, than which none ever more deserved death, she was put on her trial. The infamous accomplice, acting the character of her servant, was admitted evidence for the prosecution, and she, as well as Mr. Cortois, swore to the facts above mentioned.

She was found guilty; but her counsel moved an arrest of judgment, and in an argument upon a point of law it was determined, that great as were the aggravations

in committing the crime, it did not come within the statute to make it felony without benefit of clergy.

She was therefore indicted for the assault, found guilty, and sentenced, on the 23d of May, 1795, to twelve months' imprisonment in Newgate.

If the mind of such a woman had wanted aught in the scale of vice, a years' confinement in Newgate would have supplied every defect. Mrs. Phipoe was discharged at the expiration of that term, when so great was her propensity to sin, that but a very few months elapsed, ere, in her rapid course of vice, she committed the murder for which she was executed.

It appeared in evidence that the deceased was acquainted with the prisoner, and that she had called at her lodgings, in Garden Street, in the parish of St. George's in the East. Soon after the mistress of the house heard a scuffle and a groaning; she called two neighbours, and going to the prisoner's door, which was locked, asked what was the matter. She replied the woman was only in a fit, and that she was getting better. She then opened the door a little, when the witness saw she was bloody; two persons went for a doctor, and a third, pushing open the door, saw the deceased bleeding upon the ground; she ran down stairs, crying 'Murder!' and, to her great terror, was followed by the wounded woman, who laid hold of her: Mrs. Benson came down after the deceased was got into the kitchen, where she was when the surgeons and beadles came; she was unable to speak, but yet made herself understood by one of the beadles, that she had been thus wounded by the woman up stairs.

He went up to the prisoner, who was sitting on the bed, and said to

her, 'For God Almighty's sake, what have you done to the woman below?' She answered, 'I don't know; I believe the devil and passion bewitched me.' There was part of a finger and a case-knife lying upon the table: he said 'Is it the knife you did the woman's business with?' She answered 'Yes.' 'Is this your finger?' 'Yes.' 'Did the woman below cut it off?' 'Yes.' But this the deceased denied, upon his afterwards questioning her with it.

The surgeon described the deceased to have received five stabs upon the throat and neck, besides several wounds in different parts of the body, and agreed with the surgeon, who afterwards attended her in the hospital, that those wounds were undoubtedly the cause of her death. The day after, the deceased made a declaration before a magistrate, wherein she stated that she had purchased of the prisoner a gold watch, and other articles, for which she paid eleven pounds, and then asked for a china coffee-cup, which stood upon the chimney-piece, into the bargain; the prisoner bid her take one; but, in doing so, she stabbed her in the neck, and afterwards had her under her hands more than an hour, she calling 'Murder!' all the time, till at last she got her upon the bed, when she said that she would kill her outright, that she might not tell her own story.

The prisoner, in her defence, said that the deceased wanted to purchase only part of the things which she wished to dispose of, and, upon her refusing to divide them, she became angry, and said that she only wanted the money to go to London, to be Curtois's mistress again. The prisoner replied that was a lie, for she never had been Curtois's mistress; the deceased retorted that it

tuck-stick, (the sword of which dropped out,) fired, and wounded him a little above the left eye: he fell into a small pond. One of the villains took the watch out of his pocket, and a purse from the lady; another took her cloak. Mr. Fryer, being removed to a public house, died in two hours after.

Several were taken up on suspicion, and strictly examined, in the presence of Miss Fryer, but dismissed for want of evidence. On the 27th of May the Worship Street officers apprehended Clench, Mackley, and one Smith, a chip-hat maker; but no criminality appearing in the latter, he was discharged, and the other two fully committed.

The prisoners were most impartially tried by Mr. Justice Grose. They had four counsel, Messrs. Coust, Knapp, Alley, and Gurney: so that no ingenuity was wanting to plead their case effectually to the jury. Indeed there was no positive evidence, except Miss Fryer's, who swore to the identity of the two prisoners' persons; so that the learned judge, in his address to the jury, said,

'Gentlemen,—I will just state to you, in this case, one observation, and I would wish you to carry that observation in your minds throughout; you will find that this case will very much depend upon the evidence of the lady, who has been examined. It generally happens that the persons robbed are, at the time of the robbery, exceedingly agitated, and, unless they are acquainted with the party robbing before-hand, it is sometimes extremely difficult afterwards to swear to the person.' We all know that an act of this sort is attended with great terrors, particularly if the person happens to be a female: one does not at all wonder at it, and for that reason, where there is only one per-

son in company, who can speak to the fact, surely we must hear the evidence with great attention, and great distrust, not as to the honesty and fairness of the witness, but as to that sort of uncertainty which the human mind is frequently under in cases of fear, which may not make such an impression on the mind; for which reason I always look for, and I am very happy when I find, some corroborating circumstances to show that the person robbed is not mistaken as to the person of the party robbing; and if part of the property can be traced, or if any other person swears to the persons of the prisoners; or if any body can be found that can swear that the persons charged with the robbery were at or about the spot at the time; all these circumstances of corroboration very much deserve, nay, indeed, require, the attention of a jury.'

The jury, having retired for half an hour, returned with a verdict, Guilty.

These two men were accordingly executed before Newgate, June the 5th, 1797, and their bodies were publicly exposed in a stable in Little Bridge Street, near Apothecaries' Hall, Surgeons' Hall being let to the lieutenancy of the county, for the accommodation of the militia.

A little before their caps were drawn over their eyes, by some improper management the platform suddenly went down with the two clergymen, the executioner, and his man. The Catholic priest who attended Clench, being very lusty, suffered much, but fortunately not materially. When they died, most people were of opinion that their fate was just; but, a short time after, the confessions of three separate criminals, who could have had no interest in taking the crime upon themselves, threw a different light upon

the transaction,* and called to mind the strong assertions which Clench and Mackley had made of their innocence;—for Clench, upon retiring from the bar, returned thanks to the Court for the fairness of his trial, but observed (though in a rough way), that, though they were condemned to die, and be teased afterwards (alluding to their dissection), they were no more guilty of murder than their prosecutrix.

From the fate of these unhappy young men) for they neither had

seen more than twenty-two years) may be well illustrated that old and true adage, 'Evil communications corrupt good manners.' Clench had been at the bar before, in the December sessions, when he was acquitted, though positively sworn to at Bow Street; and perhaps this influenced the jury: at all events, let it be remembered, that a good character goes nearly as far with a jury as positive evidence, and that innocence, supported by previous good conduct, is seldom in danger.



Barrington detected at Carlow Races.

GEORGE WALDRON, *ALIAS* BARRINGTON,

TRANSPORTED FOR PICKING POCKETS.

GEORGE BARRINGTON, whose crimes and whose talents have excited the astonishment of his contemporaries, was born about the year 1755, at Maynooth, a village in the county of Kildare, Ireland. His father's name was Henry Waldron (that of Barrington being only

* One Burton Wood, and another, while under sentence of death, wrote a letter to Carpenter Smith, Esq. magistrate of Surrey, declaring that they were, with another, not then in custody, the murderers; soon after, the third man, whose name was Timms, suffered, for another offence, at Reading, and made the same confession.

assumed); he was a working silversmith, and his mother followed the occupation of a mantua-maker, and occasionally joined with it the profession of a midwife. Owing to a law-suit in which they were engaged with a relative, for the recovery of a legacy to which they conceived themselves entitled, their circumstances were by no means affluent. Though unable to procure their son the advantages of a superior education, they had him instructed at an early age in reading and writing; and afterwards, through the bounty of a medical gentleman in the neighbourhood, he was taught the principles of arithmetic, and the elements of geography and English grammar.

When he had entered his sixteenth year he had the good fortune to attract the notice of a dignitary of the church of Ireland, through whose interest our hero was placed at a free grammar-school in the Irish capital, where his patron proposed he should fit himself for the university; and, to make an appearance equal to that of the youths with whom he was to associate, his generous protector supplied him with money, and every other necessary that could render his situation at the school not only comfortable, but also respectable.

These advantages he enjoyed but a short time, for the impetuosity of his passions hurried him into an action by which he lost his patron's favour for ever. When he had been about half a year at the grammar-school, he was involved in a quarrel with a lad much older and stronger than himself. Some blows passed, in which George suffered considerably; but, in order to be revenged, he stabbed his antagonist with a pen-knife, and, had he not been prevented, would probably have murdered him. For this atrocious

offence the discipline of the house was inflicted with proper severity, which irritated the youth to such a degree, that he formed the resolution of abandoning not only the school, but likewise his family and friends. His plan of escape was no sooner formed than it was carried into execution; but previous to his departure he found means to steal ten or twelve guineas from the master, and a gold repeating-watch from his sister. With this booty he safely effected his escape from the school-house, in the middle of a still night in the month of May, 1771; and, pursuing the great north road from Dublin all that night and the next day, he arrived late in the evening at Drogheda, without interruption.

This journey he performed almost without halting, without rest and without food, not thinking himself secure till he reached Drogheda. There he entered an obscure inn, where he fell in with a company of strolling players. This led to an acquaintance, which, though formed with precipitation, was, nevertheless, kept up from choice and affection for several years. Price, the manager of this strolling company, having lived some time in London, in the capacity of clerk to a pettifogging attorney, was intimately acquainted with the town, and all the arts of fraud, deception, or violence, which are practised in it by the most unprincipled classes to procure money. For indulging these vicious propensities he subjected himself to the lash of justice, and was at this time an involuntary exile in Ireland, till the expiration of the term for which he was to be transported. This man soon became the confidant and counsellor of the young fugitive. By his advice he renounced his paternal name, assumed that of Barrington, entered

into the company, and in the course of four days was initiated into his new profession, performing the part of Jaffier in 'Venice Preserved,' as usual with some applausé to a crowded audience, in a barn in the suburbs of Drogheda, without the assistance of a prompter.

Though the reception he experienced was highly flattering, yet Price, as well as himself, thought it would not be proper for him to appear in public so near the scene of his late depredations. It was therefore resolved that the whole company should without delay move northward, and, if possible, proceed to the distance of sixty or eighty miles from Dublin before they halted for any length of time. To defray the expenses of travelling, money was absolutely necessary, and recourse was had to Barrington's assistance, being the first that offered. He complied with a good grace, giving Price the gold repeater, which was disposed of for the general benefit of the strollers. This act of capricious liberality rendered him extremely popular among his new associates.

Having now procured the necessary funds, they set out for Londonderry, where it was soon discovered that Barrington had made a conquest of the lady who acted the tender Belvidera to his Jaffier. Her name was Egerton; she was the daughter of an opulent tradesman of Coventry, from whom she had eloped at the age of sixteen with a lieutenant of marines. With him she fled to Dublin, where in less than three months he infamously abandoned her to all the horrors of penury. Reduced to this extremity, she readily embraced a proposal made her by Price to join this company, as a resource against actual want. Young and beautiful, it is not surprising that Miss Eger-

ton should excite a corresponding flame in the bosom of a youth of such ardent passions as Barrington. He returned her love with sincerity, and the connexion was only dissolved by her death. She was drowned in the eighteenth year of her age in crossing the river Boyne, in consequence of the culpable negligence of the ferryman.

The supply of money obtained from Barrington being exhausted by travelling expenses and other incidents, the company, on their arrival in Londonderry, found themselves reduced to circumstances of extreme indigence. In this dilemma Price insinuated to our adventurer that a young man of his address and appearance might easily introduce himself into the public places to which the merchants and dealers of that commercial city generally resorted, and that he might without difficulty find opportunities of picking their pockets, and escaping unnoticed. The idea pleased Barrington; and the fair offering a favorable juncture, the design was carried into execution by him and Price the very next day, with great success; their acquisitions amounting at the close of the evening to about forty guineas in cash, and above one hundred and fifty pounds in bank-notes. Though the circumstance, from its rarity in that part of the country, excited considerable alarm, yet neither Barrington nor his accomplice were suspected. They resolved, however, to leave Derry, and accordingly, after playing a few nights as usual with more applause than profit, they removed to Ballyshannon, where Barrington may be considered as having commenced the business of a professed pickpocket in the summer of the year 1771, and in the sixteenth year of his age.

At Ballyshannon Barrington spent

the autumn and winter of 1771 with the company to which he belonged, playing two days in the week, and picking pockets whenever opportunity offered. This business, though attended with some danger and certain infamy, he found more lucrative than that of the theatre, where his fame and his proficiency by no means kept pace with the expectations raised by his first appearance.

He accordingly commenced what is called a gentleman pickpocket, by affecting the airs and importance of a man of fashion; but was so much alarmed at the detection and conviction of his preceptor, Price (who was sentenced to transportation for seven years), that he hastened to Dublin, where he practised his pilfering art during dark evenings. At one of the races in the county of Carlow he was detected picking the pocket of a nobleman; but, upon restoring the property his lordship declined any prosecution, and Barrington accordingly left Ireland, and for the first time appeared in England in 1773. On his first visit to Ranelagh with a party, he quitted his friends, and picked the pockets of the Duke of Leinster and Sir William Draper of a considerable sum; and also took from a lady a watch, with all which he got off undiscovered, and rejoined his friends.

In 1775 he visited the most celebrated watering-places, particularly Brighton; and, being supposed a gentleman of fortune and family, was noticed by persons of the first distinction. On his return to London he formed a connexion with one Lowe, and became a more daring pickpocket. He went to court on the queen's birth-day, as a clergyman, and not only picked several pockets, but found means to deprive a nobleman of his diamond order,

and retired from the palace without suspicion. This booty is said to have been disposed of to a Dutch Jew.

In the course of the winter of 1775 the celebrated Russian Prince Orloff visited England. The various circumstances of his history, the high favour he enjoyed at the court of his sovereign, and the valuable presents he had received from her, were frequently mentioned in the public prints. Among the rest, a gold snuff-box, set with brilliants, and valued at the enormous sum of thirty thousand pounds, particularly attracted the attention of Barrington. It was not long before he formed a plan for obtaining possession of it. A favorable opportunity one night presenting itself at Covent Garden Theatre: he contrived to get near the prince, and found means to convey the precious trinket out of his excellency's waistcoat pocket into his own. This operation, however, was not performed with such dexterity as to escape detection. The prince felt the attack so impudently made upon him, and immediately seized the depredator by the collar. During the confusion that ensued, Barrington slipped the box into the hand of the owner, who was doubtless well pleased at having recovered it so easily. The delinquent was, nevertheless, secured, and committed to Tothillfields' Bridewell, previous to his examination at Bow Street for the offence. On this occasion he represented himself as belonging to an affluent and respectable family in Ireland, adding that he had been educated for the medical profession, and had come to London to improve himself in it. This plausible representation he accompanied with so many tears, and seemed to rest so much on his being an unfortunate gentleman rather than a guilty en-

prit, that Prince Orloff declined to prosecute, and he was dismissed by the magistrate with some wholesome admonition.

This adventure had, however, no influence over Barrington's subsequent conduct. He had, in fact, gone too far to recede: and in his character of pickpocket he occasionally attended both houses of parliament.

Being one day in the House of Lords when an appeal of an interesting nature was expected to come on, a gentleman recognised his person, and, applying to the usher of the black rod, he was disgracefully turned out. He now threatened revenge, upon which a warrant was granted to bind him over to keep the peace; and, as he could find no surety, he was committed to Tottenhamfields' Bridewell, where he remained some time. On being released he returned to his old profession, and was, about three months afterwards, detected in picking the pocket of a low woman at Drury Lane Theatre, for which, being indicted and convicted at the Old Bailey, he was sentenced to three years' hard labour on the Thames, and in the spring of 1777 was put on board the hulks at Woolwich; but, after sustaining something less than a twelvemonth's punishment, he was again set at liberty, in consequence of his good behaviour, through the interference of Messrs. Erskine and Duncan Campbell, the superintendents of the convicts.

In less than half a year after his release he was detected picking the pocket of a lady in St. Sepulchre's Church, during divine service, and being convicted of this offence, on the clearest evidence, at the Old Bailey, he was again sentenced to labour on the Thames for five years; and pursuant to this sentence he was once more removed to

the hulks at Woolwich, about the middle of the year 1778.

On this second confinement he either found his sufferings more intolerable, or his situation more desperate, than during his former period of punishment. Such was his disgust of life that he resolved upon suicide, and accordingly stabbed himself with a pen-knife. The wound, though deep and dangerous, did not prove mortal; it healed slowly, and, having been inflicted on the breast, it produced, after two years, apparent symptoms of consumption.

In this deplorable situation Barrington had the good fortune to attract the notice and to interest the benevolence of a gentleman of rank, who happened to visit the hulks to inquire into the state of the convicts. He exerted his influence in Barrington's favour, and procured his release, on condition of his leaving England. To this Barrington gladly consented, and was supplied with money by his generous deliverer. He now went to Dublin, where he was shortly after apprehended for picking the pocket of an Irish nobleman of his gold watch and money, at the theatre, but was acquitted for want of evidence. Here, however, was his first display of elocution: for, having received a serious admonition from the judge, he addressed the Court with considerable animation, and enlarged, with great ingenuity, upon what he termed the force of prejudice, insinuating that calumny had followed him from England to Ireland.

On his acquittal, he deemed it most prudent to leave Dublin: he therefore visited Edinburgh, where being suspected, he was obliged to decamp. He now returned to London, and, braving danger, frequented the theatres, Opera House, Pan-

theon, and other places of public resort; but was at length taken into custody. Having been acquitted for want of evidence of the charge brought against him, he was unexpectedly detained for having returned to England in violation of the condition on which his majesty was pleased to grant him a remission of his punishment, and was accordingly confined in Newgate during the remainder of the time that he was originally to have served on the River Thames.

On the expiration of his captivity he returned to his former practices, but with greater caution. He was at length apprehended for picking the pocket of Mr. Le Mesurier, at Drury Lane playhouse, but effected his escape from the constable; and while the lawyers were outlawing him, and the constables endeavoring to take him, he evaded detection by travelling in various disguises and characters through the northern counties of the kingdom: he visited the great towns as a quack-doctor, clergyman, and rider; but was at last apprehended in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and removed to London by a writ of habeas corpus. He now employed counsel, and had the outlawry against him reversed; was then tried for stealing Mr. Le Mesurier's purse, and acquitted in consequence of the absence of a material witness.

Being once more enlarged, he had the presumption to visit Dublin again, where having been soon suspected, he with difficulty escaped to England; but, soon after his arrival, was taken into custody for picking the pocket of Henry Hare Townsend, Esq. at Epsom races. For this he was tried at the Old Bailey, September 1, 1790, and found guilty, notwithstanding he made an ingenious defence. On September 22 the recorder pro-

nounced the sentence of transportation on him for seven years, when Barrington addressed the Court to the following effect:—

‘My lord,—I have a great deal to say in extenuation of the cause for which I now stand convicted at this bar; but, upon consideration, I will not arrest the attention of the honorable Court too long. Among the extraordinary vicissitudes incident to human nature, it is the peculiar and unfortunate lot of some devoted persons to have their best wishes, and their most earnest endeavors to deserve the good opinion of the most respectable part of society, entirely frustrated. Whatever they can say, or whatever they can do, every word and its meaning, every action and its motive, is represented in an unfavorable light, and is distorted from the real intention of the speaker or the actor. That this has been my unhappy fate does not seem to stand in need of any confirmation. Every effort to deserve well of mankind, that my licart bore witness to its rectitude, has been thwarted by such measures as those, and consequently has been rendered abortive. Many of the circumstances of my life I can, without any violation of truth, declare to have, therefore, happened absolutely in spite of myself. The world, my lord, has given me credit for abilities, indeed, much greater than I possess, and therefore much more than I deserved; but I have never found any kind hand to foster these abilities. I might ask, where was the generous and powerful hand that was ever stretched forth to rescue George Barrington from infamy? In an age like this, which, in several respects, is so justly famed for liberal sentiments, it was my severe lot that no noble-minded gentleman stepped forward, and said to me, “Barrington, you are

possessed of talents which may be useful to society. I feel for your situation; and, as long as you act the part of a good citizen, I will be your protector: you will then have time and opportunity to rescue yourself from the obloquy of your former conduct." Alas, my lord, George Barrington had never the supreme felicity of having such comfort administered to his wounded spirit. As matters have unfortunately turned out, the die is cast—and as it is, I bend resigned to my fate, without one murmur or complaint.' Having concluded his neat address, rendered more forcible by his pathetic manner, he left the bar with a respectful bow, and thus withdrew from public life in Europe, to act a new part in a new hemisphere.

From the period of this conviction Barrington's conduct has been such as to retrieve the disgrace with which he had loaded the former portion of his life. Soon after the ship in which he, with many other culprits, embarked for Botany Bay, had left England, a circumstance occurred which may justly be asserted to have laid the foundation of his subsequent good fortune.

The humanity of the captain had induced him to release many of the convicts who were in a weakly state from their irons, and to permit them alternately ten at a time to walk upon deck. Two of them, who were Americans, formed the design of seizing the ship, and prevailed on the majority of their comrades to enter into the plot. It was agreed that, on the first favorable opportunity, part of those who were on deck should force the arm-chest, overpower the sentinels, and then give a signal for those below to join them. This design was planned with great secrecy, and executed with equal spirit and audacity. One day, the captain and most of the

officers being below, Barrington, who was the only person on deck, except the man at the helm, hearing a scuffle on the main-deck, was going forward, when he was stopped by one of the Americans, followed by another convict, who made a stroke at him with a sword wrested from one of the sentinels, but it was put aside by a pistol which the other had just snapped at him. Snatching up a handspike, which was fortunately within reach, he brought the foremost to the ground. The man at the helm, quitting the wheel, called up the captain; and Barrington meanwhile kept his situation, guarding the passage of the quarter-deck. His antagonists retreated a few paces, but, being joined by many others, were rushing upon him, when the discharge of a blunderbuss from behind our hero wounding several, they retreated; and Barrington being by this time joined by the captain and the rest of the officers, the mutineers were, in a few minutes, driven into the hold. An attempt of this kind required the most exemplary punishment; accordingly two of the ring-leaders were immediately hanged at the yard-arm, and several others severely flogged.

Order being restored, the captain paid Barrington many handsome compliments for his conduct, to which he attributed the salvation of the ship, promised him a recompense for his services, and directed his steward to supply him with every thing he wanted during the voyage. Accordingly, on the arrival of the ship at the Cape of Good Hope, he gave Barrington a draft on a merchant there for one hundred dollars, with permission to go on shore as often as he pleased. Nor was this all; for, when they reached the place of their final destination, the captain made such a

favorable report of Barrington's character and merits to the governor of Port Jackson, that he immediately appointed him superintendent of convicts at a kind of colony from the parent settlement, called Paramatta, where a convenient habitation was assigned him.

Barrington's conduct in this situation was marked by such undeviating rectitude as not only to obtain him the esteem of the governor and other officers, but also to procure him, in 1796, the appointment of high constable of Paramatta, with a salary of fifty pounds a year; on

which occasion the governor complimented him on the faithful discharge of his duty, which he considered as effacing his former misconduct.

In this situation he continued some time, but in 1801 he was a mere living skeleton; and, having lost the use of his intellectual faculties, had retired on a small pension. He died in 1804, a melancholy instance of perverted talents; and it is supposed that his mental imbecility was brought on by remorse, and conscious sensibility operating on a mind capable of better things.

JAMES M'KEAN, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE crime in question was perpetrated with singular treachery and cruelty. M'Kean kept a public house on the high road between Glasgow and Larneck. A carrier of the name of James Buchanan, about six o'clock one evening, in winter time, came to his house for rest and refreshment.

The monster of a landlord conducted the weary traveller to a room, then suddenly seized him, and instantly cut his throat with a razor, which divided both the carotid arteries, and robbed him of his watch, and a considerable sum in money. A noise having excited some surprise in his wife, she ran to the door, which was opened by M'Kean. Alarmed at the sight of some blood lying on the floor, she shrieked out 'Murder!' on which her husband instantly ran off.

The body of Buchanan was found in a closet, by people whom her cries had brought to the house, and the razor, reeking with blood.

M'Kean was apprehended at Lamash, in the Isle of Arran, on Sunday. Next morning he was conveyed to Glasgow in a post-chaise:

on his arrival, about eight o'clock, the joy of the populace, at his apprehension, could not be restrained; they hailed the officers with loud acclamations, and the air resounded with huzzas when they saw him securely lodged in gaol.

Buchanan's pocket-book, containing bank-notes to the amount of one hundred and eighteen pounds, his watch, and several papers, were found upon M'Kean. On his examination by the magistrates, M'Kean confessed the robbery, but endeavored to palliate the charge of murder.

This wretch, being found guilty, was executed at the Cross of Glasgow, January the 25th, 1797, on a newly-erected gibbet. He appeared on the scaffold, dressed in white, about ten minutes after three; proceeded to the front with a firm and undaunted air, holding a paper in his hand; and after saying a few words to the multitude, which was immense (about twenty thousand), he gave it to one of the town officers. About ten minutes after he mounted the platform with much indifference, and, after praying a few minutes, was launched into eternity.

JAMES O'COIGLEY,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

WE have frequently shown that obdurate and ignorant criminals have died in a declaration of innocence, when crimes have been proved against them beyond the very shadow of doubt; but when a gentleman and a scholar, on receiving the last sacrament of his religion, solemnly avowed to the surrounding multitude, gathered together to witness his untimely end, his perfect and entire innocence of the crime for which he had been convicted, charity will force us to question his guilt.

The times in which O'Coigley suffered were dangerous to the state, there being then, both in England, Ireland, and Scotland, many disaffected men, the leaders of parties assembling for purposes inimical to the public weal. Many had been apprehended, and several had already suffered death, acknowledging their crimes.

In cases of this nature, when the public mind is in a state of alarm, and a feeling, amounting to prejudice, exists against those charged of joining in plots against the constitution, it may have unfortunately occurred, though we trust not, that Mr. O'Coigley was a victim. His best friends, however, must certainly admit that suspicion might well fall upon a man proved to be connected with Arthur O'Connor, an Irishman, whose republican schemes involved the ruin of thousands.

The ill-fated O'Coigley, together with the above-named O'Connor, John Binns, John Allen, and Jeremiah Leary, were arraigned at the Lent assizes for Kent, in the year 1798, of whom O'Coigley alone was found guilty, sufficient proof not being adduced to convict the remainder.

The indictment was read by Mr. Knapp, who afterwards stated the charges it contained in a summary manner. He said there were three distinct species of treason charged in the indictment, and seven overt acts. The first treason was compassing and imagining the death of the king: the second was adhering to his enemies: the third was compassing and imagining, inventing, devising, and intending to move and stir certain foreigners and strangers, that is to say, the persons exercising the powers of government in France, to invade this kingdom.

The first overt act was, conspiring to levy war at Margate, in the county of Kent: the second overt act, sending intelligence to the enemy: the other overt acts were, attempts to hire vessels, and to leave the kingdom.

The trial lasted two days. A pocket-book had been found in O'Coigley's great coat, in which a paper was found, addressed to the executive directory of France, from the secret committee of England.

O'Coigley, in his defence, addressed the jury as follows:—

'It is impossible for me to prove a negative; but it is a duty I owe to you, and to myself, solemnly to declare that I never was the bearer of any message or paper of this kind to France, in the course of my life. That paper is not mine; it never belonged to me. It states that it was to be carried by the bearer of the last; this is something which might have been proved, but it is impossible for me to prove the negative. There is also in this paper an allusion to secret committees and political societies. I declare that I never attended any political

society whatever. With these considerations, I consign my life to your justice; not doubting but that you will conduct yourselves as English jurymen ever do, and that your verdict will be such as shall receive the approbation of your own conscience, your country, and your God.'

The jury, after about half an hour's consideration, found O'Coigley Guilty, and acquitted the other prisoners.

Mr. Justice Buller, in an address to O'Coigley, which he read from a written paper, previous to his passing the sentence, observed that he had been clearly convicted of the most atrocious crime which could be committed in any country—that of meditating the destruction of a sovereign, who was one of the best, the most just, upright, and amiable of princes that ever graced a throne; and he could not conceive what were the motives which could actuate any man even to wish for the death of one who had ever been the father of his people.

The prisoner was also found guilty of conspiring to overturn the constitution of these kingdoms; a constitution which, from the experiment of years, had been found to be the best calculated of any that ever existed in the world to ensure the liberty, security, and happiness, of the people who lived under it.

These atrocious crimes became still greater from the manner in which they were intended to be perpetrated—that of inviting a foreign enemy to come and invade and conquer these countries.

Those people, who had fancied such an event to be a desirable one, ought to think seriously what the consequences of it would be, provided it was possible to be accomplished. Did they suppose that (desperate as their present situation

might be) their condition would be bettered by having their country put into the possession of people who were holding out the delusive hopes of what they called liberty to other nations? Could such persons hope that they themselves should enjoy liberty, even supposing the conquerors to have enjoyed as free a constitution as any in the world? No; they would become suspected, be despised, and destroyed by them.

A celebrated writer (Montesquieu) very justly observed upon this subject, that a country conquered by a democratic nation always enjoyed less liberty, was more miserable, and more enslaved, than if that country happened to have been conquered by a nation whose government was monarchical. But, if there was any illustration of this observation wanting, one had only to look to the conduct of the French at this moment towards Holland, Italy, Switzerland, and every other country they had conquered. His lordship believed that the prisoner might have been actuated by motives similar to those which used formerly to induce many people to think that the killing of men of a different religion would give them a claim to canonization. But, though the motives might be similar, the subjects connected with them were very different. In the present times, he did not believe that any person entertained such sentiments about religion. On the contrary, he was sorry to find that religion was too much neglected, and that the peace and tranquillity of numbers of people were destroyed in consequence of having lost all belief of the existence of a Divine Providence, and totally abandoned all hopes of a future state. He was afraid that the prisoner had been infected with this infidelity, and, if he was, he (the judge) prayed that the Almighty

God, in his infinite mercy and goodness, would change his heart, and cause him to repent of his sins.

His lordship then, in a solemn and awful manner, passed the following sentence:—

‘That the prisoner be taken from the bar to prison, and from thence to the place of execution; there to be hanged, but not until he be dead, to be cut down while yet alive, and then to have his heart and bowels taken out and burnt before his face; his head to be severed from his body, and his body to be divided into four quarters.’

Mr. O’Coigley listened to this address and sentence with attention, but at the same time with the greatest coolness. He bowed his head when the judge concluded, his countenance expressing at once resignation and firmness.

Immediately after the sentence was passed on O’Coigley, Mr. O’Connor, supposing himself at liberty, attempted to withdraw, when a warrant was served on him on another charge of high treason, signed by the Duke of Portland, and dated March 22. On this some swords were drawn, and a general confusion ensued, when Mr. O’Connor addressed the Court to this effect: ‘My Lord, I am surrounded with drawn swords,—I am prepared to die, and it would be better for the Court to doom me to death at once, than that I should linger out my life in a gaol. Have the goodness to send me to the dungeon where my brother is in confinement, after having been acquitted on a charge of high treason in Ireland. At all events, will your lordships order that my agent may be permitted to come to me?’

The Court said they could make no order—their commission ended with the trial.

O’Coigley, on Wednesday, June

6, 1798, between four and five in the afternoon, received information that he was to die next day, without apparent emotion. He spent the evening very calmly. He had but one thing, he said, on his mind which created any anxiety; that was, an apprehension that he might be misrepresented after his death. He was anxious to be faithfully reported, and that was all he wanted. On Thursday, at a quarter past eleven o’clock, O’Coigley left the gaol. He was dressed all in black; his hair was cropped and powdered, his shirt-collar open, and he wore no neck-cloth. His elbows were tied behind with ropes, and over his shoulders was the rope with which he was executed. He stepped into the hurdle, and, on his sitting down, a chain was put round his waist to fasten him. The executioner sat opposite to him. He had nothing on his head. He continued all the way earnestly reading a prayer-book. Mr. Watson, the gaoler, followed the hurdle, which was surrounded by above two hundred of the Maidstone volunteers. The deputy sheriff and the Rev. Mr. Griffiths followed. The whole was preceded by about twenty javelin-men. The hurdle was drawn up close in front of the gallows, on Pennenden Heath, and the horses were taken out. The military formed a small square. The prisoner being unchained, he rose up, and stood in the hurdle, and read two prayers, one of them aloud in Latin. He then took out of his pocket an orange, and also a pen-knife; but, being unable to cut the orange, from his hands being bound, he gave it to a friend, whom he beckoned to come near him, saying, ‘Open this orange with my pen-knife; it has been said they would not trust me with a pen-knife, lest I should cut my throat; but they little knew that I would

not deprive myself of the glory of dying in this way.' He desired his friend to keep the pen-knife for his sake, and to hold the orange, several pieces of which he ate. After finishing his devotions, the clergyman gave him absolution, to whom he returned the prayer-book; and, having ascended the platform, he took farewell of the gaoler, thanking him for the many civilities he had shown him. On his being tied up to the gallows, he made the following speech:—

'I shall only here solemnly declare that I am innocent of the charge for which I suffer. I never was in my life the bearer of any letter, or other paper or message, printed, written, or verbal, to the directory of France, nor to any person on their behalf; neither was I ever a member of the London Corresponding Society, or of any other political society in Great Britain; nor did I ever attend any of their meetings, public or private, so help me God! I know not whether I shall be believed here in what I say, but I am sure I shall be believed in the world to come. It can scarcely be supposed that one like me, in this situation, going to

eternity, before the most awful tribunal, would die with a falsehood in his mouth; and I declare, by the hopes I confidently feel of salvation and happiness in a future state, that my life is falsely and maliciously taken away by corrupt and base perjury, and subornation of perjury, in some cases proceeding from mistake, no doubt, but in others from design. Almighty God, forgive all my enemies! I beg of you to pray that God will grant me grace, for I have many sins to answer for, but they are the sins of my private life, and not the charge for which I now die.' (Raising his voice) 'Lord have mercy on me, and receive my soul!'

A white night-cap was then drawn over his face, and he made a signal by dropping a handkerchief. The board was then let down, as at Newgate, and he remained suspended for twelve or thirteen minutes: he was then taken down, the head taken off by a surgeon, and the executioner held up the head to the populace, saying, 'This is the head of a traitor!' Both head and body were then put into a shell, and buried at the foot of the gallows.

ROBERT FRANKLIN,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

'THIS unhappy malefactor was a genteel young man, aged twenty-nine years, and born in Holborn, of very respectable parents, who gave him an education suitable to his expectations in life.

He was, at the age of fifteen years, put apprentice to an eminent merchant in the city, with whom he remained till his time was completed; though his master and he had frequent quarrels about keeping bad hours; his master seriously expatiating on the evil tendency of his

conduct, but without effect. However, from the dissipated company he then kept originated his misfortunes.

When his apprenticeship was completed he went and lived with his parents. In this situation he bridled his passions for some time, but at length they broke out again; however, by the tender persuasions of an affectionate mother they were kept within bounds.

One fatal Sunday evening he accidentally met with one of his old

companions, who insisted on his accompanying him to see a favorite mistress. Franklin unfortunately consented, and they went to St. George's Fields, where they drank tea, and afterwards went to the Apollo Gardens. Here Franklin, whose heart was very easily caught, beheld, and as instantly admired, the beautiful, but perfidious, Mary Jones; he requested her to be seated, to which she readily assented, and they soon afterwards went home together. By her persuasions he immediately left his parents, and lived with her entirely.

With her he lived in every extravagance as long as he could obtain money, which he procured from every person who would lend him; but that failing, he took the fatal resolution of forging bank-notes.

Struck with horror at his situation, he applied to his friends to procure him a situation in the navy, which they did; and he soon after left his fair decoy, to go on board the *Hydra* frigate.

Here, perhaps, the unfortunate Franklin might have avoided his fate; but he received a letter from Mary Jones, stating that his departure had such an effect on her, as to occasion a violent disorder, of which she then lay, without friends or money, in Middlesex Hospital; and that, as she had abandoned all the world for him, she hoped he would not now forsake her.

In this snare Franklin was caught; he procured leave of absence for a short time, and immediately came to town. He came to Charles Street, Middlesex Hospital, to a Miss

Dixon, an acquaintance of Mary Jones's, whose servant he sent out to get change for a forged ten pound note, which she obtained of Mr. Kears, the One Tun, in Goodge Street. When he got the change, he left with Miss Dixon, for her to give to Mary Jones, a two-pound note, one shilling, and two sixpences. For passing this forged note he was tried in December sessions, convicted, and received sentence of death.

Franklin, after passing this note, again left town, to join the *Hydra* frigate, which then lay at the Nore. In his way thither he slept at the George Inn, Rochester; his behaviour here caused some suspicion, and made him be particularly noticed by one J. North, a waiter; he went to bed intoxicated, and complained next day of being robbed of upwards of forty pounds. It seems he had been robbed by two men, who came off immediately for London: the notes being forged, they were stopped in attempting to pass them; at Bow Street they confessed how they came by them: in consequence, Lavender and Rivet went to Rochester, traced Franklin on board the *Hydra*, from whence they brought him to London. He had in his possession, when taken, four hundred and fifty pounds in notes and cash.

At the time of his execution, on the 24th of January, 1798, he appeared very penitent, and met his fate with a becoming resignation. His body was taken away in a hearse to an undertaker's in Aldersgate Street.

ANDREW M'CABE AND ROBERT RUTLIDGE,

EXECUTED FOR A RAPE.

AT the assizes held at Chelmsford, March, 1798, came on before Mr. Baron Hotham the trial of An-

drew M'Cabe and Robert Rutledge, for committing a rape on Elizabeth Hagger, spinster, on the 8th of

August, 1797, at the village of Springfield, near that town.

Elizabeth Hagger said she was twenty-five years of age, that she had been at service, but at the time of the offence lived with her mother, a widow, at Moulsham; that, on the 8th of August last, Peter Dodd, who had for some time paid his addresses to her, called, and requested her to take a walk down the river-side; that she went with him, and on their return, between eight and nine in the evening, in a lane near Springfield, two soldiers sprung from the hedge, and, with naked bayonets, asked the road to London; that she was so alarmed, that she could not immediately answer them, but Peter Dodd directed them the road they inquired for; that they immediately swore at him—they did not want to go to London, they wanted this young woman, and directly the prisoner M'Cabe seized her, and, on her struggling, knocked her down to the ground; that she got up again, and he again knocked her down, which he did four times before he effected his purpose; that her companion in the mean time was struggling with Rutledge, the other prisoner; and that a man rode past, to whom she cried for help, but that he rode on, regardless of her cries for assistance: that she struggled with the prisoner M'Cabe on the ground, until she was quite exhausted, when he effected his purpose; that he then left her, and the other prisoner came and committed the like violence upon her, while the prisoner M'Cabe stood over her companion with his drawn bayonet: she then went into a detail of circumstances, brutal and barbarous in the extreme, and so indecent and disgusting, that we forbear mentioning the particulars. The prisoner Rutledge then asked

her for money, and she gave him fourpence; but M'Cabe came up, swore he should not take it, and forced sixpence into her hand: she then got away from them, and with her cap, neck-handkerchief, and apron in her hand, ran as fast as she was able towards a public house at the top of the lane, where she met Dodd, who had a short time before got away from the soldiers, coming with others to her assistance; that she was taken to the public house, where she got a little water, and was then taken home to her mother, when she immediately fainted; and, on her recovery, finding Dodd had returned, and the prisoners had escaped, she insisted on going to Colonel Grant, the commanding officer: that Dodd went with her; that the colonel assured them he would give them every assistance in his power to detect the offenders, and directed them to attend next morning at the barrack; and, on the soldiers being drawn up, both she and Dodd fixed on the two prisoners.

Peter Dodd was next called, who confirmed her evidence, and stated that he was held from assisting her, first by Rutledge, then by M'Cabe.

Mr. Jemmit, a surgeon, and the mother of the young woman, then proved the state she was in when she got home; that great violence had been committed on her person, and that she was dangerously ill a considerable time afterwards.

The jury found the prisoners, who were both Irishmen, guilty. They were executed at Chelmsford, pursuant to their sentence.

Rutledge denied to the last moment his having committed the act for which he was about to suffer: M'Cabe acknowledged his guilt, but declared that Rutledge was innocent.

JAMES TURNBULL,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

At the Old Bailey, February 25, 1799, James Turnbull was tried for robbing the Mint. This was one of the most daring robberies ever committed. It appeared by evidence that the prisoner (a private in the 3d regiment of Guards) was employed on the 20th of December, 1798, with others of the military quartered at the Tower, for working the die in the coinage of guineas. That at nine o'clock he pretended to go with the other men to his breakfast, but returned in a minute or two with a comrade, named Dalton: the latter stood at the door, while Turnbull went and clapped a pistol to the head of one Finch, an apprentice, who was left in care of the coining-room, together with a Mr. Chambers, and demanded the key of the chest where the finished guineas were deposited.— Mr. Chambers coming up to interfere, the prisoner levelled the pistol at his forehead, and shoved him into a passage leading to another room, in which he lodged both him and

Finch. He then opened the chest, and took out four bags, containing two thousand, three hundred, and eighty guineas, and escaped with them before an alarm could be made. For a fortnight he eluded all search and pursuit; but was apprehended on the 5th of January, at Dover, in endeavoring to hire a boat to carry him to France. The foregoing circumstances being fully substantiated by evidence, and acknowledging himself the commission of the robbery when called on to make his defence, the jury instantly found him guilty. His counsel urged a point of law in arrest of judgment, but which the Court deemed not of the least force, and he accordingly received sentence of death. He instantly replied, 'I have now heard my sentence, and I thank God for it.'

He was executed on the 15th of May, 1799, with Hugh Campbell, William Harpur, and Joseph Walker, who all suffered for forgery.

HENRY (OTHERWISE HARRY) BOULTER,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

IN descanting upon the character of this notorious offender, a second cousin to Boulter, the noted highwayman, who for a long time kept the county of Wilts and its vicinity in continual alarm by his frequent robberies, it may be observed, that he was scarcely inferior in celebrity to his relation, though most of his crimes, that alone for which he suffered being excepted, were of an inferior degree. His native place was Alford, about two or three miles from Box, on the confines of Wiltshire, and within a few miles of Bath; in which neighbourhood he

was known by the name of Bold Harry, probably from his rough and hardy uncouth conduct and manners, which were of the lowest cast, though he had received some little instruction both in reading and writing in his father's life-time, whom he lost when about thirteen years of age. Of these, however, he seems to have been regardless in his subsequent life, as appeared from his little knowledge of either at the time of his death, being then about thirty-eight years of age.

The commencement of his depredations was on the road to the coal-

pits, when he picked the pocket of his young master, who was asleep in the cart, of half a guinea; and whether it was from a fear of detection, or from a consciousness of the crime of plundering his protector, he soon after quitted his native village, and went to live as an inmate with an uncle near Bath; he next resided at Walcot, and afterwards with a coal-merchant in Bath. In this situation, which afforded easy means of committing depredations on his master's property, his propensity to evil practices became predominant, and he soon was enabled to make ten or eleven shillings weekly in addition to his wages; but, on being discharged from his service, whether from suspicion or otherwise is uncertain, he was without employment for some months, and reduced to much distress, and was guilty of many petty thefts and frauds. For one of these he was taken into custody, about three or four years from his first transgression, but liberated on condition of enlisting into a regiment, which he never joined; being again lodged in prison for another petty felony, and, after half a year's confinement, acquitted. He had before enlisted into another regiment, with which he went to Jersey, but *shammed Abraham*, by pretending a lameness in the hip, and procured his discharge.

After his acquittal he ingratiously stole some apparel from a person at Bath, who had received him as a lodger; and soon enlisted into another regiment, which he accompanied to Gibraltar, and was there discharged on account of an asthmatic complaint. He was next employed, on his return to England, to drive a waggon, by a person who seems to have formerly dismissed him on suspicion of bad practices, but probably deemed him innocent

after his acquittal at the assizes, and took this opportunity, as an act of common justice, to recompense him for his former injurious accusation. Some time after this, at the age of twenty-six or twenty-seven, he married, and purloined cash and other property, with which he had been intrusted, or had access to, and at last left this situation; after which he enlisted into another regiment, and went to Shrewsbury, but again procured his discharge by *shamming Abraham*, as before. He was afterwards employed with another Bath waggon to Bradford and Trowbridge; and, at different times, purloined hams from the warehouse, which were carried home, and there consumed. He once more enlisted with a recruiting party of the regiment he had before engaged in, when he was committed to prison; but was rejected by the officers at the headquarters at Bristol, who understood his character to be so notoriously bad, that they would not admit him into the corps. In the different situations which he held afterwards, his felonious practices were still pursued; and it is most to be wondered at that he should ever be employed again as the driver of a waggon to London, which requires honesty and fidelity; yet in such a station he was occupied for about five years. Here his practices were not abandoned; for, at the instigation of an evil adviser, he was assisted to make out false bills of expenses, and to charge his master two guineas or more, and sometimes not so much, on a journey from Bath to London, more than he had actually paid.

By the same advice also, (though he little needed an adviser to fraud and plunder, who was a partaker of the spoils,) handkerchiefs, cheeses, and other property, were embez-

zled; and sometimes the master, and sometimes the landlords at inns where property was left to be conveyed by the waggon, were obliged to make good the losses. On being occasionally sent for coals, he contrived to defraud his master of seven or eight shillings a day, by selling them. He afterwards became a substitute in the supplementary militia, and attended for twenty days' exercise; and next year fraudulently obtained five guineas from a young man in the same militia for supplying his place, not knowing that Boulter belonged to the regiment. A fortnight's imprisonment was the punishment for this offence. He next entered into a regular regiment, where he once more had recourse to his former practice of *shamming Abraham* to procure his discharge. After this he committed various trifling depredations, such as stealing provisions, picking pockets, &c. and once he purloined a silver table-spoon, which his *honest* adviser melted down; in all of which they shared the booty between them. He was afterwards occasionally employed, for short periods, in driving other waggons; when he stole whatever conveniently came in his way, as a truss of check, a piece of blue cloth, a roll of parchment, and, at one time, a saddle, which he sold for nine shillings, as he did the cloth for two guineas, though it was worth fourteen or fifteen pounds. And in the summer of 1798, on being sent for to assist in loading a waggon which had been overturned at the bottom of Kingsdown Hill, he contrived to throw a truss over the hedge into a wood, where it remained until the Sunday following, and was afterwards sold to a Jew, and consisted mostly of bordering for women's skirts, handkerchiefs, and ribands. For these he received

about two guineas and a half: but reserved a few yards of bordering, and also a piece which he gave to a relation, and a piece of handkerchiefs which he sold; one of which was seen on the neck of a person in January, 1800. Besides these he made free with a large iron grate, a quantity of shoes, and other things which presented themselves; and at length, on the 21st of December, 1799, he proceeded to the more daring practice of footpad robbery, when he stopped Farmer Bryant, of Durham, who was suffered to pass on, having no money about him.

We now come to the fatal catastrophe, which put a period to this long career of depredation and fraud, which he had pursued about twenty years. This was only two days after his unsuccessful expedition; when he proposed, in company with his associate, to rob the driver of a London waggon, which left Bath in the afternoon, but could not meet with him. He therefore resolved to go alone, and, having watched the departure of the waggon, he proceeded by another route, to avoid suspicion, to the place where he designed to effect his purpose. He had stolen a horse-pistol from a saddle in a stable at Bath, and bought a flint, with some gunpowder, before his expedition on the 21st; and, instead of a ball, had picked up a piece of iron, the point of a horse-shoe, from a blacksmith's shop at Walecot, three or four days before.

Having got before the waggon, and placed himself withinside a wall, which was opposite to Rudlow Firs, he waited there until the waggon had passed him, and immediately afterwards seems to have loaded the pistol. He soon overtook the waggon, and walked along with Dench, by the side of the waggon, about

three hundred yards, when the waggoner asked him if he came from Bath, to which Boulter replied 'Yes,' accompanied with a question of 'Do you know me?' and was answered 'Yes.' At that instant Boulter demanded his money, and a struggle ensued, in which the waggoner got from him, and pushed forward to get away; and on this Boulter took out the pistol, and, at scarcely three yards' distance, discharged its contents in the back part of his head, and Dench immediately dropped on his knees, and expired in a moment.

Long as Boulter had been inured to depredations, he had not till now been guilty of blood-shedding. The sudden effect, as he acknowledged, gave him a shock, to which before he had been a stranger. Little as he had been accustomed to reflection, he panted at the event, and almost had determined to relinquish the robbery, for which purpose alone he had quitted Bath. But his necessities preponderated; and he took from the left-hand breeches-pocket of the deceased a canvass purse, containing a guinea and a half, and some silver; and from the other pocket a leathern one, in which between three and four pounds in gold and silver were deposited. He saw nothing of any watch; but, as soon as he had effected the robbery, he left the body, with a new whip by its side, and returned towards Bath; but turned into a lane on the south side of the road, at three or four hundred yards from the place of the murder and robbery. On the left hand or eastern side of this lane, about three hundred yards from the main road, was an ivy-bush, on a stone wall, wherein he secreted the pistol, and afterwards returned to Bath.

When the body was found, which could not be long on so public a

road, it was presently conveyed to a barn at a small distance, where it was seen by many persons; and, as soon as it was known at Bath, by the proprietor of the waggon, who brought a surgeon. But the surgeon considered it as the coroner's duty to investigate the cause of his death, and therefore deemed it improper at that time to make any particular examination of the body. Such an examination was neglected on the inquest, which occasioned some very pointed remarks on the duty of coroners in general, by the judge on the trial. A verdict of 'Accidental Death' was consequently given, as no satisfactory reason could be assigned for the cause of his death; and conjecture only could lead to the idea that he had tripped on a stone in the road, by which he had been thrown down, and that the wheel of the waggon must have passed over him, and killed him. Yet no marks appeared on the body to justify this conclusion, which seems to have been very hastily determined, as no circumstances of suspicion were at that time known. After the verdict, the body was carried to Ogbourne St. George, a distance of more than twenty miles, and there interred.

But it was not suffered to remain long there in quiet. From Boulter's being perceived to be flush in money, as it is called, and other suspicious circumstances, he was taken into custody, under an apprehension of his being at least privy to the waggoner's death. Various incidents were discovered and compared, with the design of applying them to the conduct of Boulter; which led to the resolution of having a second inquest. At this time the body was recognised by the master of the waggon, and many other persons, so as to preclude all doubt or uncertainty of the identity of the body;

the brain was afterwards laid open by a surgeon, and the iron and wadding, with which the pistol had been charged, and a part of the skull, were then taken out, and left no grounds for disputing the cause of his death. These were produced on the trial at Salisbury, on the 14th of March following. At the time of the second inquest Boulter was in the Bridewell at Devizes. No sooner had the intelligence reached him of what had transpired at Ogbourne St. George, than his conscience was awakened at the discoveries which had been made, and he determined immediately to ease his mind by an ample acknowledgment of his being the murderer. Directions were given by him for finding the pistol in the ivy-bush. His confession was made freely and voluntarily, and attested in the presence of a magistrate; before which, as he declared, he had been continually harassed and tormented, but now began to be more tranquil and

composed, and availed himself, as much as possible, of the good offices of the chaplain of the Bridewell, to prepare for the awful fate which awaited him.

All these facts being proved on the trial on the 14th of March, the usual sentence was solemnly pronounced, and the 16th of March was appointed for his execution. The shortness of the interval between them did not afford to the Ordinary of the county gaol at Fisherton, near Salisbury, any great opportunities of exertion for his eternal welfare; but they were rendered almost unnecessary by the services of the respectable chaplain already mentioned; the usual attention being found happily sufficient to keep him in that pleasing strain of reflections which had been so amply instilled into his mind. On the fatal day his conduct was perfectly composed, and he met his fate with a resignation which was truly exemplary.

RICHARD FERGUSON, ALIAS GALLOPING DICK,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

BUT few desperadoes on the road gained so much notoriety as this daring highwayman, who, for his bold riding when pursued, obtained the name of Galloping Dick.

This extraordinary character was born at a village in Herefordshire. His father was a gentleman's servant, and, being frequently in London, Bath, and other places with his master, he could not bestow that strict attention to the education and morals of his son which his own conduct gave every proof he would otherwise have done.

Young Dick was sent to school at an early age, but made very little progress; nor could a master of some eminence, under whom he

was for some time, instil the commonest school education into him.

He gave very early proofs of that daring wicked disposition, which afterwards rendered him infamously noted. While among his companions, if any mischievous project was set on foot, young Dick was sure to be their leader, and promoted it as far as in his power.

At about fifteen years of age, his father, finding him make so small a progress in learning, and given to such mischievous pranks, resolved to employ him under his own eye. The coachman being at this time in want of a stable-boy, young Dick was taken to fill up the vacancy. He took great delight in his new

employment, and, being a smart and active youth, was very much noticed in the family. As he paid particular attention to the horses, he soon made astonishing progress in the management of them.

About a year afterwards young Dick came to London with the family. During their stay in town the postillion was taken ill, and Dick was appointed to supply his place till he recovered, which was not very long.

Dick was now stripped of his fine livery, and sent back to his station as a stable-boy. This his haughty spirit could not brook. Fond of dress, and being thought a man of consequence, he resolved to look out for another place. Accordingly he told his father of his resolution, and asked his advice. His father, knowing he was well qualified, in respect to the management of horses, told him he would look out for one for him.

A circumstance happened that very afternoon, highly gratifying to our hero's pride. A lady who frequently visited the family, being in want of a postilion, asked Dick's master what had become of his late one. Being informed that he was in his place, and was very fit for her employ, he was sent for and hired.

Dick was now completely his own master, and for some time behaved to the satisfaction of his mistress. He was a great favorite in the family, particularly among the female part. He was now in his twentieth year, and, though not what may be termed handsome, there was certainly something very agreeable, if not captivating, in his person. For some time he lived happily in this family, until his mistress discovering him in an improper situation with one of her female servants, she

discharged him immediately; nor could any intercession afterwards prevail upon her to reinstate him.

He soon afterwards got another place, in which he did not long remain. He had at this time got connected with some other servants of a loose character, and their manner of drinking, gaming, and idleness, suiting his disposition, he soon became one of them. After losing several good places, by negligence, he applied at a livery stable in Piccadilly, and obtained employment.

Dick's father now died, and left him the sum of fifty-seven pounds, which he had saved during the time he lived in the family. With this sum Dick commenced gentleman. He left his place, bought mourning, frequented the theatres, &c. One evening, at Drury Lane, he got seated by a female, who particularly engaged his attention. He took her to be a modest lady, and was very much chagrined at finding her readily granting his request to conduct her home. He resolved to leave her, but found his resolution fail him; and at the end of the play he conducted her home to her residence in St. George's Fields, and stopped with her the whole night.

Next morning, after making her a handsome present, he took his leave, with a promise of soon repeating his visit. He went home; but this artful courtesan had so completely enamoured him, that he could not rest many hours without seeing her again, and, but for the accidental visit of some companions, would have returned immediately. With them he reluctantly spent the day, and in the evening flew again on the impatient wings of desire to his dear Nancy.

She, suspecting him to be a person of considerable property, from the specimen she had of his gene-

rosity, received him with every mark of endearment in her power. Indeed she was as complete a mistress of the art of wheedling as perhaps any female of the present day. At the time Richard Ferguson became acquainted with her, she was the first favorite of several noted highwaymen and housebreakers, who, in turn, had all their favored hours. While they could supply cash to indulge her in every species of luxury and extravagance, she would artfully declare no other man on earth shared her affections with them; but, their money once expended, cold treatment, or perhaps worse, compelled them to hazard their lives for the purpose of again enjoying those favours which any thinking reasonable man would have spurned at.

Unfortunately for himself, Ferguson became as complete a dupe as any she had ever ensnared. What money he possessed, what he could obtain by borrowing or otherwise, was all lavished on this insatiable female, and he was, after all, in danger of being discarded. He was a total stranger to her connexions with the gentlemen of the road, though he knew she bestowed her favours on others.

Not able to bear the thoughts of entirely parting with his dear Nancy, he went to an inn in Piccadilly, offered himself as a postilion, and was accepted. Whenever he could obtain a little money, he flew with impatience to his fair Dulcinea, and squandered it away in the same thoughtless manner.

As he drove post-chaises on the different roads round the metropolis, he frequently saw his rivals on the road gaily mounted and dressed. One day, driving a gentleman on the north road, the chaise was stopped by the noted Abershaw and another, with crapes over their faces. Aber-

shaw stood by the driver till the other went up to the chaise, and robbed the gentleman. The wind, being very high, blew the crape off his face, and gave Ferguson a full view of him. They stared at each other; but, before a word could pass, some company coming up, the two highwaymen galloped off.

At this period Ferguson was under the frowns of his mistress, for want of money. They perfectly knew each other, from having often met together at Nancy's. Abershaw was very uneasy at the discovery, which he communicated to his companion. A consultation was immediately held, and it was resolved to wait at an inn on the road for the return of Ferguson, and bribe him, to prevent a discovery. They accordingly went to the inn; and when Ferguson came back, and stopped to water his horses, the waiter was ordered to send him in. After some conversation, Dick accepted of the present offered him, and agreed to meet them that night, to partake of a good supper.

With this fresh recruit of cash he flew to his Nancy: but she being otherwise engaged, and not expecting him so soon to possess sufficient for her notice (being now acquainted with his situation in life), she absolutely refused to admit him, and shut the door in his face. Mad with the reception he had met with, he quitted the house, and never visited her more.

Ferguson, nettled to the soul, was proceeding homewards, when he met the highwayman who accompanied Abershaw, and went with him to the place of rendezvous in the Borough, where he was received by those assembled with every mark of attention. They supped sumptuously, drank wine, and spent the time in noisy mirth. This exactly suited Ferguson; he joined in their mirth,

and, when sufficiently elevated, very eagerly closed with a proposition to become one of their number. He was, according to their forms, immediately initiated.

When the plan of their next depredations on the public was settled, Ferguson was not immediately called into action, as it was suggested, by one of the members, that he could be better employed in giving information, at their rendezvous, of the departure of gentlemen from the inn where he lived, &c. whereby those who were most likely to afford a proper booty might be waylaid and robbed. This diabolical plan he followed too successfully for some time; taking care to learn from the drivers the time post-chaises were ordered from the other inns, &c. He shared, very often, considerable sums, which he quickly squandered away in gambling, drunkenness, and debauchery.

At length he lost his place, and consequently his knowledge respecting travellers became confined, and he was obliged himself to go on the road. As a highwayman, he was remarkably successful. Of a daring disposition, he defied danger, and, from his skill in horses, took care to provide himself with a good one, whereby he could effect his escape. Of this we shall mention one remarkable instance. Two others and himself stopped two gentlemen on the Edgeware road, and robbed them; soon after, three other gentlemen coming up, they pursued, and Ferguson's two companions were taken, tried, and executed. When his associates complimented him on his escape, he triumphantly asserted that he would gallop a horse with any man in the kingdom.

He now indulged himself in every excess: his amours were very numerous, particularly among those married women whom he could, by

presents or otherwise, induce to listen to his brutal desires. He prevailed upon the wives of two publicans in the Borough to elope with him, and carried on several private intrigues with others.

At one of the last places in which he lived he was frequently employed to drive post-chaises between Hounslow and London; and notwithstanding he drove close by his old companion, Abershaw, where he hung in irons, it had no effect in altering his morals.

We have now given a faithful detail of the early part of the life of this noted highwayman, and the manner of his first taking to the road. To follow him through the various wicked exploits in which he was afterwards engaged would fill volumes. We shall therefore only state, that the number of robberies committed round the metropolis, in which he was concerned, was very great.

At the same time that he lived at different inns, as a post-chaise driver, he went on the road, and kept up a connexion with almost every infamous character of the day.

He was repeatedly in custody at Bow Street, suspected of different highway robberies; and had been tried at the Old Bailey; but nothing could be fully brought home, till the crime for which he suffered. He was apprehended by some patrols belonging to Bow Street, and conveyed to Aylesbury, Bucks; there tried at the Lent assizes, 1800, for a highway robbery committed in that county; and convicted.

When he found himself left for execution, he seriously prepared for his approaching end, and met his fate with a becoming resolution, and such a religious resignation as could only be inspired by the firm hopes of the pardon of all his trans-

gressions, through the merits of his blessed Redeemer.

Galloping Dick, as this unfortunate man has been styled, seemed,

indeed, to have taken a hasty road to perdition. Happy had it been for him had he chosen the safe path of virtue, and ran a good race!



Hadfield shooting at the King.

JAMES HADFIELD, TRIED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THE trial of James Hadfield, for shooting at his late majesty at Drury Lane Theatre, on Thursday, the 15th of May, 1800, came on in the Court of King's Bench, on the 26th of June. The prisoner pleaded 'Not Guilty,' and the attorney-general addressed the jury at considerable length.

Mr. Joseph Craig was the first witness examined: he was a musician, and saw Hadfield above all the rest, with a pistol in his hand, pointed at his majesty; it was instantly fired, and dropped down: he assisted at dragging the prisoner

over the rails into the music-room. Mr. Sheridan and the Duke of York came in; he said 'God bless your royal highness! I like you very well, you are a good fellow. This is not the worst that is brewing.'

Mr. John Holroyd sat next the prisoner, spoke to him, and remarked he was a pitiable object; saw a pistol presented across his face, and immediately discharged; he assisted in securing him.

Mr. J. Parkinson, a musician, was next examined: he confirmed what the first witness had deposed; and being asked if the situation was a

good one for firing at his majesty, he replied that the prisoner could not have chosen a better.

Mr. Wright, the fourth witness, was in the first row next the orchestra; he heard the report of a pistol as his majesty entered his box; turned round, and caught the prisoner by the collar. A young lady, who sat behind, immediately pointed to the ground, where he saw and picked up the pistol, which he produced in court.

Miss Elizabeth Ormeston deposed that she sat on the third row, but could not say whether it was at the first or second bow to the audience from his majesty the pistol was fired; but immediately he threw down the pistol.

Mr. Law, one of the counsel for the prosecution, here desired that the Duke of York might be called; upon which the prisoner, in a paroxysm of enthusiasm, cried out, 'God bless the duke! I love him.' The Court, seeing his agitation, immediately gave directions that he should be permitted to sit down; and Mr. Kirby, the keeper of Newgate, (who all the time sat next to him,) told him he had permission of the Court to sit down; which he did, and remained composed during the remainder of the trial.

The Duke of York was present at the examination; remarked at the time that he knew the prisoner; that he had been one of his orderly men. The prisoner said 'He knew his own life was forfeited; he regretted the fate of his wife only; he would be only two days longer from his wife;' said, 'The worst is not come yet.' His royal highness said the prisoner appeared to be perfectly collected. After his majesty had retired, his royal highness

directed a search to be made in the king's box, where a hole was discovered, evidently made by the impression of a shot, fourteen inches from his majesty's head. It had perforated the pillar. In searching below, some slugs were found; by the smell, they had been recently fired off. Mr. Erskine asked his royal highness if the most loyal and brave men were not usually selected to be the orderly men. His royal highness answered that the most tried and trusty men were appointed orderly men. When the prisoner was asked what could induce him to commit so atrocious an act, he said he was tired of life, and thought he should have been killed.

The evidence for the prosecution being closed, Mr. Erskine addressed the jury at considerable length.

Major Ryan, of the 15th light dragoons, in which the prisoner was a private, Hercules M'Gill, private in the same regiment, and John Lane, of the Guards, all knew the prisoner, and deposed to different acts of his insanity.

Mr. Cline, surgeon; Dr. Crichton, physician; and Dr. Letherne, surgeon to the 15th regiment, as professional gentlemen, gave testimony to their belief of the prisoner's insanity.

Captain Wilson, and Christopher Lawton, of the 15th light dragoons; David Hadfield, brother to the prisoner; Mary Gore, sister-in-law to the prisoner; Catharine Harrison, and Eliabeth Roberts, detailed different acts of insanity, particularly on the day previous to, and on which he committed the crime for which he stood indicted.

The prisoner was found by the jury to be insane.*

* Ravillac, who stabbed King Henry IV. of France, while in his coach, and surrounded by his guards, was tortured to death in the following inhuman manner—

HENRY COCK,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

To the crime for which this young man suffered was added a long series of duplicity and base ingratitude to his benefactor, William Storey, Esq.

This old gentleman rented the parsonage-house at Chatham, was rich, and, having no children, appeared to have adopted this ingrate as a son. The return made to this protection was the commission of forgery, in order to rob his benefactor. His fate is still less deserving of commiseration when we find that he had received every advantage from education, possessed a considerable knowledge (for his early years) of mankind, and was in the profession of the law, as an attorney, at Brewer's Hall.

This unfortunate man, at the early age of twenty-six, was indicted for feloniously forging, on the 20th of April, 1802, three papers, purporting to be letters of attorney of William Storey, of Chatham, in the county of Kent, Esq. to transfer several sums of money in the stocks of the Bank of England, and for uttering and making use of the same, knowing them to be forged.

His trial came on at the Old Bailey, before Lord Ellenborough, May 1, 1802, and occupied the greatest part of that day.

It appeared that the prisoner was a near relation to, and had received

the dividends, as they became due, for Mr. Storey, who died August 14, 1801, leaving, as he thought, considerable sums in the three and four per cents. and seven thousand pounds in the five, memorandums to that effect having been found by his executors among his papers.

Several persons to whom Mr. Storey had left different sums pressing for their legacies, Mr. Jefferies, the acting executor, drew up a kind of plan for discharging them; in which he appropriated the sums in the different funds for the payment of particular legacies, setting down seven thousand pounds as in the five per cents. among the rest. Towards the end of November, this paper was shown to, and copied by, the prisoner; who was consulted by, and acted in town for, the executor, and which copy was produced in court.

So far from informing Mr. Jefferies at that time of there being no property in the five per cents. to answer the legacies he had set down against the seven thousand pounds, the prisoner sent two or three letters to persuade him not to sell it out till after Christmas, that they might have the benefit of the dividend. This was acceded to by the executors, who, having left it beyond the time for that purpose, were at length determined to fulfil the

At the place of execution his right hand, with which he gave the fatal blow, was put into a furnace flaming with fire and brimstone, and there consumed. His flesh was pulled from his bones with red-hot pincers; boiling oil, rosin, and brimstone, were poured upon the wounds, and melted lead upon his navel. To close the scene of horror, four horses were fastened to the four quarters of his body, which were torn asunder.

He declared to the last moment that he had no accomplices, and that the only motive which impelled him to act the regicide was, because the king tolerated two religions in France.

His parents were banished their country, never more to return, on pain of immediate death; and his whole kindred, nay, every individual bearing the name, were ordered to renounce it; so that the name of Ravillac should never more be heard of in France.

provisions of the will; but, on applying at the Bank, they found, to their great astonishment, that the whole of the seven thousand pounds in the five per cents. had been sold out at different periods, the last in the month of August, 1801, by the prisoner, under the pretended authority of a warrant of Mr. Storey.

This warrant was produced; and Mr. Jefferies swore, to the best of his belief, that the signature was not the handwriting of his deceased friend.

Mr. Storey's coachman, whose name was down as one of the subscribing witnesses, denied it to be his writing; and added, that he never witnessed any paper for his late master during the number of years he had lived with him.

The name of Edward Bishop, described as a wharfinger at Rochester, appeared as another witness, according to the copy; but it was deposed by the tax-gatherer, and other inhabitants of Rochester, that no person of that name and description had been known there for the last thirty years.

To prove that the prisoner had made use of this paper, and had actually by that means obtained the money, the transfer-books were produced, and the several clerks of the Bank were called to prove the identity of his person.

Benjamin Cock, brother to the unfortunate prisoner, was one of Mr. Storey's executors; and, for the purpose of justice, had the disagreeable task of appearing in court. He said he had received one hundred and seventy-five pounds at different periods for dividends; but, when asked if he had received that sum for dividends after Captain Storey's death, he said, 'I found in the banker's book one hundred and seventy-five pounds. It was passed to my account without my knowledge.'

The prisoner, in his defence, addressed the Court in the following elegant and able manner:—

'May it please your lordships, gentlemen of the jury,—Very little capable at any time of addressing a jury of my country, I am much less able to do so upon an awful occasion like the present; yet I confess to you my feelings have been considerably relieved by the extreme, liberal, and candid manner in which the gentlemen have conducted themselves towards me this day; and I am the better enabled to address you, because the result of this inquiry is so different from that which has gone forth to the world, and is so inconsistent, that I humbly look with confidence to an honorable acquittal, and towards being restored by your verdict to society.

'Gentlemen, you have an important duty to perform: you have either to restore an individual to society, or to send him to certain death; I may say certain death, because we all know that you are the dernier resort; from your verdict there lies no appeal, and I am confident you will weigh it with judgment and with mercy, peculiarly in a case of this sort, where there is no ulterior resort whatever.

'Gentlemen, I should not have the presumption to address you, if the law of the land had not prevented the learned gentleman, who has paid such unremitting attention to the case, from doing it for me;—he could do me justice in much stronger terms than I can myself; but when I look to the noble lord who presides, and to you, gentlemen, I have nothing to fear: I trust you will allow for the inaccuracies of my speech, and that you will look at the case in all its bearings; and if you are convinced, upon the evidence that has been

adduced against me, that I am guilty, let me be consigned over to the laws of my country; but if the whole tenor of my life has been according to the rule of right—if I have continued to act upon the principles of honour and honesty—and if the evidence, as far as it has gone, has been consistent with that character which has been gone into—then, gentlemen, I feel confident in the event of your verdict.

‘Gentlemen, I did think, on the part of the prosecution, there would have been a clear, consistent, statement before you; I should have thought, charging me to have forged this power of attorney, that they would have begun at the foundation of the crime, to show that that power of attorney was forged: they have shown no such thing, or attempted it; they ought to have gone on, and to have shown you that the power of attorney, in October, 1800, was a forgery:—that they have not done. What is it we then come to? The power of attorney in April, which is charged to be the forgery; and we will go to the evidence on which it is founded. There is one thing before that, because the gentleman has been pleased to say, that it afforded some strong presumption; and I admit that suspicious circumstances have been laid before you, but unfortunately I have not the opportunity, by evidence, of completely elucidating them, but will say, it is bare statement; there is not positive evidence against me. I shall pass over all the different witnesses which have been called on as to the entries in the Bank books for form’s sake, and will admit that there was such a sum as five thousand pounds sold out; the only questions you have to try are, first, whether it was under a forged instrument; and, in the next place, whether, if

it was a forged instrument, I was the perpetrator of it, or uttered it, knowing it to be forged.

‘Gentlemen, the first material circumstance I shall observe upon is this: in all cases, it certainly is not possible to show the perpetrator of the act; in this case they cannot, for it is impossible to show the perpetration of the deed. In order to be convinced that an instrument of this sort is a forgery, you will first look to the signature of the party himself, and, next, to those of the attesting witnesses. What is the evidence? Taking the signatures first, I think it is clear that I was in the habit of confidence sufficient to be entitled to receive under it; I think the gentlemen have produced to you a power of attorney, authorizing me to receive dividends upon the then stock; therefore you have it before you, on the showing of the prosecution, that I was in the confidence of the testator, and was allowed to receive his dividends. Was it inconsistent, therefore, that he should allow me to sell it out when necessary? And here I must make an observation upon the evidence of Mr. Peckham, who said I had received the dividends on his stock, implying that stock was gone, though it will be found, through the whole transaction, his confidence had not been broken in upon.’

Mr. Garrow here interrupted the prisoner, saying, ‘It is but justice, it will assist you, to declare, that, respecting the servants of Mr. Storey, you conducted yourself with great fidelity.’ The prisoner thanked him for correcting him, saying he might have mistaken the evidence. He then proceeded:—

‘Gentlemen, you have the evidence before you of Mr. Jeffries that this handwriting is not, in his opinion, the handwriting of Mr. Storey; there is not one other

single witness, nor is there an iota of evidence before you, that it is my handwriting. I will now resort to the attesting witnesses: the first is Robert Packham; he is called, and, from his appearance, he is little conversant in handwriting; he, however, denies that he attested it: you will recollect that it is required, at the foot of instruments of this sort, the parties should not merely subscribe their names, but their residence and professions. These forms have not been complied with: and I should like to know, if it is not the handwriting of Peckham, why they have not brought you other evidence, to show whose it is. It is not the mere signature of Robert Peckham; and is it possible for you to conceive, if it was written by me, that they would not have got persons to prove it was my writing? They ought to have gone to that point, and shown to you that it was not merely suspected to be a forgery, but that it was a forgery created by my hand: they have attempted to effect it out of court, but they failed in effecting it in court.

'Gentlemen, Mr. Francis is asked whether there was one Edward Bishop living in Rochester: he tells you there was not. I am not disposed to quarrel with that; but the solicitors who conduct this prosecution were, so soon as the circuit was over, required to give me the names of the witnesses; which was refused, and which, if it had been complied with, I would not have been contented with calling a single tax-gatherer—I should not have stopped there—I should have sent down persons of diligence and activity, and, if I found it was impossible to discover them, I should have put 'One Hundred Pounds Reward,' in as large figures as they put for my apprehension, and called upon them, for the sake of public justice, to

come and speak before you. On this part of the question I think they have gone a very little way; they have given us very slight evidence indeed; and it merely depends upon the opinion of Mr. Jeffries that this is not the handwriting of Mr. Storey, who was a man afflicted with the gout, eighty years of age, and liable to a hundred variations in his handwriting.

'Gentlemen, the greater part of this case has been occupied by inquiring not so much whether it is a forgery or not, but with reading the correspondence between me and the executors, subsequent to the death of Mr. Storey, all tending to show, most unquestionably, that there existed, at the period of Mr. Storey's death, seven thousand pounds stock. I do not mean to deny those representations; they are proved; I would have admitted them, if my counsel would have permitted me: it is unquestionably true, I have constantly admitted to the executors that seven thousand pounds were there, and have acted upon it as such; and, if the thing had remained undiscovered till this moment, I should have continued to do so: but does that prove the charge? The question is, whether it be a forgery or not? Whether their confidence was broken in upon by the conduct I pursued, and not giving me an opportunity of replacing the money, which I acknowledge is converted; but I say there is no proof of forgery, and you have a right to infer, from the confidence placed in me by Mr. Storey, with respect to his own dealings, that I might be authorized to transfer any of the stock; and I might have gone on representing it as still standing in the books, whereas it was not; for I wished to keep the deception up, and I did keep it up to the testator till his death.

' Gentlemen, if there was any idea in my mind that I should be placed in this tremendous situation, is it possible that, on the 19th of August, I should be at the parsonage-house, and every where to be found, and my papers liable to be inspected by every body who chose?—Is it not more likely, that, after the death of Mr. Storey, I should have gone off with those funds which Mr. Jefferies intrusted me with?—The fact is this, (and you ought to try that fact,) Whether it be most consistent with my representation, or with the representation made by the prosecution? Then you ought to pause, and consider whether it is a forgery, and whether I am the perpetrator of it.

' Gentlemen, the probate of the will was produced to you, and I apprehend it may be read in evidence. I defy them to show that any sum of seven thousand pounds, five per cents. is taken notice of by the testator, by any one letter or declaration of the testator that he had such stock, because it does not exist: they cannot prove it—they cannot show it.

' Gentlemen, there is another thing: when one of the witnesses was asked as to the testator's handwriting to this instrument, the learned judge was pleased to ask whether he spoke with as much certainty as the subject was capable of? Most undoubtedly the witness did say, "I speak with as much certainty as the subject is capable of."

' Gentlemen, I have now given you a few observations, not with that ability with which they would have been given by my counsel, but in the best manner I am able, considering the agitation of my mind. Hasty, crude, and undigested as they are, arising from my unfortunate situation, I trust you will give

such weight to them as you think they deserve. The correspondence between me and Mr. Storey is destroyed, and it is utterly impossible to show his directions to me: you will give the due weight to the observations I have made, and it only remains with me to address you upon my character: that character has been in part given to you, and I flatter myself those who will be seen here to-day will not diminish that which I have received; on that I am willing to go to a jury of my country, trusting my life in their hands, and to the law, perfectly satisfied that, whatever they do, they will neither injure the one nor sacrifice the other.'

Mr. Justice Mainwaring, Mr. Alderman Price, and several other persons in an equally respectable line of life, appeared to the prisoner's character. The jury, however, considered the fact as sufficiently proved to warrant their pronouncing a verdict of Guilty.

His propriety of conduct, while under sentence in Newgate, was exceedingly praiseworthy. He was frequently cheerful, but never seemed to lose sight of the awful situation in which he stood. If, however, he appeared at one time more depressed than at another, it was after parting with a female with whom he had lived for a length of time. He was visited in his confinement by many persons of respectability. Mr. Mellish, the contractor, was one of his condoling friends. Mr. Tatlock was seldom away from him, and was the last friend he took leave of on the scaffold. The Rev. Dr. Parsons, of St. George's in the East, constantly attended him in his devotions, and took much pains to prepare his mind to meet the awful moment that awaited him. On the day previous to his execution, he wrote a

letter to his brother, a respectable young man in the navy, requesting his company to sit up with him all night, which would be the last they would ever spend together; and his coming to him seemed to afford him much satisfaction. In the morning, when the farewell signal was given, a truly affecting scene took place between the two brothers; and, for

the moment, Henry's spirit seemed to fail him; but when they were separated he soon resumed his former composure. He was dressed in mourning on the morning of execution; and underwent his dreadful fate in penitence, and with fortitude, before Newgate, on the 23d of June, 1802.

FRANCIS FINLAY,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

HERE shall we find verified the old proverbs, that 'Honesty is the best policy,' and that 'Idleness is the root of all evil.' This unfortunate man, who possessed the most gentlemanly appearance and address, and was connected with several families of respectability and fortune, was a native of Boston, in Lincolnshire, where his father, being a man of credit and easy fortune, was enabled to gratify the strong ambition which he felt to give his son a polite and liberal education. Mr. Finlay passed through the rudiments of his education with eclat, and executed the tasks assigned him by his masters with a promptitude and accuracy that seemed to justify the most sanguine expectations of his delighted parents and friends. At a very early age he betrayed a strong attachment to a military life. The father, though with the greatest reluctance, was persuaded to indulge the ruling passion of his son, and procured him an ensign's commission in a marching regiment. This regiment was soon after ordered abroad, where his bravery and good conduct gained him the esteem and affection of his companions, and caused him to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant. When his regiment returned to England, Mr. Finlay was ordered upon the recruiting service; and from

this period may be dated the commencement of that career of vice which at last rendered him amenable to the laws of his country.

Idleness, that rock upon which so many have been wrecked, called forth his latent propensities with irresistible violence. Possessing an uncommon flow of animal spirits, he was extremely alive to the pleasures of society; and, having contracted an intimacy with several persons of a dissipated turn of mind, he entered into all their excesses with eagerness. It may be easily imagined that his lieutenant's pay was very inadequate to support a life of excess and libertinism. But the force of habit became unconquerable: his commission was disposed of to recruit his finances, and to enable him a little longer to indulge a violent propensity to gaming, which he had contracted in the society of his fellow-libertines. This could not hold out long, and he was at last hurried to the adoption of the most unjustifiable and desperate measures to maintain his credit with his associates.

About this period he married the daughter of a respectable shopkeeper; but his wife's fortune was inconsiderable, and therefore soon dissipated in his favorite pursuits. Deprived of every honest resource of supplying his ruined finances, he

was at length, in a moment of desperation, driven to the commission of forgery; for which he was apprehended, and brought to trial at the Old Bailey, December 3, 1802, before Lord Alvanley. He was indicted for feloniously forging, and uttering the same, knowing it to be forged, a certain paper, purporting to be a bill of exchange, drawn by Captain W. Foote, of the royal navy, on James Sykes, navy-agent, of Arundel Street, and accepted by him.

It appeared in evidence that the prisoner went to a Mr. Earnshaw, a watch-maker in High Holborn, on the 26th of September, and bespoke a gold time-piece, which was to be got ready for him in the course of a week, and for which he agreed to pay sixty-five guineas: accordingly, on the 16th of October, he called again when, the time-piece, being ready, was delivered to him, and he paid for it with two bills, one of which was that laid in the indictment. Soon after Mr. Earnshaw sent the bill to Mr. Sykes, when it was instantly discovered to be a forgery. The next day (which was on the 17th of October) the prisoner offered the time-piece as a pledge to a pawnbroker, William Burkitt, who seeming to doubt its value, the prisoner produced Earnshaw's receipt; and in consequence of Burkitt intimating that he would advance the money, if upon inquiry he found it to be of that value, the prisoner agreed to call again in an hour. Burkitt sent to Earnshaw's in the mean time; the forgery was detected; and the prisoner, on his return, was taken into custody.

The prisoner, in his defence, set up the plea of insanity, and called one witness, the Chevalier Ruspini, who gave him a good character. There being no evidence in support of a deranged mind, the jury pro-

nounced him Guilty; but, on account of his excellent character and meritorious services, recommended him to the mercy of the sovereign; there were, however, fourteen other similar indictments against him.

Finlay's demeanour, during his trial, was one of modest dignity, which bespoke a consciousness of his crime, without any appearance of being appalled at the fate to which he was consigned by the violated laws of his country. When his sentence was pronounced he listened with a degree of calm resignation, and the air of a man who was prepared to suffer deserved punishment for a crime of which he was conscious that he was guilty.

This unhappy man was only thirty-seven years of age, and was both a husband and a father. After his death-warrant was signed by his majesty, the little time that intervened between that and his execution was employed in a manner the most exemplary, in preparing for that awful and ignominious crisis when he should be separated from every thing that was dear to him on this side eternity. He never attempted to palliate his crime, but displayed the deepest contrition for his guilt, and the most penitent resignation. He was attended almost constantly by the Rev. Mr. Crowther, rector of Christ Church, Newgate Street, and, in the absence of that gentleman, by one of his fellow-prisoners, of the name of John Manley, who humanely administered all the consolation his unfortunate situation admitted of, read to him, and joined him in prayer. A gentleman, who did not disdain to be considered as the friend of the unfortunate man, visited him daily, and assisted him with money, and other necessaries.

On the morning previous to his execution he was visited by his wife

and child in prison, along with the gentleman to whom we have just now alluded, and the prisoner, Manley. The scene that passed may be more easily imagined than described. The reader may picture to himself the anguish of a wife and mother, who had been nurtured in delicacy and tenderness, upon the eve of losing a beloved husband, by the hands of the common executioner. She was then about the age of thirty-two, of the most elegant manners, and handsome form. The child was about eight months old. The sensations of the unfortunate criminal were most agonizing when he reflected upon that infatuated course of life which had not only brought himself to an ignominious end, but had also left his beloved wife exposed to all the horrors of poverty and disgrace. Upon a promise from the gentleman before mentioned to protect his wife and child, and screen them from the miseries of want and the sneers of an unpitying world, he became more composed. She lingered with him till four o'clock, when it became absolutely necessary to separate, and

she was carried by two men to a hackney-coach in a state of insensibility. Even the turnkeys, 'albeit unused to the melting mood,' did not behold this scene unmoved.

On the morning of his execution, February 9, 1803, he seemed to look forward to his fate, not only with resignation, but satisfaction. He dressed with the same neatness as usual, and ate his breakfast with the utmost composure; after which Mr. Crowther passed an hour with him in fervent devotion. At half past eight o'clock he mounted the scaffold with his hat and gloves on, and was launched into eternity.

The body was cut down after it had hung the usual time, and at one o'clock a hearse attended to convey it away; but, upon being inspected by the sheriffs, it was found to be still warm, though it had been cut down three hours before. The sheriffs thought it their duty to keep it for some time longer, on account of this extraordinary circumstance, and ordered that it should be called for at four o'clock, which was accordingly done.

EDWARD POWELL,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MR. FRAMPTON.

THE unhappy fate of Mr. Frampton serves to confirm the old saying, 'Never interfere between man and wife.'

Edward Powell's situation under government, at the Portsmouth Dock-yard, was very respectable, yielding an income of between four and five hundred pounds per annum.

He married the daughter of Mr. Frampton, of Portsmouth, a gentleman much respected, and with her, for a short time only, were his prospects of happiness. The young wife, too inexperienced, perhaps, for

the marriage state, and too giddy for the sober and experienced years of her husband, had, it seems, been reproved by him on this head, of which she, still more unadvised, complained to her father, who taking her part, the husband sought revenge.

It appeared that he had long brooded on the destruction of the man, though her parent, who interfered between him and his wife; and meeting Mr. Frampton on the Common Hard, at Portsmouth, he pulled a pistol from his pocket, and fired at him, without effect. Finding his devoted subject unhurt, he

took out another, and shot him dead on the spot. For this horrid deed he was condemned at Winchester.

He was carried to the place of execution along with Gregory Bentham, quarter-master of the Scipio man of war, for shooting with a pistol, in a scuffle, William

Barnes, cockswain of the said ship. The deceased, in this case, had been sent after Bentham, who had exceeded his leave of absence, and refusing to return, on the cockswain's proceeding to enforce his orders, was shot.

They were executed on a temporary gallows, near Winchester.



The Flogging which caused Armstrong's Death.

JOSEPH WALL, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR ORDERING A SOLDIER TO BE SO UNMERCIFULLY
FLOGGED, AS TO OCCASION HIS DEATH.

MR. WALL was descended from a good family in Ireland, and entered into the army at an early age. He was of a severe and rather unaccommodating temper; nor was he much liked among the officers.

Mr. Wall was Lieutenant-governor of Senegambia, but acted as chief, the first appointment being vacant. His emoluments were very considerable, as, besides his military ap-

pointments, he was superintendant of trade to the colony. It was an office he held but a short time—not more than two years; during which he committed the crime for which he suffered, by ordering Benjamin Armstrong to receive eight hundred lashes, on the 10th of July, 1782, of which he died in five days afterwards.

His family were Roman Catho-

lies; but of course he conformed to the Protestant Church, or he could not have held his commission.

As soon as the account of the murder reached the board of admiralty, a reward was offered for his apprehension; but, having evaded justice in 1784, he lived on the Continent, sometimes in France, and sometimes in Italy, but mostly in France, under an assumed name, where he was admitted into good company.

He particularly frequented the society of the officers of his own country, who served in the French army, and was well known at the Scotch and Irish Colleges in Paris.

In 1797 he returned to this country, as if by a kind of fatality. He was frequently advised, by the friend who procured him the lodging, to leave the country again, and questioned as to the motive for remaining: he never attempted, however, to give any; but appeared, even at the time when he was so studiously concealing himself, to have a distant intention of making a surrender, in order to take his trial. It is very evident his mind was not at ease, and that he was incapable of taking any firm resolution either one way or another. And even the manner in which he did give himself up showed a singular want of determination, leaving it to chance whether the minister should send for him or not; for, rather than go to deliver himself up, he wrote to say 'he was ready to do so,'—a less becoming, but not a less dangerous mode of encountering danger. He was allied, by marriage, to a noble family; and his wife visited him frequently when in his concealment at Lambeth; and since that time he lived in Upper Thornhaugh Street, Bedford Square, where he was apprehended. It is most probable that, had he not written to

the secretary of state, the matter had been so long forgotten, that he would never have been any way molested.

At the commencement of the trial, which took place January 20, 1802, the prisoner said he was very hard of hearing, and therefore requested that he might be allowed to sit by his counsel. The Chief Baron of the Exchequer, chief justice in the commission, with whom appeared Mr. Justice Rooke and Mr. Justice Lawrence, said to the prisoner, 'That is perfectly impossible; there is a regular place appointed by the law for persons in your situation; we can make no distinction of the sort you desire; that would be invidious.' It was proved by the witnesses that Armstrong was far from being undutiful in his behaviour; he was, however, tied to the gun-carriage; black men, brought there for the purpose—not the drummers, who in the ordinary course of things would have had to flog this man, supposing him to have deserved flogging;—but black men were ordered to inflict on Armstrong the punishment ordered. Each man took his turn, and gave this unhappy sufferer twenty-five lashes, until he had received the number of eight hundred; and the instrument with which the punishment was inflicted was not a cat-o'-nine-tails, which is the usual instrument, but a piece of rope of a greater thickness, which was much more severe than the cat-o'-nine-tails. The rope was exhibited in evidence. While this punishment was inflicting, the prisoner urged the black men to be severe; he said, among other things, 'Cut him to the heart and to the liver.' Armstrong, the subject of this punishment, applied to him for mercy; but the observation of the defendant on this occasion was, 'that the sick

season was coming on, which, together with the punishment, would do for him.' After receiving a great number of lashes, that is, eight hundred, this poor creature was conducted to the hospital. He was in a situation in which it was probable his death might be the consequence; he declared, in his dying moments, he was punished without any trial, and without ever being so much as asked whether he had any thing to say in his defence.

The prisoner, in his defence, urged that the deceased was guilty of mutiny; that the punishment was not so severe as reported, but that the deceased was suffered to drink strong spirits when in the hospital.

Several witnesses were called on the part of the prisoner, particularly Mrs. Lacy, widow of the captain who succeeded Mr. Wall, and Mary Falkner, who not only agreed with him in the outrageous conduct of the men, and the violent language they used, but both positively swore that Lewis, the first witness against the prisoner, was not the orderly sergeant on that day. John Falkner, Peter Williams, and some others who were present, were also examined, and whose testimonies went in full corroboration of the account given by the prisoner, and so far went to his justification; but which, in most material points, was in direct contradiction to the evidence which had been given by the witnesses for the crown.

The jury, after being out of court some time, pronounced a verdict of Guilty.

The recorder then proceeded to pass sentence of death upon him: that he be executed the following morning, and that his body be afterwards delivered to be anatomized, according to the statute.

Mr. Wall seemed sensibly affected by the sentence, but said nothing

more than requesting the Court would allow him a little time to prepare himself for death.

On the 21st of January, 1802, a respite was sent from Lord Pelham's office, deferring his execution until the 25th.

On the 24th he was further respite till the 28th. During the time of his confinement, previous to trial, he occupied the apartment which was formerly the residence of Mr. Ridgway, the bookseller. His wife lived with him for the last fortnight. Although he was allowed two hours a day, from twelve to two, to walk in the yard, he did not once embrace this indulgence; and, during his whole confinement, never went out of his room, except into the lobby to consult his counsel.

He lived well, and was at times very facetious, easy in his manners, and pleasant in conversation; but during the night he frequently sat up in his bed and sung psalms, overheard by his fellow-prisoner. He had not many visitors; his only attendant was a prisoner, who was appointed for that purpose by the turnkey.

After trial he did not return to his old apartment, but was conducted to a cell; he was so far favored as not to have irons put on, but a person was employed as a guard to watch him during the night, to prevent him doing violence to himself. His bed was brought to him in the cell, on which he threw himself in an agony of mind, saying it was his intention not to rise until they called him on the fatal morning.

The sheriffs were particularly pointed and precise in their orders, with respect to confining him to the usual diet of bread and water, preparatory to the awful event. This order was scrupulously fulfilled.

The prisoner, during a part of the night, slept, owing to fatigue and perturbation of mind. The next morning his wife applied, but was refused admittance without an order from one of the sheriffs. She applied to Mr. Sheriff Cox, who attended her to the prison.

From the time of the first respite, until twelve o'clock on Wednesday night, he did not cease to entertain hopes of his safety. The interest made to save him was very great. The whole of Wednesday occupied the great law officers; the judges met at the chancellor's in the afternoon. The conference lasted upwards of three hours.

About a little after four o'clock, Thursday, the 28th, the scaffold began to be erected by torch-light, and was completed soon after seven, except the black hanging, which is not permitted to be displayed, nor the prison-bell to toll, for the departure of any one convicted of murder.

The prisoner had an affecting interview with his wife, the Hon. Mrs. Wall, the night before, from whom he was painfully separated about eleven o'clock. This disconsolate and affectionate lady, unremitting in her solicitude, caused the colonel to write a note to Mr. Kirby, the gaoler, about nine o'clock, requesting that she might be permitted to remain in the cell until eleven; thus cordially manifesting her fond, but delusive hopes, to the latest moment.

Mr. Kirby, with a feeling of humanity highly creditable to his character, readily complied with this request. But, greatly unfortunate lady! she had not any acquisition of reasonable hope at the hour of her departure. Eleven o'clock came, and she saw the end of all her earthly joys! Numberless tender embraces now took place: the lov-

ing wife reluctantly departed, overwhelmed with grief, and bathed with tears; while the unfortunate husband declared that he could now, with Christian fortitude, submit to his unhappy fate. During the greater part of the night he slept but little.

About four o'clock in the morning his sleep was, however, observed to become sound, and, according to the best recollection of his attendant, he continued in this sleep rather more than an hour; so that he could not have heard the fatal machine in its passage to the debtors' door. His voice preserved its usual strength and tone to the end; and, though very particular in his questions respecting the machinery in every part, yet he spoke of his approaching execution and death with perfect calmness. At half after six in the morning, his prison attendant, going to his cell, was asked by him 'whether the noise he heard was not that of erecting his scaffold?' He was humbly replied to in the negative.

The Ordinary, Dr. Ford, soon after entered, when the prisoner devoutly joined him for some time in prayer. They then passed on to an ante-room, when the governor asked 'whether it was a fine morning?' On being answered in the affirmative, he said, 'The time hangs heavily; I am anxious for the close of this scene.' One of the officers then proceeded to bind his arms with a cord, for which he extended them out firmly; but, recollecting himself, he said, 'I beg your pardon a moment;' and, putting his hand in his pocket, he drew out two white handkerchiefs, one of which he bound over his temples, so as nearly to conceal his eyes, over which he placed a white cap, and then put on a round hat; the other handkerchief he kept between

his hands. He then observed, 'the cord cuts me; but it's no matter.' On which Dr. Ford desired it to be loosened, for which the prisoner bowed, and thanked him.

As the clock struck eight the door was thrown open, at which Sheriff Cox and his officers appeared. The governor, approaching him, said, 'I attend you, sir;' and the procession to the scaffold, over the debtors' door, immediately succeeded. He had no sooner ascended it, accompanied by the Ordinary, than three successive shouts from an innumerable populace, the brutal effusion of one common sentiment, evidently deprived him of the small portion of fortitude which he had summoned up.

He bowed his head under the extreme pressure of ignominy, when the hangman put the halter over it, but took it off again to replace it; this done, the governor stooped forward, and spoke to the Ordinary, who, no doubt at his request, pulled the cap over the lower part of the face, when in an instant, without waiting for any signal, the platform dropped, and he was launched into eternity. From the knot of the rope turning round to the back of the neck, and his legs not being pulled, at his particular request, he was suspended in convulsive

agony for more than a quarter of an hour. He was executed January the 28th, 1802.

After hanging a full hour, his body was cut down, put into a cart, and immediately conveyed to a building in Cow Cross Street, to be dissected.

He was dressed in a mixed coloured loose coat, with a black collar, swan-down waistcoat, blue pantaloons, and white silk stockings.

He appeared a miserable and emaciated object, never having quitted the bed of his cell from the day of condemnation till the morning of his execution.

The public indignation had never been so high since the death of Mrs. Brownrigg.

The body of the unfortunate governor was not exposed to public view, as usual in such cases.

Mr. Belfour, secretary to the Surgeons' Company, applied to Lord Kenyon, to know whether such exposure was necessary; and, finding that the forms of dissection only were required, the body, after those forms had passed, was consigned to the relations of the unhappy man, upon their paying fifty guineas to the Philanthropic Society.

His remains were interred in the churchyard of St. Pancras.

JOHN BEATSON AND WILLIAM WHALLEY BEATSON,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBING THE BRIGHTON MAIL.

JOHN BEATSON was a native of Scotland, and, in the former part of his life, he had made several voyages to the West Indies, in merchants' service: he afterwards settled in the city of Edinburgh, where he kept a very respectable house, known by the name of the College Tavern. In this situation he continued for some years, till at length he resigned his business

to William Whalley Beatson, his adopted son, (for, after their condemnation, it appeared that he had been brought up by John Beatson from an infant, and was ever treated by him as his son.) who was then married; and the same was carried on by William Whalley, with the greatest attention and respectability. This, however, did not last long; for death, which so often interferes

with our choicest comforts, deprived the younger Beatson of his wife, whom he tenderly loved. In consequence of this melancholy event, he soon experienced confusion in the order of domestic management, and was daily liable to the impositions and depredations of those intrusted to manage his concerns. He, therefore, thought it best to leave such a situation, and look out for some other business, which he might conduct with greater ease and security to himself. Accordingly, he sold every thing off, and, being entirely disengaged, came to London, where he went into the liquor trade, in Bedford Street, Covent Garden. This concern he sold, at six months' credit, to a man who failed in three, which considerably embarrassed him.

On the 18th of July, 1801, John Beatson and William Whalley Beatson left London, and came as far as the Rose and Crown, Godstone, in the county of Surrey, where they slept that night. The next morning (Sunday) they proceeded on as far as the Blue Anchor, in the said parish, distant about four miles, where they dined, which they left about six o'clock in the evening, and were seen on East Grinstead Common between eight and nine o'clock. During their stay at the Blue Anchor, several inquiries were made by them as to the conveyance and arrival of the mail.

About half past twelve o'clock that night the mail-boy was stopped on Wall Hill, near Forest Row, in the parish of East Grinstead, by two men; one of whom confined the boy in the cart, and the other led the horse and cart into an adjoining field, the bars of which were previously taken down, where they took from him the bags and letters for London, &c. The person who rode with and confined the mail-boy in the cart presented a pistol to his

breast; but told him, if he remained quiet, and made no resistance, they would not hurt him. They then left the field; carried off the bags and letters on their backs as far as a wheat-field, in the parish of Hartfield, a distance of six miles; and, secreting themselves among some standing corn, opened the letters, and took therefrom all the Bank of England and country bank-notes they could find, and then left the remainder of the property, with the letters, exposed therein.

About a month after, when this wheat-field was to be reaped, the bags and letters were found, and also property, in drafts, bills, &c. to the amount of nine thousand, five hundred, and thirty-one pounds, fourteen shillings, and three half-pence, which, with the bags and letters, were immediately conveyed by the postmaster of East Grinstead to the General Post-office, London.

The next morning (Monday) after the robbery, the same two men came to Westerham, and stopped at a public house called the Checquers, where they took some refreshment, appeared very tired, and said that they belonged to the Dock-yard at Deptford, and that they must be there by a certain time; accordingly, they hired a one-horse chaise to convey them thither, which they paid for with a five-pound note, and their bill in the house with a two-pound note. Their whole conduct at Westerham, to Deptford, was very singular, and excited much suspicion, having varied so much in the places to which they said they belonged, and had a desire to go. The person who attended them in order to bring the horse and chaise back when they got to Deptford observed that they both got into one of the stage-coaches, which was then going to

London, and went there, instead of going to the Dock-yard, at which they declared they must be, and to which they said they belonged. The same evening it was proved that John Beatson purchased some shoes at a warehouse in Oxford Street, and paid for them with a ten-pound Bank of England note, which was found to have been sent by the mail from Lewes the night before.

Having been in London about a week, and having issued notes, by making small and various purchases, the Beatsons left London in a gig, with an intention of going to Ireland; and, in passing through Cheshire, they stopped all night at an inn in the town of Knutsford, where their singular behaviour, and brutal treatment of their horse, were noticed by many people.

On the arrival of the mail from London, hand-bills were received from the General Post-office, giving a description of the persons who, it was supposed, had robbed the Brighton mail. Little doubt was now entertained that the Beatsons, who had just left the town, were the men who had robbed the mail. A surveyor of the General Post-office being now in the neighbourhood, the circumstance was communicated to him, and he immediately set off in pursuit, and discovered them at Liverpool. Having found the inn they were at, he, with an attorney, and proper officers, went and secured them. The old man was in bed, but William was about the house.

On searching their travelling trunk, many of the articles were discovered, which had been purchased at different places in London, and notes to the amount of one thousand seven hundred pounds, wrapped up in one of the Lewes

letters; also other property on their persons, amounting, in the whole, to near three thousand pounds. A pistol was also found in the box. Having been now taken to Bow Street, after two examinations, they were committed to the county gaol, Horsham, to take their trial at the next assizes.

In the mean time, young Beatson, with a person under charge for horse-stealing, attempted to escape from prison, but they were discovered some hours after they were first missing, in a sewer, into which they had entered, supposing to have got out that way.

On the 28th of March, 1802, the assizes commenced at Horsham, and the next morning their trial came on before Baron Hotham. About thirty witnesses were examined for the prosecution; many of whom swore to their property, and identified the prisoners as the persons to whom they had sold it.

Circumstances were so corroborating throughout the evidence, that the counsel for the prisoners had no opportunity of exerting their abilities in their favour. The prisoners were then called on to make their defence, when young Beatson, taking some papers from his pocket, read them in a very able and distinct manner. The first paper was the production of the old man, acknowledging himself guilty, but that his son (as he still called him) was innocent. His own tended to prove the same, and that his father (as he also called him) had given him part of the stolen property which was found upon him, under the assurance of having received a large remittance from India. After which he bowed, and waited for the awful moment, which at once was to decide their fate on earth. The judge then summed up the evidence

in a clear and impressive manner, and the jury pronounced them both Guilty.

On Saturday, the 17th of April, 1802, these unhappy men were conveyed in a cart from Horsham to the fatal spot, where they arrived about twelve o'clock. They were attended by a Catholic priest in their last moments, and behaved themselves every way suitable to their wretched situation. They both acknowledged themselves guilty of

the offence for which they were about to suffer; and asked forgiveness of all whom they had injured or offended, in this or any other concern. They were shortly after launched into eternity, amidst upwards of three thousand spectators; and, after hanging the usual time, were taken down, put into coffins, and carried back to Horsham to be buried. The old man was about seventy years of age, and his adopted son, only twenty-seven.

WILLIAM CODLIN,

EXECUTED FOR SCUTTling A VESSEL.

WILLIAM CODLIN and J. Reed were tried at the Admiralty sessions in the Old Bailey, on the 26th of October, 1802, charged with sinking the Adventure brig, off Sussex, in August preceding, after insuring her to the amount of nine thousand pounds, for the purpose of defrauding the underwriters; and G. Easterby and W. McFarlane were charged on the same indictment for procuring the other prisoners to commit the said felony. The counsel for the prosecution, after enlarging upon the nature of the crime, entered into a sort of history of the vessel. The brig sailed in the month of July from London to Yarmouth, without taking in her cargo, and at this time policies were effected on her. At Yarmouth she took in goods to an inconsiderable amount, and about ten tons of ballast. At this time a Mr. Storrow was supercargo; but it would appear that he never intended to pursue the voyage. The ship proceeded to the Downs, where Storrow left it, and was succeeded by the prisoner Reed. While she lay at the Downs, a person of the name of Douglas, who was mate, was taken ill, and left her; and Codlin, instead of appoint-

ing a man in his stead, who was capable of performing the duties, made choice of a person of the name of Cooper, who was ignorant of navigation. The prisoner Codlin, conscious that the object of the voyage was not Gibraltar nor Leghorn, but that the Adventure should find her grave before she left the British coast, told him his duty would not be very arduous. There were frequent opportunities for the ship sailing, but Codlin pretended that the wind did not suit, and he waited for letters. He spoke of her as a ship that was unfit to cross the Bay of Biscay, and that she should soon be destroyed. When she got to Brighton, Codlin went on deck, and observed to Cooper that he was a clumsy fellow, and could not get into the locker of the cabin to bore the holes to destroy her: he ordered Cooper to go, telling him he would find the instruments in the cabin; and, in order to avoid creating an alarm, he took care to employ all hands in taking in the sails, and on such duties as precluded the possibility of their hearing what was going forward. After this larger holes were made by the same person. To keep up the farce, signals

of distress were made, on which some boats came off from Brighton, but the captain would not suffer any of the persons to come on board; he had just before declared that the vessel should go to the bottom. The ship being afterwards weighed up and brought in, an order was issued to apprehend the captain; but the proprietors, Easterby and M'Farlane, having arrived at Brighton before the officers of justice, pledged themselves that the prisoner should be forthcoming when called on. They, however, connived at his escape to London, whence it was intended he should proceed to Hamburgh under a fictitious name. Invoices had been made out for goods, some of which had never been put on board: others, which had been shipped, were afterwards relanded, and were found in the apartments of Codlin.

The counsel then proceeded to call his witnesses. T. Cooper, a sailor belonging to the vessel, deposed as to her sailing, &c. After the witness left Deal, the captain told him they would not be in her forty-eight hours longer. He then deposed to the facts stated in the opening, relative to the boring of holes, and the consequences. J. Morris, a cabin-boy, stated that, being sent to one of the cabin-lockers by the captain, he heard the water rush in, and gave the alarm; but the captain refused to believe him, and the next morning he shut himself up with the mate in the cabin, and would not suffer the witness to enter. Several other witnesses deposed that the captain would not suffer them to assist when the vessel let in water. Mr. Storrow stated that he had a meeting with the proprietors and captain: they wished him to proceed from Yarmouth to Gibraltar, and, after selling part of the cargo there,

to sink the vessel in the Mediterranean, that they might recover for a partial loss. Captain Douglas, on the part of the underwriters, described the manner in which the holes were made, the apprehension of the prisoners, &c. An insurance-broker proved that he had effected insurances on this vessel at different times in June and July, by the desire of Easterby, to the amount of nearly five thousand pounds. Another broker proved that he had insured the same vessel for four thousand pounds. A custom-house officer, who took an inventory of the property on board when the ship was weighed up, proved that she did not contain half the goods entered in the bills of parcels. A number of other witnesses were examined, whose testimony was similar to that already given. The last evidence produced was a paper, which contained a notice from Easterby and M'Farlane to the underwriters, of their abandonment of the ship and cargo.

The defence for the prisoners was, that they had no intention of committing a fraud: the fact of sinking the ship not being sufficient to prove such an intention; as no claim had been made for the sum insured. In behalf of the prisoner, Reed, it was contended that he, being only a supercargo, had nothing to do with the management of the vessel, a supercargo not coming under the description of a person belonging to the ship. M'Farlane, in his defence, said he had served his majesty twenty-eight years, sixteen of which he had been abroad. Mr. Erskine, on the part of Easterby, made an eloquent speech, to prove that the Admiralty Court was not authorized to take cognizance of any crime committed by a person who never went out to sea. Several witnesses were called, who spoke in high terms of the prisoners.

Lord Ellenborough then summed up the evidence; after which the jury found all the prisoners Guilty, except Reed. Sentence of death was immediately passed upon Codlin, and the others were ordered from the bar to await the opinion of the judges on Mr. Erskine's objection.

On the 27th of November Captain Codlin underwent the last extremity of his sentence at the docks at Wapping. The cart was covered with black; he ascended it with much firmness and fortitude, and all

the way to the place of execution was devoutly engaged in prayer. He was accompanied by the clerk to the Ordinary of Newgate. The convict appeared about forty years of age, of middle stature, and of a florid and prepossessing countenance. After hanging the usual time, the body was put in a shell, and landed at Wapping New Stairs, in order to be delivered to his friends. The banks of the river were thronged, and every shroud and yard of the ships within view of the execution was crowded with spectators.

GEORGE FOSTER,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE AND CHILD.

THE unfortunate George Foster, whose conviction, as stated by the Lord Chief Baron in charging the jury, was entirely upon circumstantial evidence, was put upon his trial, on the horrid charge above mentioned, at the Old Bailey, January 14, 1803.

The first witness was Jane Hobart, the mother of the deceased, who stated that she lived in Old Boswell Court, and that for some time back the deceased and her infant lived with her, but that she generally went on the Saturday nights to stay with the prisoner, who was her husband; that she left the witness for that purpose a little before four o'clock, on the evening of Saturday, the 4th of December, taking her infant with her; and that she never heard of her from that time until she was found drowned in the Paddington canal. The prisoner had four children by her daughter—the one above alluded to, another was dead, and two were in the work-house at Barnet.

Joseph Bradfield, at whose house the prisoner lodged, in North Row, Grosvenor Square, saw the deceased with him on the night of Saturday,

the 4th of December, and they went out together about ten o'clock on Sunday morning. The prisoner returned by himself between eight and nine o'clock at night, which did not appear remarkable, as the deceased was not in the habit of sleeping there, except on the Saturday nights. This witness did not consider them to be on very good terms, arising, as he believed, from the deceased wishing to live with the prisoner: she used to call at his lodgings once or twice in the week, besides the Saturdays, on which nights she always waited to get some money from him. On the Sunday following, the prisoner and another person went with the witness to see his mother at Highgate; and on their return the prisoner asked if his wife had been at his lodgings; but which, on his cross-examination, he admitted might arise from his being surprised at her not coming as usual.

Margaret Bradfield, wife of the last witness, corroborated his testimony, with the addition, that on the Wednesday she saw the child which had been found in the Paddington canal, and which she was positive was the same that the deceased had

taken out with her on the Sunday morning.

Eleanor Winter, who kept the Wellbourne Green Tavern, between two and three miles from Paddington, along the canal, swore that she recollected the prisoner coming to her house on the morning of the 5th of December, with a woman and child: they staid at her house, where they had some beef-steaks, beer, and two glasses of brandy, till near one o'clock. While they were there, she observed the woman to be crying, and heard her say she had been three times there to meet a man who owed her husband money, and that she would come no more. This witness had seen the body of the woman that was found in the canal, and she was certain of its being the same who was with the prisoner at her house.

John Goff, waiter at the Mitre Tavern, about two miles further on the canal, related that the prisoner, with a woman and child, came to their house some time about two o'clock on Sunday, the 5th of December: they had two quarterns of rum, two pints of porter, and went away about half past four. The Mitre is situated on the opposite side of the canal to the towing-path; and when the prisoner and the woman went away, they turned towards London on that side of the canal, though there was no path-way, and it would take them at least a quarter of an hour to get to the first swing-bridge to cross over. There was a way to pass through a Mr. Fillingham's grounds, which would lead them to the Harrow Road, and which he believed to be much nearer than the side of the canal; but then persons going that way got over the hedge, and he perceived the prisoner and woman go beyond that spot. They had no clock in the house; but he had no doubt as to

the time, from its being very near dark when they went away. Besides, the place to which he alluded for passing through Mr. Fillingham's ground, there was a gate about one hundred yards farther on, and which the prisoner and woman had not got over when he lost sight of them.

Hannah Patience, landlady of the Mitre, recollected seeing the prisoner there on Sunday, December 5, with a woman and child: they had a quartern of rum, and a pint of beer after it. She also recollected Sarah Daniels coming in to buy a candle to take to her master: they were then gone; and, as they were going out, the woman threw her gown over the child, saying, 'This is the last time I shall come here.' In a minute or two the prisoner came back to look for the child's shoe, which could not be found, and then followed the woman.

Sarah Daniels, aged nine years, was examined by the Court as to her knowledge of an oath; and, being satisfied with her answers, she was sworn, and said that she met a man following a woman with a child, walking by the canal, as she was going from Mr. Fillingham's to the Mitre; and, from the circumstance of its being near their time of drinking tea, she was sure that it could not want much of five o'clock.

Charles Weild, a shopmate of the prisoner, stated that he met him a little after six o'clock, in Oxford Street, on the evening of Sunday, the 5th of December, and that they went together to the Horse Grenadier public house, where they continued till after eight.

John Atkins, a boatman employed on the canal, said, about eight o'clock, on the morning of Monday, he found a child's body, under the bow of the boat, at the distance of a mile from the Mitre; that he

dragged the canal for three days, on the last of which, close under the window of the Mitre, he pulled up the woman's body, entangled in a loose bush.

Sir Richard Ford produced the examination which the prisoner signed at Bow Street office, after being questioned as to its being the truth, and cautioned as to the consequences it might produce. The account which the prisoner then gave was as follows:—

‘My wife and child came to me on Saturday se’nnight, about eight o’clock in the evening, and slept at my lodgings that night. The next morning, about nine or ten o’clock, I went out with them, and walked to the New Cut at Paddington: we went to the Mitre Tavern, and had some rum, some porter, and some bread and cheese. Before that we had stopped at a public house, near the first bridge, where we had some beef-steaks and some porter; after which she desired me to walk further on by the Cut; so I went with her. I left her directly I came out of the Mitre Tavern, which was about three o’clock, and made the best of my way to Whetstone, in order to go to Barnet, to see two of my children, who are in the workhouse there. I went by the by-lanes, and was about an hour and a half walking from the Mitre to Whetstone. When I got there, I found it so dark that I would not go on to Barnet, but came home that night. I have not seen my wife nor child since; I have not inquired after them, but I meant to have done so to-morrow evening, at Mrs. Hobart’s.—I came home from Whetstone that evening, between seven and eight o’clock; I saw no person in going to Whetstone, nor did I stop any where, at any public house,

or elsewhere, *except the Green Dragon, at Highgate, where I had a glass of rum.** My wife had a black gown on, and a black bonnet; the child had a straw bonnet, and white bed-gown: my wife was a little in liquor.

(Signed) ‘GEORGE FOSTER.
‘Witness, Richard Ford,
December 27, 1802.’

‘Prisoner says, before he left the Mitre Tavern, on the said Sunday, his wife asked the mistress of the inn, whether she could have a bed there that night, which the prisoner afterwards repeated; that she asked half a crown for one, which the prisoner and his wife thought too much, and the latter said she would go home to her mother.’

The latter part of this was positively contradicted by the landlady, not a single word about a bed having passed between her and the deceased.

Elizabeth Southall, who kept the Green Dragon at Highgate, said she perfectly recollected a man, answering the description of the prisoner, calling, and having a glass of rum, but could not exactly say what Sunday it was; and, besides, the man had a woman with an infant in her arms with him.

The prisoner made no other defence than contradicting some parts of the evidence of the waiter at the Mitre.

George Hodgson, Esq. coroner of the county, and before whom an inquest on these bodies had been taken, said there was not the least mark of violence upon either the woman or the child. He was examined particularly as to the way through Mr. Fillingham’s grounds, and which he affirmed to be far the nearest way to town. He could not undertake to say what the actual

* The words in *Italic* were interlined, and the latter part added at the prisoner’s request.

distance from the Mitre to Whetstone was, but he was sure it could not be less, even through the lanes and over the fields, than seven or eight miles; and about the same distance from Whetstone to town.

Four witnesses were called to the prisoner's character, who all agreed in his being an industrious and humane man.

The Chief Baron, in summing up to the jury, said that this was a case which almost entirely depended upon circumstances; but in some cases that might be best evidence, as it certainly was the most difficult, if not impossible, to fabricate; they, however, would deliberately judge how far they brought the charge home to the prisoner, so as not to leave a doubt on their minds before they pronounced him guilty. His lordship noticed some inconsistencies in the written paper which the prisoner had signed, observing that in one part of the story the prisoner was contradicted by several witnesses; and that it was scarcely to be presumed that the prisoner could walk such a distance (from the Mitre to Whetstone) in so short a time. There were other traits of the story which were also extremely dubious. The learned judge then went through the whole of the evidence, remarking thereon as he proceeded; and the jury, after some consultation, pronounced a verdict of Guilty; pursuant to which he was executed on January 18, 1803, in the Old Bailey.

From the time of his condemnation to the moment of his dissolution he had scarcely taken the smallest nourishment, which, operating with a tortured conscience, had so enfeebled him, that he was obliged to be supported from the prison to the gallows, being wholly incapable of ascending the stair-

case without assistance. Previous to his decease he fully confessed his having perpetrated the horrible crime for which he suffered:—confessed that he had unhappily conceived a most inveterate hatred for his wife, that nothing could conquer, and determined him to rid himself and the world of a being he loathed: acknowledged, also, that he had taken her twice before to the Paddington Canal, with the wicked intent of drowning her, but that his resolution had failed him, and she had returned unhurt; and even at the awful moment of his confession, and the assurance of his approaching dissolution, he seemed to regret more the loss of his infant than the destruction of the woman he had sworn to cherish and protect. He was questioned, as far as decency would permit, if jealousy had worked him to the horrid act; but he made no reply, except saying that 'he ought to die;' and dropped into a settled and fixed melancholy, which accompanied him to his last moments.

He died very easy; and, after hanging the usual time, his body was cut down, and conveyed to a house not far distant, where it was subjected to the Galvanic process, by Professor Aldini, under the inspection of Mr. Keate, Mr. Carpue, and several other professional gentlemen. M. Aldini, who is the nephew of the discoverer of this most interesting science, showed the eminent and superior powers of Galvanism to be far beyond any other stimulant in nature. On the first application of the process to the face, the jaw of the deceased criminal began to quiver, and the adjoining muscles were horribly contorted, and one eye was actually opened. In the subsequent part of the process, the right hand was

raised and clenched, and the legs and thighs were set in motion.* Mr. Pass, the beadle of the Surgeons' Company, having been officially present during this experiment, was so alarmed, that he died soon after he returned home of the fright. Some of the uninformed bystanders thought that the wretched man was on the eve of being restored to life. This, however, was impossible, as several of his friends who were under the scaffold had violently pulled his legs, in order to put a more speedy termination to

his sufferings. The experiment, in fact, was of a better use and tendency. Its object was to show the excitability of the human frame, when this animal electricity is duly applied. In cases of drowning or suffocation, it promises to be of the utmost use, by reviving the action of the lungs, and thereby rekindling the expiring spark of vitality. In cases of apoplexy, or disorders of the head, it offers also most encouraging prospects for the benefit of mankind.

THOMAS HILLIKER,

EXECUTED FOR AIDING AND ABETTING IN THE DESTRUCTION OF
LITTLETON MILL.

THE prisoner, a young man, who was stated to be only eighteen years of age, and apparently under twenty, was arraigned at the bar on the 8th of March, 1803, at Salisbury assizes, and gave in the usual plea of 'Not Guilty.'

Mr. Read opened the case, when Mr. Dallas began a very impressive and eloquent speech, wherein he stated the very great importance of the duty in this instance imposed upon him, and largely expatiated on the great magnitude of the crime, which, by the indictment, was imputed to the prisoner. He then adverted to the very alarming outrages which had been committed in that neighbourhood in the course of one week, from the 14th to the 21st of July, with a variety of particu-

lars relevant to the subject on which they were then engaged. He observed that Mr. Naish, whose property had been thus wantonly destroyed, employed at least between six and seven hundred men; that this manufactory was situated in a very lonesome place, and was about three or four miles from Trowbridge; and strongly pressed it to the consciences of the jury to distinguish narrowly how far the evidence supported his remarks, and then to say whether the charge, painful as it was to him to mention, and as it would be to them to determine, should be substantiated.

Mr. Gibbs then called Mr. Ralph Heath, who stated that he resided at Littleton Mill, which, with the premises adjacent, belonged to Mr.

* An experiment was made on a convict, named Patrick Redmond, who was hanged for a street-robbery, on the 24th of February, 1767, in order to bring him to life. It appears that the sufferer had hung twenty-eight minutes, when the mob rescued the body, and carried it to an appointed place, where a surgeon was in attendance to try the experiment *bronchotomy*, which is an incision in the windpipe, and which, in less than six hours, produced the desired effect. A collection was made for the poor fellow, and interest made to obtain his pardon. For it will be remembered that the law says the condemned shall *hang until he is dead*; consequently, men who, like Redmond, recovered, are liable to be again hanged up until they are dead.

Naish. His testimony went to show that, in the general alarm, in the midst of a manufacturing country, they were not without the most serious apprehensions of danger; and that they had consequently employed people to watch the mill, and, as far as was within their power, to extend their personal protection to it. Adjoining to this mill was a cottage, which John Pierce, with his wife, inhabited. On the night stated in the indictment they had watched, as usual, till past twelve o'clock, when they heard some noise about the mill. This cottage did no otherwise communicate with the mill, than by first going out of the door, and afterwards entering the mill by means of another door, on the outside of the building. But they could see through an aperture, from the cottage to the mill, which was necessary to be made for the tumbling shaft, as it was called, into which the arms, and every other requisite to constitute the wheel, were fastened. He further said that his man opened the door, but that he held it in his hand; and that four or five persons, almost immediately, rushed into the cottage. At the very instant of their entering, a general exclamation of voices was heard, one of which was known by the witness. All the persons who rushed in were armed. The first person who entered had a musket, or fusee, with a fixed bayonet; his face was particularly black: but the witness would not take upon him to say that this offender was known to him. The next person, who followed the other, was not so black, but had a pistol in his hand, and spoke several times, as if he was under no apprehension of being known. He had no doubt of its being the same voice that he knew, as speaking at the moment of their

entrance. At that time the witness did not know his name; but he had many times observed his countenance, and was positive that he had frequently seen him at the mill, coming for cloths, and also at Mr. Naish's, at Trowbridge. He was a shearman, in the employment of Mr. Naish. This was the prisoner at the bar. No sooner had they entered the cottage, than they said, 'Damn your eyes, not a soul move;' and not a person was suffered to move. After they had been some time in the cottage, and the first surprise was beginning to wear off, Pierce's wife recollected her child above stairs, which she was anxious to fetch, when the prisoner swore that she should not, and pointed a pistol at her to prevent it. Of what was transacting without door at this time the witness could give no account. One of the persons who had entered the cottage then went out; who, to the best of his recollection, he believed to be the little man that first rushed in. He merely went to the door, and said, 'Make haste, my lads,' and immediately returned into the cottage. The witness at this time imagined that these speeches had a reference to their setting fire to the mill; and, in a very little time afterwards, some person (but who it was the witness could not say) looked in at the cottage-door, and said, 'Let the woman have her child.' A light was very soon after perceived in the mill, which was then on fire. During all this time the prisoner's features had been minutely observed; and, though he did not then know his name, he had no hesitation as to his person. Having ascertained this, prudence suggested the propriety of dropping his hat over his face, that he might not be suspected of watching them. They remained in the cottage about a

quarter of an hour. After they had left it, and the witness supposed them to be gone, he opened the door, with an intention of going out; but at this time there was a man, whom he did not know, in a posture of standing near the mill-door, who, on seeing him, instantly levelled a piece at him, and swore 'that he would blow out his brains if he did not return.' In a little time afterwards he again opened the cottage-door, when no person was to be seen. The mill was now on fire. Adjoining to the cottage is a mead, to which he then went, and remained there a short time; and, from a field very near it, at that time heard a shout, seemingly of a considerable number of people; but after this he heard no more of them. The mill was entirely destroyed.

The importance of this case was deemed of a magnitude to justify the retaining a man of the first talents in the defence of individuals against criminal charges. Mr. Garrow, on a fee, as it was said, of three hundred guineas, was the counsel selected upon this occasion; and in his hands Heath underwent a very severe cross-examination, but nothing material was elicited, except that he had frequently denied any knowledge of the person of the offender, which, he alleged, arose from fear for his personal safety, had it been known that he was likely to be an important evidence.

From an apprehension of the mischiefs which might have ensued if the other witnesses had been called to corroborate this statement—to prevent the danger also to which they might be exposed of incurring the guilt of perjury, should they have been intimidated from giving an honest testimony—and lest the ends of justice might have been defeated, and the testimony of Mr. Heath invalidated or weakened—it

was not deemed prudent to produce the testimony of Pierce and his wife, of Daniel Goodenough, or Stephen Richardson, nor of Mr. Naish's clerk, at Trowbridge; as the talents of Mr. Garrow, it was feared, might confound them, which might lead to mischiefs incalculable and alarming.

Two witnesses were called for the defence, one of whom was a master clothier, at Trowbridge; but his testimony only went to state that he had visited the mill after it was in ruins, when Mr. Heath had declared he knew none of the parties; but it appeared, on a cross-question from Mr. Dallas, that he had never before seen Mr. Heath, and consequently had little reason to expect a correct answer to a question of such importance put by a stranger, without knowing his motives. The other, a publican at Trowbridge, could say nothing particular about the prisoner.

Mr. Jekyll also, as well as Mr. Garrow and Mr. Burrough, was counsel for the prisoner; and they frequently conferred on the proper questions to be put to the witnesses. And, after the Honorable Baron Thompson had summed up the evidence, with many very strong and pointed comments, in a few minutes the jury returned a verdict of Guilty, after a trial of three hours. On the following day, at two o'clock, the awful hour of passing sentence, the court was more crowded than on the preceding day; when, in a most solemn and impressive speech on the magnitude and alarming tendency of the confusions of the preceding year, and in language unusually forcible and energetic, the dreadful sentence of the law concluded the most affecting address which had been heard for a long time in a country court of judicature—the sentence of Death.

Some apprehensions of an attempt to rescue the prisoner on the 22d of March, the day of execution, were entertained; but proper precautions were taken, and the law was permitted to take its course without interruption.

That the spirit of insubordination which at this time prevailed among many of the working classes should have communicated itself thus fa-

tally to so young a man, whilst others, far more vicious and disobedient, but older, and more cautious, escaped, is much to be deplored. This can only add another instance to the many we have recorded, of the extreme necessity, on the part of all young men, of curbing the spirit of turbulence, and avoiding the counsels of those who would divert them from the paths of duty.



The Assassination of Lord Kilwarden.

ROBERT EMMET, EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THIS young enthusiast was the son of Dr. Emmet, a man of wealth and family, but who having imbibed republican principles, took care to instil them into his children. His eldest son, Thomas Addis Emmet, was implicated in the rebellion of 1798, and escaped with his life by accepting the terms embraced by Arthur O'Connor, Dr. McNeven,

and several others; and, like them, became an exile from his native country. He remained for some time in France, from which he afterwards went to America, where he became attorney-general, an office for which he was eminently qualified, being an excellent lawyer and powerful orator.

Robert Emmet was likewise in-

tended for the Irish Bar, and received a most liberal education. In Trinity College he became conspicuous, not only for his abilities, but for his display of eloquence in the 'Historical Debating Society,' a school which matured the talents of Bushe, Burrows, and several other members of the Irish Bar. Young Emmet, however, wanted discretion; and having too often avowed his political principles, a prosecution was threatened, to avoid which he precipitately fled to France, where his republican opinions were confirmed.

In 1803 he returned to Dublin, not being then more than twenty-four years of age, and found himself in possession of three thousand, five hundred pounds, left him by his father, then recently deceased. With this money, and the talents and connexions which he possessed, he might easily have established his own independence: but the sober business of life had no attractions for him: he aspired to greater fame, and resolved to attempt the separation of his country from England.

Wild and extravagant as the scheme was, he entered seriously upon it, and easily found abettors among those who escaped the angry vengeance of 1798. Having procured several associates, he took a house in Patrick Street, and converted it into a rebel depot, for powder, guns, swords, pikes, &c. In the purchase and preparation of these he expended upwards of one thousand pounds; but before the plan of insurrection was ripe, the powder magazine was, through accident, ignited, and the whole depot blown into the air. Such, however, was the fidelity of Emmet's partizans, that no discovery took place, further than that caused by the explosion; and the government, who

ordered the guns to be brought to the Castle, remained ignorant of the purpose for which these destructive implements were provided.

A mind so sanguine as that of Emmet was not to be damped by an accidental disappointment: he collected his partizans, took another house in a Lane in Thomas Street, and again commenced preparations for a popular rebellion. The ramifications of treason were easily extended through Ireland, where the discontent of the Catholics induces them to join in any extravagant scheme which promises them redress of grievances. Emmet had correspondents in every county, and the 23d of July, 1803, was the day appointed for a general rising, the signal of which was to be an attack upon Dublin.

The plan of surprising the metropolis was admirably adapted for its sanguinary purpose; but fortunately several disappointments took place, and Emmet was unable to proceed as he intended. In the confusion of such a moment the rebels deceived one another, and several hundred men, who came in from the country, returned home, being told that the *rising* was postponed, and those who remained were crowded into the depot, and impeded the preparations. It was too late, however, to retract, or alter, the intended movement, as Emmet expected the whole country to rise on that night. He therefore made the desperate attempt, and with eighty followers, sallied out, at nine o'clock, into Thomas Street, and made towards the Castle, which he intended to surprise.

The experience of a few minutes showed him his madness and folly; for he quickly found himself without authority, in the midst of a misfianly mob, who would neither obey nor accompany him; but who

soon convinced him that, though cowardly, they were brutal and sanguinary. When he had arrived at the Market-house his followers had diminished to *eighteen*; and as he was now convinced of his rashness, he humanely prevented the discharge of a rocket, which was to be the signal for the outposts to commence hostilities. This act of the misled enthusiast saved the lives of hundreds; for the Wexford men, to the amount of three hundred, were assembled on the coal quay, and other large bodies had met in the barley fields, behind Mountjoy Square. These, in consequence, escaped uninjured themselves, and without inflicting injury on others.

The rebel band in Thomas Street soon increased to hundreds, but remained confused and inactive. At

this moment the coach of the lamented Lord Kilwarden, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, drove up, and was instantly surrounded. There was in it, beside his lordship, his nephew, the Rev. Mr. Wolfe, and his niece, Miss Wolfe. Much confusion prevailed, and the particulars of the transaction are not very well known.* His lordship, however, received a deadly stab from some ruffian band; his nephew was dragged out of the coach, and ill treated; and his niece was borne to an opposite house, in the lusty arms of some rebel, who had more humanity than his comrades.

A party of the military soon after arriving, his lordship was rescued from the brutal assassins, and carried to the watch-house in Werburgh Street. Major Swan soon after arriv-

* It is universally agreed that the murder of this excellent man was the unpremeditated act of a ferocious rabble; but there are various accounts of their probable motives in wantonly sacrificing so upright and humane a judge to their fury. A popular explanation of this is, that the perpetrators mistook him for another person. There is also an account which admits the mistake in the first instance, but subjoins other particulars which appear sufficiently probable; and as some of the facts, of which there is no doubt, reflect the highest honour upon Lord Kilwarden's memory, the whole shall be given here.

In the year 1795, when he was attorney-general, a number of young men (all of whom were between the age of fifteen and twenty) were indicted for high treason. Upon the day appointed for their trial they appeared in the dock, wearing shirts with tuckers and open collars, in the manner usual with boys. When the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, before whom they were to be tried, came into court, and observed them, he called out, 'Well, Mr. Attorney, I suppose you are ready to go on with the trials of these *tuckered* traitors?' The attorney-general was ready, and had attended for the purpose; but indignant and disgusted at hearing such language from the judgment-seat, he rose, and replied, 'No, my lord, I am *not* ready; and (added he in a low tone to one of the prisoner's counsel who was near him) if I have any power to save the lives of these boys, whose extreme youth I did not before observe, that man shall never have the gratification of passing sentence upon a single one of these *tuckered* traitors.' He performed his promise, and soon after procured pardons for them all, upon the condition of their expatriating themselves for ever; but one of them obstinately refusing to accept the pardon upon that condition, he was tried, convicted, and executed. Thus far the facts rest upon credible authorities: what follows is given as an unauthenticated report.

After the death of this young man, his relatives (it is said) readily listening to every misrepresentation which flattered their resentment, became persuaded that the attorney-general had selected him alone to suffer the utmost severity of the laws. One of these (a person named Shannon) was an insurgent on the 23d of July; and when Lord Kilwarden, hearing the popular cry of vengeance, exclaimed from his carriage, 'It is I, Kilwarden, Chief Justice of the King's Bench!' 'Then,' cried out Shannon, 'you're the man that I want!' and plunged a pike into his lordship's body.

This story was current among the lower orders in Dublin, who were the most likely to know the fact.

ing, indignantly observed that every rebel taken with arms in his hands ought to be instantly hanged; when his lordship turned round, and impressively exhorted him 'to let no man suffer but by the laws of his country.' In a few minutes after this great and good man expired, and by his death left a chasm in the judicial character of his country.

For a few hours the rebels continued to skirmish with the military, and several men were killed. By morning, however, all appearance of rebellion had vanished, and large rewards were offered for the

apprehension of the leader, Robert Emmet, who had escaped to the county of Wicklow, where he arrived in time to prevent a rising of the assembled rebels.

This unfortunate young man was every way an enthusiast; for his love was as extravagant as his patriotism. Soon after his return from France he visited at the house of Currau, the celebrated Irish barrister, and became attached to that gentleman's youngest daughter.—Their affection was mutual, but unknown to Mr. Currau.* Upon the failure of the insurrection, Emmet

* The following pathetic history of this unfortunate pair is extracted from Washington Irving's 'Sketch Book,' in which it appears under the title of 'The Broken Heart.'

'Every one must recollect the tragical story of young E——, the Irish patriot: it was too touching to be soon forgotten. During the troubles in Ireland he was tried, condemned, and executed, on a charge of treason. His fate made a deep impression on public sympathy. He was so young—so intelligent—so generous—so brave—so every thing that we are apt to like in a young man. His conduct under trial, too, was so lofty and intrepid! The noble indignation with which he repelled the charge of treason against his country—the eloquent vindication of his name—and his pathetic appeal to posterity, in the hopeless hour of condemnation—all these entered deeply into every generous bosom, and even his enemies lamented the stern policy that dictated his execution.

'But there was one heart, whose anguish it would be impossible to describe. In happier days and fairer fortunes, he had won the affections of a beautiful and interesting girl, the daughter of a late celebrated Irish barrister. She loved him with the disinterested fervour of a woman's first and early love. When every worldly maxim arrayed itself against him; when blasted in fortune, and disgrace and danger darkened around his name, she loved him the more ardently for his very sufferings. If, then, his fate could awaken the sympathy even of his foes, what must have been the agony of her whose soul was occupied by his image! Let those tell who have had the portals of the tomb suddenly closed between them and the being they most loved on earth—who have sat at its threshold, as one shut out in a cold and lonely world, from whence all that was most lovely and loving had departed.

'But then the horrors of such a grave! so frightful, so disbonoured! There was nothing for memory to dwell on that could soothe the pang of separation—none of those tender, though melancholy circumstances, that endear the parting scene—nothing to melt sorrow into those blessed tears, sent, like the dews of heaven, to revive the heart in the parching hour of anguish.

'To render her widowed situation more desolate, she had incurred her father's displeasure by her unfortunate attachment, and was an exile from the paternal roof. But could the sympathy and kind offices of friends have reached a spirit so shocked and driven in by horror, she would have experienced no want of consolation; for the Irish are a people of quick and generous sensibilities. The most delicate and cherishing attentions were paid her by families of wealth and distinction. She was led into society, and they tried by all kinds of occupation and amusement to dissipate her grief, and wean her from the tragical story of her lover. But it was all in vain. There are some strokes of calamity that scathe and scorch the soul—that penetrate to the vital seat of happiness—and blast it, never again to put forth bud or blossom. She never objected to frequent the haunts of pleasure, but she was as much alone there as in the depth of solitude. She walked about in a sad reverie, apparently unconscious

might easily have effected his departure from the kingdom, had he attended solely to his safety; but in the same spirit of romantic enthusiasm which distinguished his short career, he could not submit to leave the country to which he could never more return, without making an effort to have one final interview with the object of his unfortunate attachment, in order to receive her personal forgiveness for what he now considered as the deepest injury. With a view of obtaining this last gratification, he selected a place of concealment midway between Mr. Curran's country house and Dublin; but before that took place he was arrested. On his person were found some papers, which showed that he corresponded with Mr. Curran's family, in consequence of which that gentleman's house was searched, and the letters there found were produced in evidence against him.

His trial came on, at the sessions house, Green Street, Dublin, September the 19th, 1803, before Lord Norbury; and his conviction followed as a thing of course. When called upon in the usual way, before passing sentence, he addressed the Court as follows:—

‘I am asked if I have any thing to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced upon me. Was I to suffer only death, after being adjudged guilty, I should bow in silence; but a man in my situation has not only to combat with the difficulties of fortune, but also the difficulties of prejudice: the sentence of the law which delivers over his body to the executioner consigns his character to obloquy. The man dies, but his memory lives; and that mine may not forfeit all claim to the respect of my countrymen, I use this occasion to vindicate myself from some of the charges advanced against me.

of the world around her. She carried with her an inward woe that mocked at all the blandishments of friendship, and “heeded not the song of the charmer, charm he never so wisely.”

‘The person who told me her story had seen her at a masquerade. There can be no exhibition of far-gone wretchedness more striking and painful than to meet it in such a scene. To find it wandering like a spectre, lonely and joyless, where all around is gay—to see it dressed out in the trappings of mirth, and looking so wan and woe-begone, as if it had tried in vain to cheat the poor heart into a momentary forgetfulness of sorrow. After strolling through the splendid rooms and giddy crowd with an utter air of abstraction, she sat herself down on the steps of an orchestra, and looking about some time with a vacant air, that showed her insensibility of the garish scene, she began, with the capriciousness of a sickly heart, to warble a little plaintive air. She had an exquisite voice; but on this occasion it was so simple, so touching, it breathed forth such a soul of wretchedness, that she drew a crowd mute and silent around her, and melted every one into tears.

‘The story of one so true and tender could not but excite great interest in a country remarkable for enthusiasm. It completely won the heart of a brave officer, who paid his addresses to her, and thought that one so true to the dead could not but prove affectionate to the living. She declined his attentions, for her thoughts were irrevocably engrossed by the memory of her former lover. He, however, persisted in his suit. He solicited not her tenderness, but her esteem. He was assisted by her conviction of his worth, and her sense of her own destitute and dependant situation; for she was existing on the kindness of her friends. In a word, he at length succeeded in gaining her hand, though with the solemn assurance that her heart was unalterably another's.

‘He took her with him to Sicily, hoping that a change of scene might wear out the remembrance of early woes. She was an amiable and exemplary wife, and made an effort to be a happy one; but nothing could cure the silent and devouring melancholy that had entered into her very soul. She wasted away in a slow, but hopeless decline; and at length sunk into the grave, the victim of a broken heart.’

'I am charged with being an emissary of France—'tis false! I am no emissary—I did not wish to deliver up my country to a foreign power, and least of all, to France. No! never did I entertain the idea of establishing French power in Ireland—God forbid. On the contrary, it is evident from the introductory paragraph of the Address of the Provisional Government, that every hazard attending an independent effort was deemed preferable to the more fatal risk of introducing a French army into the country. Small would be our claims to patriotism and to sense, and palpable our affectation of the love of liberty, if we were to encourage the profanation of our shores by a people who are slaves themselves, and the unprincipled and abandoned instruments of imposing slavery on others.

'If such an inference be drawn from any part of the proclamation of the Provisional Government, it calumniates their views, and is not warranted by the fact. How could they speak of freedom to their countrymen? How assume such an exalted motive, and meditate the introduction of a power which has been the enemy of freedom in every part of the globe? Reviewing the conduct of France to other countries, could we expect better towards us? No! Let not, then, any man attain to my memory by believing that I could have hoped freedom through the aid of France, and betrayed the sacred cause of liberty by committing it to the power of her most determined foe: had I done so, I had not deserved to live; and dying with such a weight upon my character, I had merited the honest execration of that country which gave me birth, and to which I would have given freedom.

'Had I been in Switzerland, I

would have fought against the French—in the dignity of freedom, I would have expired on the threshold of that country, and they should have entered it only by passing over my lifeless corpse. Is it then to be supposed that I would be slow to make the same sacrifice to my native land? Am I, who lived but to be of service to my country, and who would subject myself to the bondage of the grave to give her independence—am I to be loaded with the foul and grievous calumny of being an emissary of France?

'My lords, it may be part of the system of angry justice, to bow a man's mind, by humiliation, to meet the ignominy of the scaffold; but worse to me than the scaffold's shame, or the scaffold's terrors, would be the imputation of having been the agent of French despotism and ambition; and while I have breath, I will call upon my countrymen not to believe me guilty of so foul a crime against their liberties and their happiness.

'Though you, my lord, sit there a judge, and I stand here a culprit, yet you are but a man, and I am another. I have a right, therefore, to vindicate my character and motives from the aspersions of calumny; and, as a man, to whom fame is dearer than life, I will make the last use of that life in rescuing my name and my memory from the afflicting imputation of having been an emissary of France, or seeking her interference in the internal regulation of her affairs.

'Did I live to see a French army approach this country, I would meet it on the shore, with a torch in one hand and a sword in the other: I would receive them with all the destruction of war! I would animate my countrymen to immolate them in their very boats; and before our native soil should be polluted by a

foreign foe; if they succeeded in landing, I would burn every blade of grass before them, raze every house, contend to the last for every inch of ground; and the last spot on which the hope of freedom should desert me, that spot I would make my grave! What I cannot do, I leave a legacy to my country, because I feel conscious that my death were unprofitable, and all hopes of liberty extinct, the moment a French army obtained a footing in this land. God forbid that I should see my country under the hands of a foreign power. If the French should come as a foreign enemy, Oh! my countrymen! meet them on the shore with a torch in one hand, a sword in the other: receive them with all the destruction of war; immolate them in their boats before our native soil shall be polluted by a foreign foe! If they proceed in landing, fight them on the strand, burn every blade of grass before them as they advance—raze every house; and if you are driven to the centre of your country, collect your provisions, your property, your wives, and your daughters; form a circle around them—fight while but two men are left; and when but one remains, let that man set fire to the pile, and release himself, and the families of his fallen countrymen, from the tyranny of France.

‘My lamp of life is nearly expired—my race is finished: the grave opens to receive me, and I sink into its bosom. All I request, then, at parting from the world, is the charity of its silence. Let no man write my epitaph; for as no man, who knows my motives, dare vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them; let them and me repose in obscurity and peace, and my tomb remain undescribed, till other times and other men can do justice to my character.’

Judgment was then passed on him in the usual form, and he was ordered for execution. On his return to Newgate he drew up a statement of the insurrection, and the cause of its failure, which he requested might be sent to his brother, Thomas Addis, who was then at Paris. He also wrote the two following letters to Mr. Curran and his son Richard:—

From Mr. Robert Emmet to John Philpot Curran, Esq.

‘I did not expect you to be my counsel. I nominated you, because not to have done so might have appeared remarkable. Had Mr. — been in town, I did not even wish to have seen you; but as he was not, I wrote to you to come to me once. I know that I have done you very severe injury—much greater than I can atone for with my life: that atonement I did offer to make before the privy counsel, by pleading guilty, if those documents were suppressed. I offered more—I offered, if I was permitted to consult some persons, and if they would consent to an accommodation for saving the lives of others, that I would only require for my part of it the suppression of those documents, and that I would abide the event of my own trial. This also was rejected; and nothing but individual information (with the exception of names) would be taken. My intention was, not to leave the suppression of those documents to possibility, but to render it unnecessary for any one to plead for me, by pleading guilty to the charge myself. The circumstances that I am now going to mention, I do not state in my own justification. When I first addressed your daughter, I expected that in another week my own fate would be decided. I knew that in case of success many others might look on me differently from what they did

at that moment; but I speak with sincerity, when I say that I never was anxious for situation or distinction myself, and I did not wish to be united to one who was. I spoke to your daughter, neither expecting, nor, in fact, under those circumstances, wishing that there should be a return of attachment; but wishing to judge of her disposition, to know how far they might be not unfavourable or disengaged, and to know what foundation I might afterwards have to count on. I received no encouragement whatever. She told me that she had no attachment for any person, nor did she seem likely to have any that could make her wish to quit you. I staid away till the time had elapsed, when I found that the event to which I allude was to be postponed indefinitely. I returned by a kind of infatuation, thinking that to myself only was I giving pleasure or pain. I perceived no progress of attachment on her part, nor any thing in her conduct to distinguish me from a common acquaintance. Afterwards I had reason to suppose that discoveries were made, and that I should be obliged to quit the kingdom immediately; and I came to make a renunciation of any approach to friendship that might have been formed. On that very day she herself spoke to me to discontinue my visits. I told her that it was my intention, and I mentioned the reason. I then, for the first time, found, when I was unfortunate, by the manner in which she was affected, that there was a return of affection, and that it was too late to retreat. My own apprehensions, also, I afterwards found, were without cause, and I remained. There has been much culpability on my part in all this, but there has also been a great deal of that misfortune which seems uniformly to

have accompanied me. That I have written to your daughter since an unfortunate event has taken place, was an additional breach of propriety, for which I have suffered well; but I will candidly confess, that I not only do not feel it to have been of the same extent, but that I consider it to have been unavoidable after what had passed; for though I will not attempt to justify in the smallest degree my former conduct; yet when an attachment was once formed between us—and a sincerer one never did exist—I feel that, peculiarly circumstanced as I then was, to have left her uncertain of my situation would neither have weaned her affections nor lessened her anxiety; and looking upon her as one, whom, if I had lived, I hoped to have had my partner for life, I did hold the removing her anxiety above every other consideration. I would rather have had the affections of your daughter in the back settlements of America, than the first situation this country could afford without them. I know not whether this will be any extenuation of my offence—I know not whether it will be any extenuation of it to know, that if I had that situation in my power at this moment, I would relinquish it to devote my life to her happiness—I know not whether success would have blotted out the recollection of what I have done—but I know that a man, with the coldness of death on him, need not be made to feel any other coldness; and that he may be spared any addition to the misery he feels, not for himself, but for those to whom he has left nothing but sorrow.

From the Same to Richard Curran, Esq

‘My dearest Richard,—I find I have but a few hours to live; but if

it was the last moment, and that the power of utterance was leaving me, I would thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous expressions of affection and forgiveness to me. If there was any one in the world in whose breast my death might be supposed not to stifle every spark of resentment, it might be you.—I have deeply injured you—I have injured the happiness of a sister that you love, and who was formed to give happiness to every one about her, instead of having her own mind a prey to affliction. Oh, Richard! I have no excuse to offer, but that I meant the reverse: I intended as much happiness for Sarah as the most ardent love could have given her. I never did tell you how much I idolized her:—it was not with a wild and unfounded passion, but it was an attachment increasing every hour, from an admiration of the purity of her mind and respect for her talents. I did dwell in secret upon the prospect of our union. I did hope that success, while it afforded the opportunity of our union, might be the means of confirming an attachment, which misfortune had called forth. I did not look to honours for myself—praise I would have asked from the lips of no man; but I would have wished to read in the glow of Sarah's countenance that her husband was respected. My love, Sarah! it was not thus that I thought to have requited your affection. I did hope to be a prop round which your affections might have clung, and which would never have been shaken; but a rude blast has snapped it, and they have fallen over a grave. This is no time for affliction. I have had public motives to sustain my mind, and I have not suffered it to sink; but there have been moments in my imprisonment when my mind was so

sunk with grief on her account, that death would have been a refuge.

'God bless you, my dearest Richard. I am obliged to leave off immediately.

'ROBERT EMMET.'

This letter was written at twelve o'clock on the day of Mr. Emmet's execution; and the firmness and regularity of the original handwriting contain a shocking and affecting proof of the little influence which the approaching event exerted over his frame. The same enthusiasm which allured him to his destruction enabled him to support its utmost rigour. He met his fate with unostentatious fortitude; and although few could ever think of justifying his projects or regretting their failure, yet his youth, his talents, and the great respectability of his connexions, and the evident delusion of which he was the victim, have excited more general sympathy for his unfortunate end, and more forbearance towards his memory than is usually extended to the errors or sufferings of political offenders.

Moore, the celebrated Irish bard, has lamented his fate in the following melody:—

'Oh! breathe not his name—let it sleep
in the shade!

Where cold and unhonor'd his relics are
laid!

Sad, silent, and dark, be the tears that
we shed,

As the night dew that falls on the grass
o'er his head.

But the night dew that falls, though in
silence it weeps,

Shall brighten with verdure the grave
where he sleeps;

And the tear that we shed, though in
secret it rolls,

Shall long keep his memory green in our
souls.'

Several of Emmet's deluded followers met the fate of their leader,

and by their ignominious deaths, taught their countrymen the folly and madness of attempting to separate Ireland from this kingdom; for it is not less their duty than their interest to live under the protecting influence of the British government.

THOMAS RUSSEL,
EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THOMAS RUSSEL, (the only leader of note after Emmet), under the title of the general of the Northern District, under the Provisional Government, issued a proclamation to that district on the 23d of July. This man had been long distinguished for superiority of talents, particularly as a military character. He had served both in the East and West Indies, and in the latter with great credit in the same regiment with General Kinn, with whom he went to Ireland, and was very attentively treated by the Northland family, through whose interest he was appointed a magistrate for the county of Tyrone, and he lived for some time at Dungannon; but in consequence of a difference with the Northland family, entirely arising from politics, he removed to Belfast, where he resided until the year 1792, when he was arrested, with Samuel Nelson and others, and conveyed to Newgate, Dublin: there he remained a prisoner until 1798, when he was sent, with Arthur O'Connor and others, to Fort St. George, in Scotland. At the conclusion of the last peace he was, with the other prisoners, liberated, and he proceeded to France. He lived in Paris during the peace, and was observed to be intimately acquainted with many of the members of the French government, and with several of the first generals in France. Immediately subsequent to the declaration of war he was missed from Paris, and found his way to Ireland.

His mal-practices having been discovered by government, one thousand pounds were offered by proclamation for his apprehension, but his arrest was not produced in consequence of that offer. It was owing to a Mr. Emerson, of the attorney's corps. He had received information, which was obtained through the vigilance of the divisional inspector of the district, that a stranger of suspicious appearance was observed in the house of a Mr. Muley, gun-maker, in Parliament Street. This circumstance Mr. Emerson immediately communicated to Mr. Secretary Marsden, by whom he was referred to Major Sirr. Mr. Emerson accordingly called upon the major, and, accompanied by him and Lieutenant Minchin, with a detachment of Captain Green's corps of Yeomanry, under the command of Lieutenant Beton, proceeded to the house in question, about ten o'clock that night, where, in a garret-room, they discovered the person whose conduct had excited suspicion. On their attempting to examine him, he drew forth two loaded pistols, which he snapped at them, but both missed fire. Being recognised by Sirr, as Russel, the rebel general, he was seized, and taken to the Castle. He represented himself as Mr. Thomas, but Sirr had recollected him since he was a prisoner in Newgate; and, upon being taken to the Castle, he was immediately identified by an old acquaintance of his, the Honorable Captain Knox, son of Lord Northland, under whose

patronage Russel once was, until he had forfeited it by his political principles. Other northern gentlemen, who were at dinner with Mr. Wickham, also knew Russel. After he had acknowledged his real name, he avowed his purpose in coming to the country, and spoke in the boldest language of the 'glorious cause' in which he was engaged.—'It is that,' said he, 'for which I would meet death with pleasure, either in the field or on the sea-fold.'

His trial came on October, 19, 1803, before a special commission, at Downpatrick, Ireland: it occupied the attention of the Court from ten in the morning till past eight in the evening. One very important fact came out in the course of his trial: that, with all the influence which he possessed at one period among the lower orders—with all the exertions which he made, aided by the manners of a popular leader, he was unable to raise any thing like a formidable body of insurgents. Individual adherents he met with; but the great body of the people showed no disposition to espouse his cause.

The prisoner, having been asked if he had any thing to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, addressed the Court in an eloquent and energetic, though rather a somewhat unconnected speech, of about twenty minutes, in which he took a view of the principal transactions of his life for the last thirteen years; and

on a retrospective view of which, he said, he looked back with triumph and satisfaction. He endeavored to vindicate his conduct from the criminality attached to it, by asserting that in all he had done, he had acted from the conviction of his conscience; and anxiously requested that the Court would make him not only the first, but the only life which should be taken on the present occasion; mercifully sparing to their families and friends the lives of those men whom it was asserted he had led astray.

The Honorable Baron George, after a pathetic address of some length, then pronounced the awful sentence of the law, which the prisoner listened to with the greatest composure—bowed respectfully to the Court, and then retired in the custody of the sheriff.

This unfortunate man was executed on Friday, October the 21st, and suffered with great fortitude. He was very liberally educated; and, in some pamphlets written by him upon the state of Ireland previous to 1798, manifested considerable genius and information. He was about six feet high, of a very noble mien, a remarkably well-proportioned stature, and very marked countenance. His mind seemed strong. His conversation was very interesting, where he was disposed to be communicative; but he was in general reserved. On the whole, he appeared to be amazingly well calculated to conciliate attachment, and insure obedience.

LAWRENCE INNIS,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE prisoner and the deceased were both pensioners in Greenwich Hospital. The trial came on at the Kent assizes, held at Maidstone, March 17, 1803; and the following

is the account given of the transaction by the witnesses:—

James Millar said he was a Greenwich pensioner, and his birth was in the Clarence Ward; his cabin was

next to that in which the deceased slept. On Tuesday night, the 20th of January, just as he was in bed, he heard the prisoner and the deceased come up the gallery together: they were talking. The deceased said to the prisoner, 'Go to bed, and then there will be no more on't.' The prisoner replied, 'I won't.' The prisoner then went away to the fire-place in the hall, but soon returned to the cabin-door of the deceased, and called out, 'Price! Price! Jack! Jack!' The deceased did not answer. The prisoner went away, but returned a second time, and called out as before. The deceased then answered him, and said to the prisoner, 'You will prepare to appear before the Captain of the Month to-morrow.—I have you upon the *complaint*, for striking me to-day at the Tyger's Head, in London Street.' To this the prisoner replied, 'Then you have done me, have you? but damn you I'll do you in return.' The prisoner accompanied these words by a blow, which knocked the deceased down. The deceased called out 'Murder!' upon which the witness jumped out of bed, and the prisoner was secured; and the next morning he was carried before the committee, and mulcted two months' tobacco-money for his ill-behaviour. This was the morning preceding the night of the murder. As he came out of the committee-room, he said to the witness, 'Millar, you have borne false witness against me, but I hope to God I shall live to seek revenge.' On the same evening he did not see the prisoner till eleven o'clock: he then saw both Price and Innis go to their cabins. After he had been in bed a short time, he heard the prisoner come out of his cabin, and go to the cabin of the deceased. From that he went to the fire-place in the hall as fast as

he could go. He returned a second time to Price's cabin. He staid a second a two, and then again went to the fire-place, and once more returned to Price's cabin. In a little time he heard him shut the door softly, and thought no more of it, till about a quarter of an hour afterwards, Bryan came to him, told him for God's sake to get up, as the boatswain (Price) was murdered.

John Hawford, another pensioner, corroborated the above account.

James Bryan gave evidence as follows:—'I lay in the same cabin with the deceased; we were talking together not ten minutes before he was murdered. The prisoner's cabin was nearly opposite to our's. I heard the prisoner open our door softly, and he looked in: we appeared both asleep. As soon as he looked in, he went away towards the hall fire-place. He had on a great coat, and two night-caps. He came back, and when he came in our cabin, he looked at me attentively. He again went away, and returned with the poker. He turned round, and gave me another attentive look, and immediately after struck Price four or six heavy blows on the head. At the first blow his head crashed, but I don't know whether the others hit him. As soon as he had done it, he again turned and looked at me, but I lay still, as though asleep. He then went out, and hauled the door softly after him, but did not lock it. As soon as he was gone, I got up, and gave the alarm, and the prisoner was secured.'

James Curran, another pensioner, described the state in which he found the deceased.

The prisoner, in defence, said that the witnesses were in a conspiracy against him.

The jury, without a moment's

hesitation, found him guilty, and the learned judge proceeded immediately to pronounce the sentence of the law, that he should be hanged and dissected.

The prisoner seemed very little affected. He appeared about fifty years of age, and discovered strong

symptoms of a brutal and ferocious disposition.

On Saturday, March 19, this malefactor suffered the sentence of the law on Pennenden Heath. His body was afterwards brought to Greenwich Hospital for dissection.

JOHN TERRY AND JOSEPH HEALD,
EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MRS. SMITH.

IN this man we find a sad instance of early depravity, and, like all cruel people, a more than common horror of yielding up life, as an atonement certainly due for shedding innocent blood—a precept of holy writ. His voluntary confession, mysterious conduct, and resistance of his fate at the gallows, renders this account dreadfully interesting.

John Terry, and his fellow-apprentice, Joseph Heald, were found guilty of the wilful murder of Elizabeth Smith, aged sixty-seven years, at Flaminshaw, near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.

The deceased, though in humble life, bore an excellent character, and had maintained herself by keeping cows, and selling their produce.

Having had the misfortune to lose two of her cows, she was left nearly destitute; but by the humane assistance of her neighbours she was enabled to purchase one cow; and a son, who lived at Leeds, sent her eighteen guineas afterwards to buy another, but desired her not to purchase it before Fogg-time.

On her receiving the eighteen guineas, it was immediately made known amongst her neighbours.

T. Shaw and S. Linley, constables, proved the confession of Terry; which was, 'that he and Heald met together on the night when the murder was committed,

and parted at ten o'clock, to meet again at the deceased's about one o'clock. That he (Terry) then assisted Heald in getting into a window, up one pair of stairs; that he afterwards set up something against the house, and climbed up after Heald. That after several blows had been struck at the deceased, Heald took a razor, and Terry held her head. In a short time he had his hand cut, and advised Heald to desist, as he had got enough, and would then go to the door, and look if all was safe. Upon his return he found that Heald had got the deceased into the adjoining room, and was beating her over the head with the tongs; upon which he told him to desist, and come away, and there would be no more about it.' Also, that when Heald was brought into the room, after Terry had made the confession, Heald said to him, 'Terry, I thought thou wouldst not have deceived me so, thou knowest I was not with thee;' to which he answered, 'Thou knowest there is a God above who knows all.' A second time Heald asked him why he should deceive him, and said, 'Thou hadst better lay it upon somebody else.' To which he replied, 'I will not hang an innocent man: thou knowest there were but us two, and God for our witness.'

The judge summed up the evidence to the jury, and, as it ap

peared there was no doubt of Terry's guilt, he dwelt principally upon the circumstantial evidence against the prisoner, Heald, and pointed out, with great perspicuity, the shades of evidence against Heald.

The jury declared both the prisoners guilty; accordingly the judge, in the most solemn manner, pronounced sentence of death upon them.

During the trial, and at the time the awful sentence was passed, Terry behaved with prudence, though apparently affected; but Heald appeared perfectly ignorant of his situation, often looking round the court, and, to the last part of his trial, showed great hardness in his behaviour.

Their execution was fixed for Monday, March 21, 1803, on which day, early in the morning, the Rev. Mr. Brown, the Ordinary, attended the prisoners in their cell, to administer the sacrament, when Terry informed him that Heald was innocent; on which Mr. Brown stated to them the leading facts that were proved against them upon their trial, and referred to Terry's own confession of the manner in which they had perpetrated the murder.

Terry said 'that he had been induced to make that confession, as he had been told that he should thereby save his own life; but he now declared Heald to be innocent, and that he would not be hanged with an innocent man.'

In consequence of this declaration, the Ordinary thought it his duty to inform the judge of this extraordinary circumstance; but his lordship was so perfectly satisfied of Heald's guilt, that he ordered the sentence to be put into execution: his lordship, however, humanely sent his marshal, Mr. Wells, to attend the prisoners, with a discretionary power to respite the execution, should any

circumstances appear to him, respecting Heald, that would justify the measure.

Mr. Wells was convinced, from the conversation that passed, that Terry was not speaking the truth, and in consequence they were left to their fate.

Again Terry, in proceeding from the cell to the drop, exclaimed aloud, that Heald was innocent, and that they were going to hang an innocent man, and appeared to have worked himself up to a state of frenzy and distraction.

On their being brought on the platform, a scene of more brutal stubbornness was never witnessed, than that which was exhibited by this young offender; for as soon as he got on, he went forward to the front, and exclaimed in a loud voice, 'They are going to hang an innocent man, (meaning Heald); he is as innocent as any of you!' On uttering of which, he immediately made a sudden spring, in order to get down the ladder, which he certainly would have effected, had he not been laid hold of by the clergyman. While they were pulling him back, he again exclaimed, 'It was ME that murdered the woman: I said it was Heald, but I did so to save my own life; and would not any of you hang an innocent man to save your own life?' These words he afterwards repeated, adding, 'Don't hang Heald; if you do, I shall be guilty of two murders.'

The clergyman then proceeded to do his duty; to which Terry paid no attention, but continued very clamorous, notwithstanding the entreaties of Heald, not to deprive him of the benefit of the prayers; but Terry was not to be restrained; and it was from the utmost exertions of five or six men, that he could be dragged to the drop, and the rope forced over his head; during

which he tore off his cap, and at the moment when the platform sunk, which put an end to the life of Heald, Terry made a spring, and threw himself against the rail of the scaffold, got his foot upon the edge of a beam, and caught the corner post with his arm, by which he supported himself; and in this dreadful situation he continued for about a minute, till he was forced off by the executioner, and launched into eternity, with his face uncovered; a circumstance never, perhaps, known in the annals of a York execution.

The probable reason for Terry's wretched behaviour was, either to delay the execution, or, by declaring an innocent man was going to suffer, to excite the compassion of

the numerous spectators, and induce them to attempt a rescue. However, as Heald met death with resignation, and never once attempted to assert his innocence, which he had done before his condemnation, we may justly conclude, from his silence and submission, that his share in this bloody transaction was great—that notwithstanding his improper conduct during his trial, he was duly impressed with the magnitude of his sins, and died, as became him—a penitent Christian:—while his unfortunate accomplice, whose previous behaviour had been prudent and exemplary, misapplied the few last moments that were allotted to him in this life, and departed with unavailing lies in his mouth!

STEPHEN STILWELL,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

STEPHEN STILWELL, a publican, at the Three Jolly Gardeners, at Mortlake, was tried for the horrid murder of his wife, September 28, 1802, at the Surrey assizes held at Kingston, before Mr. Justice Heath, Thursday, March 24, 1803.

Mr. Nolan, who appeared as counsel for the prosecution, stated that the prisoner at the bar stood indicted of a crime, which must be the offspring of a most abandoned and cruel disposition. He had for some time lived as a gardener in the family of a gentleman at Mortlake; and the woman whom he had murdered also lived as servant in that family. He therefore had every opportunity of being acquainted with her temper and manners, previous to his taking her for his wife. They were married from that place, and took a public house at Mortlake. It would not be regular for him to detail the various instances of cruelty which he had exercised towards his

wife, except as connected with the present charge; but he should prove that he frequently declared he would murder her. On the 28th, he quarrelled with his wife, and turned her from the kitchen to the bar, telling her that was her place, and added, 'it was no matter, for she had but a few days to live.' On the 27th, in the evening, they were seen together, by two lodgers in the house, sitting in the bar, and apparently in amity; but the next morning he perpetrated the horrid crime. It would also appear that he had attempted another mode of death, for a loaded pistol was found lying by her, the lock of which was down, as though the trigger had been drawn, and it had missed fire. The learned counsel dwelt upon the aggravated circumstances of this crime, in which the foul crime of murder was rendered more heinous, by being against a wife, whom he had solemnly sworn at God's altar to cherish and protect.

John Ward deposed as follows:—
 'I am a baker, and live near Stilwell's house. On the 28th of September, 1802, about five o'clock, I got up to work. I was disturbed with a noise, and I went to the gate. I heard a noise in Stilwell's room. I heard his voice: he was saying, 'Come, get up, your time is expired.' I stood a little time, and heard a scream. Mrs. Stilwell said, 'My dear Stilwell, don't murder me.' When I heard that, I went to an opposite window, where I knew a soldier lay, and called him up. In about ten minutes I saw the prisoner come out of door, at the front door; but, before I saw him, I heard a stamping on the floor of the prisoner's room. Soon after I saw the prisoner run out of the front door. He ran away, and I followed him. In about a minute I came up. Knight, a man I had called on passing by, first laid hold of him. His hands and clothes were sprinkled with blood. We bound him with a cord, and I left him in custody of Benjamin Knight. On cross-examination the witness said that, when he heard the stamping, he also heard the prisoner exclaiming 'that he had gained his liberty;' and when he came out, he said, 'Damn that house, set it on fire (meaning his own house).'

Benjamin Knight deposed:—'I was called by the last witness; I was going by the house, and listened at the window. I heard two or three groans, and heard the prisoner saying that 'he had gained his liberty.' I then went into the yard; and, as there was a table under the window, I got upon it, in order to look in at the window; and then I heard a person quit the room, and run down stairs. I immediately went round, and saw Stilwell come out of the front door; his clothes were all bloody. I and another

man went up stairs, and saw the deceased on the ground. The floor was over my shoes in blood, near the deceased's head. I immediately ran down, and pursued the prisoner. Mr. Ward came to my assistance, and we overtook him. He struck me several times: when we found him, he appeared collected. He asked me to slack the cords, and not to hurt him.'

The testimony of Charles Barwood and William Bardolph also proved the act to have been committed by the prisoner.

John Davis, a surgeon at Mortlake, stated that he was sent for in consequence of the murder of the deceased. He examined the body, and found she had been killed by several violent blows which she had received; a great portion of her brains had been forced out on the right side of her head. He found a pistol, the handle of which was broke, and covered with blood and brains—(here the prisoner fainted away). It was produced in court.

Elizabeth Carter, servant of the prisoner, had lived with him three weeks on the day of the murder: he appeared always sensible, but frequently said he would murder her.

The prisoner, in defence, only said that he did not know what he did; his mind was very much distressed by her aggravating temper.

Mr. Serjeant Best, for the defence, called one witness of the name of Brown, who deposed to circumstances which conveyed a doubt of the prisoner's sanity.

Mr. Justice Heath said the only question for the jury was, whether they could possibly infer insanity for that was the defence insinuated by the last witness. It appeared to him that the prisoner had worked himself up to a frenzy of passion, so as not to know what he was about; but that was not insanity

Men must restrain the turbulence of their passions, or answer the consequences. It seemed that the galling yoke which had brought him to the commission of this desperate deed was the unhappiness of domestic circumstances; but that was not insanity. Insanity was a bodily disease, and did not originate in ill temper and passion. If, there-

fore, they found that the fact arose from a criminal indulgence of the passions, they must find him guilty.

The jury, without any hesitation, returned a verdict of Guilty.

This unfortunate man was accordingly executed on Saturday, March 26, 1803, on a gallows erected at the top of the Surrey county gaol, in Horsemonger Lane, Newington.



The Apprehension of Colonel Despard and his Companions.

COLONEL EDWARD MARCUS DESPARD, JOHN FRANCIS,
JOHN WOOD, THOMAS BROUGHTON, JAMES SEDG-
WICK WRATTON, ARTHUR GRAHAM, AND
JOHN MACNAMARA,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

If these men seriously thought that they could effect the overthrow of the government and the destruction of the royal family, (and of nothing less were they accused and convicted,) we know not in what terms to speak of their folly. We can only conclude that the leader

of such an imbecile plot must have been deranged, and that his associates were the victims of infatuation.

The men who were found guilty were Edward Marcus Despard, a colonel in the army, aged fifty; John Francis, a private soldier, aged

twenty-three; John Wood, a private soldier, aged thirty-six; Thomas Broughton, a carpenter, aged twenty-six; James Sedgwick Wratten, a shoemaker, aged thirty-five; John Machamara, a carpenter, aged fifty; and Arthur Graham, a slater, aged fifty-three: they were all married men, leaving numerous offsprings to bewail their fathers' fate, and their own loss! Others of the accused were tried and acquitted, and some pardoned.

Colonel Despard, the ill-starred leader of these misguided men, was descended from a very ancient and respectable family, in the Queen's county in Ireland. He was the youngest of six brothers, all of whom, except the eldest, had served their country, either in the army or navy.

In 1766 he entered the army as an ensign, in the 5th regiment; in the same regiment he served as a lieutenant, and in the 79th he served successively as lieutenant, quarter-master, captain-lieutenant, and captain.—From his superior officers he received many marks of approbation, particularly from General Calcraft, of the 50th, General Meadows, and the Duke of Northumberland. He had been, for the last twenty years, detached from any particular corps, and intrusted with important offices.

In 1779 he was appointed chief engineer to the St. Juan expedition, and conducted himself so as to obtain distinguished praise.

He also received the thanks of the council and assembly of Jamaica, for the construction of public works there, and was, in consequence of these services, appointed, by the governor of Jamaica, to be commander-in-chief of the island of Rattan, and its dependencies, and of the troops there, and to rank as lieutenant-colonel and field-en-

gineer, and commanded, as such, on the Spanish Main, in Rattan, and on the Musquito shore, and Bay of Honduras.

After this, at Cape Gracious a Dios, he put himself at the head of the inhabitants, who voluntarily solicited him to take the command, and retook from the Spaniards Black River, the principal settlement of the coast. For this service he received the thanks of the governor, council, and assembly of Jamaica, and of the king himself.

In 1783 he was promoted to the rank of colonel.

In 1784 he was appointed first commissioner for settling and receiving the territory ceded to Britain, by the sixth article of the definitive treaty of peace with Spain, in 1783.

He so well discharged his duty as colonel, that he was appointed superintendent of his majesty's affairs on the coast of Honduras, which office he held much to the advantage of the crown of England, for he obtained from that of Spain some very important privileges. The clashing interests, however, of the inhabitants of this coast, produced much discontent, and the colonel was, by a party of them, accused of various misdemeanors to his majesty's ministers.

He now came home, and demanded that his conduct should be investigated; but, after two years' constant attendance on all the departments of government, was at last told by the ministers that there was no charge against him worthy of notice, and that his majesty had thought proper to abolish the office of superintendent at Honduras, otherwise he should have been reinstated in it; but he was then, and on every occasion, assured, that his services should not be forgotten, but in due time meet their reward.

While in the Bay of Honduras the colonel married a native of that place.

Irritated, it seems, by continual disappointments, he began now to vent his indignation in an unguarded manner; and, thus becoming a suspicious character, was for some time a prisoner in Coldbathfields, under the *habeas-corpus* suspension act, then lately passed, which empowered ministers to keep in confinement all suspected characters.

On his liberation he could not conceal his malignancy towards government. Thus inflamed, he endeavoured to inflame others, and at length brought upon himself, and those poor wretches who were seduced by his arguments, disgrace and death.

On the 16th of November, 1802, in consequence of a search-warrant, a numerous body of the police went to the Oakley Arms, Oakley Street, Lambeth, where they apprehended Colonel Despard, and near forty labouring men and soldiers, many of them Irish. The next morning they were all brought up before the magistrates at Union Hall, and the result of the examination was, that Colonel Despard was committed to the county gaol, and afterwards to Newgate; twelve of his low associates (six of whom were soldiers) were sent to Tothillfields' Bridewell, and twenty to the New Prison, Clerkenwell. Ten other persons, who had been found in a different room, and who appeared to have no concern whatever with the colonel's party, were instantly discharged.

The colonel's conduct, during all his examinations, was invariably the same: he was silent throughout.

The privy council, the more effectually to try the prisoners, issued a special commission, and on

Monday, the 7th of February, 1803, the trial took place. The indictment, which consisted of three counts, having been read, the prosecution was opened by the attorney-general.

The prisoner, he said, Edward Marcus Despard, with the other prisoners, William Lander, Thomas Broughton, John Maenamara, James Wratton, John Wood, John Francis, Arthur Graham, Thomas Newman, Daniel Tyndall, &c. formed a society at the Oakley Arms, in the parish of St. Mary, Lambeth. The most active members were Francis and Wood, and their drift was to overturn the government.

His majesty having intended to meet his parliament a week earlier than he actually did, (on the 16th of January, instead of the 23d,) they designed on that day to carry into effect their plan, by laying restraint upon the king's person, and destroying him. They frequently attempted to seduce soldiers into the association, in which they sometimes succeeded, and sometimes failed. Francis administered unlawful oaths to those that yielded, and, among others, to Blades and Windsor, giving them, at the same time, two or three copies of the oath, that they might be enabled to make proselytes in their turn.

Windsor, soon after becoming dissatisfied, gave information of the conspiracy to a Mr. Bonns, and showed him a copy of the oath. This gentleman advised him to continue a member of the association, that he might learn whether there were any persons of consequence engaged in it.

On the Friday before the intended assassination of his majesty a meeting took place, when Broughton prevailed upon two of the associates to go to the Flying Horse, Newington, where they would meet with a

nice man, which *nice man*, as he styled him, was the prisoner Despard.

The first witness was John Stafford, clerk to the magistrates of Union Hall, who apprehended Colonel Despard, as before stated. There were about thirty persons in the room, and they were all, except the colonel, of the lowest class, and very meanly dressed.

The printed papers found in the room were then produced and read, consisting of the form of the oath, &c.

Thomas Windsor, the chief witness, declared the manner in which he took the oath, and the plan of the conspiracy. Having mentioned the intended mode of proceeding, he said the prisoner observed that the attack should be made on the day when his majesty should go to the parliament-house, and that he must be put to death; at the same time the prisoner said, 'I have weighed the matter well, and my heart is callous!'

After the destruction of the king, the mail-coaches were to be stopped, as a signal to the people in the country that the revolt had taken place in town. The prisoner then desired the witness to meet him the ensuing morning, at half past eleven o'clock, on Tower Hill, and to bring with him four or five intelligent men, to consider upon the best means of taking the Tower, and securing the arms. The witness accordingly met him at the Tiger public house, on Tower-hill, having brought with him two or three soldiers. The prisoner now repeated his declaration, that the king must be put to death; and Wood promised that he would post himself as sentry over the great gun in the park; and fire at his majesty's coach, as he passed through on his way to the house.

Other witnesses deposed to the meetings, consultations, &c.

Mr. Sergeant Best, in behalf of the prisoner, dwelt upon the incredibility of the witnesses. They were characters of no worth; and he urged that the printed papers which were found were not sufficiently proved to be connected with the prisoner; that the scheme was too romantic ever to be seriously imagined; there were no arms—not a pike, a pistol, or a rusty musket. In fact, the attempts of the heroes of the Oakley Arms, as set forth far exceeded all the wild sallies of Don Quixote.

Lord Nelson gave a most excellent character of the prisoner. They were on the Spanish Main together—they served together; and he declared him to have been a loyal man, and a good officer. On cross-examination, his lordship said he had not seen him since the year 1780.

Sir Alured Clarke and Sir Evan Nepean bore testimony of his having been a zealous officer.

Mr. Gurney, the other counsel for the prisoner, addressed the jury in an able speech; and the solicitor-general having replied on the part of the crown, Lord Ellenborough thus summed up to the jury:—

'The prisoner stands charged with high treason of three sorts, not very different in their nature.—First, for compassing the death of the king—next, for compassing to seize his person—and, thirdly, for conspiring to depose him. The first of these is treason by the statute of Edward III. The two last, by a recent statute of the present reign. Eight distinct overt acts are stated as evidences of this intention.

'Gentlemen, the overt acts are the holding conversations for effecting those malignant purposes of the heart. The defendant's counsel

say, that the proof consists only of words, and that it cannot be treason. If it consisted only of loose words, the chaffing of an irritated or crazy mind, it would not be treason, because it would be too much to infer such a purpose as the destruction of the king from words so spoken. But when words are spoken at a public meeting, and addressed to others, exciting and persuading them to that purpose, it never was doubted by any one English lawyer—it never will be doubted—but that they amount to treason. Another subject upon which I wish to say a few words is, the nature of evidence by accomplices. That he is a competent witness, upon whose testimony you may found a conclusion, cannot be doubted. If it were not so, it would be a dereliction of duty in the judges sitting here, and those who have formerly sat in courts of justice, not to have repelled such witnesses from the oath, and have told the jury that they were not fit to be credited. But they are always received; and, although sullied with the contamination of the crime which they impute to others, they are credible, though their testimony must be received with caution.

His lordship here read the evidence verbatim, and thus proceeded:

‘Now, gentlemen, this is the whole evidence; see how it applies to the charge.—First, with respect to an overt act committed within the county; it is proved at the Oakley Arms, and at the Flying Horse—that point of law is therefore satisfied. The only remaining consideration is, whether you will believe the evidence of Blades, Windsor, Emblyn, and Francis, or any of them. You have heard the high character given of the prisoner by a man, on whom to pronounce an eulogium were to waste words, but

you are to consider whether a change has not taken place since the period he speaks of.’

The jury, after about half an hour’s conversation, returned the verdict ‘Guilty,’ but earnestly recommended him to mercy on account of his former good character, and the services he had rendered his country.

The prisoner, during the whole of his trial, appeared very composed, nor did he exhibit any marks of agitation when the verdict was returned.

On the following Wednesday, February 9, the trial of the other prisoners took place, when the same circumstances, chiefly by the same witnesses, being repeated, nine (already named) out of twelve were found guilty, three of whom were recommended to mercy.

The usual question was then asked each separately, ‘What he had to say that sentence should not be pronounced?’ when Colonel Despard remarked, that he had been tried and convicted on the evidence of such men as ought not to be listened to; he was charged with seducing certain soldiers—nothing could be more false; he declared he never had the smallest conversation with them on the subject.

Lord Ellenborough addressed the prisoners in a style of awful solemnity, and at some length, which he thus concluded:—

‘The only thing remaining for me is the painful task of pronouncing against you, and each of you, the awful sentence which the law denounces against your crime, which is, that you, and each of you, (here his lordship named the prisoners severally,) be taken from the place from whence you came, and from thence you are to be drawn on hurdles to the place of execution, where you are to be hanged by the

neck, but not until you are dead; for, while you are still living, your bodies are to be taken down, your bowels torn out and burnt before your faces; your heads are then to be cut off, and your bodies divided each into four quarters, and your heads and quarters to be then at the king's disposal; and may the Almighty God have mercy on your souls!

On Saturday afternoon, February 19, was received the information that the warrant for execution, to take place on the following Monday, was made out, which contained a remission of part of the sentence, viz. the taking out and burning their bowels before their faces, and dividing their bodies. It was sent to the keeper of the New Gaol in the Borough, at six o'clock on Saturday evening, and included the names already given.

The three other prisoners, Newman, Tyndal, and Lander, were respited. As soon as the warrant for execution was received, it was communicated to the unhappy persons by the keeper of the prison; when Colonel Despard observed that the time was short, yet he had not had, from the first, any strong expectation that the recommendation of the jury would be effectual. The mediation of Lord Nelson, and a petition to the crown, were tried; but Colonel Despard was convinced, according to report, that they would be unavailing.

Mrs. Despard was greatly affected when she first heard his fate was sealed, but afterwards recovered her fortitude. Mr. and Mrs. Despard bore up with great firmness at parting; and, when she got into a coach, as it drove off she waved her handkerchief out of the window.

The other prisoners bore their fate with equal hardihood, but consoled themselves with less solemn-

nity than the colonel. Their wives, &c. were allowed to take a farewell of them on the same day, and the scene was truly distressing.

At day-light on Sunday morning, the drop, scaffold, and gallows, on which they were to be executed, were erected on the top of the gaol. All the Bow Street patrol, and many other peace-officers, were on duty all day and night, and the military near London were drawn up close to it.

On the following morning, Monday, the 21st of February, 1803, at half past six o'clock, the prison bell rang—the signal for unlocking the cells. At seven, Broughton, Francis, Graham, Wood, and Wraton, went into the chapel, with the Rev. Mr. Winkworth. They attended to the prayers with great earnestness, but at the same time without seeming to lose that firmness they had displayed since their trial. Before they received the sacrament, four of them confessed they had done wrong, but not to the extent charged against them by the evidence. The fifth, Graham, said he was innocent of the charges brought against him, but had attended two meetings, the second at the instigation of Francis.

For some time the clergyman refused to administer the sacrament to Francis, because he persisted in declaring he had been guilty of no crime. The clergyman said to him, 'You admit you attended meetings.' He replied, 'Yes.' 'You knew they were for the purpose of overturning the constitution of the country. I by no means wish you to enter into particulars. I only wish you to acknowledge generally.' Francis answered, 'I admit I have done wrong in attending those meetings.' The sacrament was then administered to them.

Colonel Despard and Macnamara

were then brought down from their cells, their irons knocked off, and their arms bound with ropes. On observing the sledge and apparatus the colonel smilingly cried out, 'Ha! ha! what nonsensical mum-mery is this!'

When the awful procession began, which was at half past eight o'clock precisely, Macnamara was the first that came out. Colonel Despard was the last that appeared. He stepped into the hurdle with much fortitude, having an executioner on the right and on the left, and on the same seat, with naked cutlasses. He was thus conducted to the outer lodge, whence he ascended the staircase leading to the place of execution. The prisoners were preceded by the sheriff, Sir R. Ford, the clergyman, Mr. Winkworth, and the Roman Catholic clergyman, Mr. Griffith.

Coffins, or shells, which had been previously placed in a room under the scaffold, were then brought up, and placed on the platform, on which the drop was erected; a bag of sawdust, to catch the blood when the heads were severed from the bodies, was placed beside them. The block was near the scaffold. There were about a hundred spectators on the platform, among whom were some characters of distinction. The greatest order was observed.

Macnamara was the first on the platform; and when the cord was placed round his neck, he exclaimed, 'Lord Jesus, have mercy upon me! O Lord, look down with pity upon me!' The populace were much struck by his appearance. Graham came second; he looked pale and ghastly, but spoke not. Wratten was the third; he ascended the scaffold with much firmness. Broughton, the fourth, who joined in prayer, with much earnestness. Wood was the fifth, and Francis

the sixth. They were all equally composed.

Colonel Despard ascended the scaffold with great firmness, and his countenance underwent not the slightest change while the awful ceremony of fastening the rope round his neck, and placing the cap on his head, was performing: he even assisted the executioner in adjusting the rope; he looked at the multitude assembled with perfect calmness.

The clergyman, who ascended the scaffold after the prisoners were tied up, spoke to him a few words as he passed: the colonel bowed, and thanked him. The ceremony of fastening the prisoners being finished, the colonel advanced, as near as he could, to the edge of the scaffold, and made the following speech to the multitude:—

'Fellow-Citizens,—I come here, as you see, after having served my country—faithfully, honorably, and usefully served it, for thirty years and upwards—to suffer death upon a scaffold for a crime of which I protest I am not guilty. I solemnly declare that I am no more guilty of it than any of you who may be now hearing me. But, though his majesty's ministers know as well as I do that I am not guilty, yet they avail themselves of a legal pretext to destroy a man, because he has been a friend to truth, to liberty, and justice——' [There was a considerable huzza from part of the populace the nearest to him, but who, from the height of the scaffold from the ground, could not, for a certainty, distinctly hear what was said. The colonel proceeded]——'because he has been a friend to the poor and distressed. But, citizens, I hope and trust, notwithstanding my fate, and the fate of those who no doubt will soon follow me, that the principles of free-

dom, of humanity, and of justice, will finally triumph over falsehood, tyranny, and delusion, and every principle hostile to the interests of the human race. And now, having said this, I have little more to add——' [The colonel's voice seemed to falter here—he paused a moment, as if he had meant to say something more, and had forgotten it.] He then concluded in the following manner:—' I have little more to add, except to wish you all health, happiness, and freedom, which I have endeavored, as far as was in my power, to procure for you, and for mankind in general.

The colonel spoke in a firm and audible tone of voice: he left off sooner than was expected. There was no public expression either of approbation or disapprobation given when he had concluded his address.

As soon as the colonel had ceased speaking, the clergyman prayed with five of the prisoners. However, to the very last, Colonel Despard obstinately refused all clerical assistance, nor would he even join in the Lord's Prayer. The executioner pulled the caps over the faces of the unhappy persons, and descended the scaffold. Most of them exclaimed ' Lord Jesus, receive our souls !'

At seven minutes before nine o'clock the signal was given, the platform dropped, and they were all launched into eternity !

After hanging about half an hour,

till they were quite dead, they were cut down. Colonel Despard was first cut down, his body placed upon saw-dust, and his head upon a block ; after his coat and waistcoat had been taken off, his head was severed from his body by persons engaged on purpose to perform that ceremony. The executioner then took the head by the hair, and, carrying it to the edge of the parapet on the right hand, held it up to the view of the populace, and exclaimed, ' This is the head of a traitor, Edward Marcus Despard !' The same ceremony was performed on the parapet at the left hand.

The other prisoners were then cut down, their heads severed from their bodies, and exhibited to the populace, with the same exclamation of ' This is the head of another traitor !' The bodies were then put into their different shells, and delivered to their friends for interment.

Colonel Despard hung at the right extremity, and Macnamara at the left ; the others were placed as they are named in the head of our case.

The body of Colonel Despard was taken away on the 1st of March, by his friends, with a hearse and three mourning-coaches, and interred near the north door of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The remains of the other six were deposited in one grave, in the vault under the Rev. Mr. Harper's chapel, in the London Road, St. George's Fields.

JOHN HATFIELD, EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE subject of our present consideration, whose extraordinary case excited universal odium, was born in the year 1759, at Mortram, in Longdale, Cheshire, of low descent, but possessing much natural abilities. His face was handsome, the

shape of which, in his youth, was oval, his person genteel, his eyes blue, and his complexion fair.

After some domestic depredations (for, in his early days, he betrayed an iniquitous disposition), he quitted his family, and was employed in

the capacity of a rider to a linen-draper in the north of England. In the course of this service he became acquainted with a young woman, who was nursed, and resided at a farmer's house in the neighbourhood of his employer. She had been, in her earlier life, taught to consider the people with whom she lived as her parents. Remote from the gaieties and follies of what is denominated polished life, she was unacquainted with the allurements of fashion, and considered her domestic duties as the only object of her consideration. When this deserving girl had arrived at a certain age, the honest farmer explained to her the secret of her birth: he told her that, notwithstanding she had always considered him as her parent, he was in fact only her poor guardian, and that she was the natural daughter of Lord Robert Manners, who intended to give her one thousand pounds, provided she married with his approbation.

This discovery reaching the ears of Hatfield, he paid his respects at the farmer's; and, having represented himself as a young man of considerable expectations in the wholesale linen business, his visits were not discountenanced. The farmer, however, thought it incumbent on him to acquaint his lordship with a proposal made to him by Hatfield, that he would marry the young woman, if her relations were satisfied with their union, but on no other terms. This had so much the appearance of an honorable and prudent intention, that his lordship, on being made acquainted with the circumstances, desired to see the lover. He accordingly paid his respects to the noble and unsuspecting parent, who, conceiving the young man to be what he represented himself, gave his consent at the first interview; and, the day

after the marriage took place, presented the bridegroom with a draft on his banker for one thousand five hundred pounds.

Shortly after the receipt of his lordship's bounty, Hatfield set off for London; hired a small phaeton; was perpetually at the coffee-houses in Covent Garden; described himself to whatever company he chanced to meet as a near relation of the Rutland family; vaunted of his parks and hounds; but, as great liars have very seldom good memories, he so varied in his descriptive figures, that he acquired the appellation of *lying Hatfield*.

The marriage portion now exhausted, he retreated from London, and was scarcely heard of until about the year 1782, when he again visited the metropolis, having left his wife, with three daughters she had borne to him, to depend on the precarious charity of her relations. Happily she did not long survive; and the author of her calamities, during his stay in London, soon experienced calamity himself, having been committed to the King's Bench Prison for a debt amounting to one hundred and sixty pounds. Several unfortunate gentlemen, then confined in the same place, had been of his parties when he flourished in Covent Garden, and, perceiving him in great poverty, frequently invited him to dinner; yet such was the unaccountable disposition of this man, that, although he knew there were people present who were thoroughly acquainted with his character, he would still continue to describe his Yorkshire park, his estate in Rutlandshire, settled upon his wife, &c. and generally wind up the whole with observing how vexatious it was to be confined at the suit of a paltry tradesman for so insignificant a sum, at the very moment when he had thirty men em-

ployed in cutting a piece of water near the family mansion in Yorkshire.

At the time Hatfield became a prisoner in the King's Bench, the unfortunate Valentine Morris, formerly Governor of the Island of St. Vincent, was confined in the same place. This gentleman was frequently visited by a clergyman of the most benevolent and humane disposition, to whom Hatfield soon directed his attention, and one day earnestly invited him to attend him to his chamber. After imploring the worthy pastor never to disclose what he was going to communicate, Hatfield said, 'You see before you a man nearly allied to the house of Rutland, and possessed of estates (here followed the old story of the Yorkshire Park, the Rutlandshire property, &c.); 'yet, notwithstanding all this wealth,' continued he, 'I am detained in this wretched place for the insignificant sum of one hundred and sixty pounds. But the truth is, sir, I would not have my situation known to any man in the world but my worthy relative, his Grace of Rutland. Indeed, I would rather remain a captive for ever. But, sir, if you would have the goodness to pay your respects to this worthy nobleman, and frankly describe how matters are, he will at once send me the money by you; and this mighty business will not only be instantly settled, but I shall have the satisfaction of introducing you to a connexion which may be attended with happy consequences.'

The honest clergyman readily undertook the commission, paid his respects to the duke, and pathetically described the unfortunate situation of his amiable relative. His Grace of Rutland, not recollecting at the moment such a name as Hatfield, expressed his astonishment at

the application. This reduced the worthy divine to a very awkward situation, and he faltered in his speech when he began making an apology; which the duke perceiving, he very kindly observed that he believed the whole was some idle tale of an impostor, for that he never knew any person of the name mentioned, although he had some faint recollection of hearing Lord Robert, his relation, say that he had married a natural daughter of his to a tradesman in the north of England, and whose name he believed was Hatfield.

The reverend missionary was so confounded that he immediately retired, and proceeded to the prison, where he gave the impostor, in the presence of Mr. Morris, a most severe lecture. But the appearance of this venerable man as his friend had the effect which Hatfield expected; for the duke sent to inquire if he was the man that married the natural daughter of Lord Robert Manners, and, being satisfied as to the fact, dispatched a messenger with two hundred pounds, and had him released.

In the year 1784, or 1785, his Grace of Rutland was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and, shortly after his arrival in Dublin, Hatfield made his appearance in that city. He immediately, on his landing, engaged a suite of apartments in a hotel in College Green, and represented himself as nearly allied to the Viceroy, but that he could not appear at the Castle until his horses, servants, and carriages, were arrived, which he ordered, before his leaving England, to be shipped at Liverpool. The easy and familiar manner in which he addressed the master of the hotel perfectly satisfied him that he had a man of consequence in his house, and matters were arranged accord-

ingly. This being adjusted, Hatfield soon found his way to Lucas's Coffee-house, a place which people of a certain rank generally frequent; and, it being a new scene, the Yorkshire park, the Rutlandshire estate, and the connexions with the Rutland family, stood their ground very well for about a month.

At the expiration of this time the bill at the hotel amounted to sixty pounds and upwards. The landlord became importunate, and, after expressing his astonishment at the non-arrival of Mr. Hatfield's domestics, &c. requested he might be permitted to send in his bill. This did not in the least confuse Hatfield: he immediately told the master of the hotel, that very fortunately his agent, who received the rents of his estates in the north of England, was then in Ireland, and held a public employment: he lamented that his agent was not then in Dublin; but he had the pleasure to know his stay in the country would not exceed three days. This satisfied the landlord, and, at the expiration of the three days, he called upon the gentleman, whose name Hatfield had given him, and presented the account. Here followed another scene of confusion and surprise. The supposed agent of the Yorkshire estate very frankly told the man who delivered the bill that he had no other knowledge of the person who sent him than what common report furnished him with; that his general character in London was that of a romantic simpleton, whose plausibilities had imposed on several people, and plunged himself into repeated difficulties.

The landlord retired, highly thankful for the information, and immediately arrested his guest, who was lodged in the prison of the Marshalsea. Hatfield had scarcely seated himself in his new lodgings,

when he visited the gaoler's wife in her apartment, and, in a whisper, requested of her not to tell any person that she had in her custody a near relation of the then Viceroy. The woman, astonished at the discovery, immediately showed him into the best apartment in the prison, had a table provided, and she, her husband, and Hatfield, constantly dined together for nearly three weeks, in the utmost harmony and good humour.

During this time he had petitioned the duke for another supply, who, apprehensive that the fellow might continue his impositions in Dublin, released him, on condition of his immediately quitting Ireland; and his grace sent a servant, who conducted him on board the packet that sailed the next tide for Holyhead.

In 1792 he came to Scarborough, introduced himself to the acquaintance of several persons of distinction in that neighbourhood, and insinuated that he was, by the interest of the Duke of Rutland, soon to be one of the representatives in parliament for the town of Scarborough. After several weeks' stay at the principal inn in Scarborough, his imposture was detected by his inability to pay the bill. Soon after his arrival in London he was arrested for this debt, and thrown into prison. He had been eight years and a half in confinement, when a Miss Nation, of Devonshire, to whom he had become known, paid his debts, took him from prison, and gave him her hand in marriage.

Soon after he was liberated, he had the good fortune to prevail with some highly respectable merchants of Devonshire to take him into partnership with them, and with a clergyman to accept his drafts to a large amount. He made, upon this foundation, a splendid ap-

pearance in London, and, before the general election, even proceeded to canvass the rotten borough of Queenborough. Suspicions in the mean time arose in regard to his character, and the state of his fortune. He retired from the indignation of his creditors, and was declared a bankrupt, in order to bring his villainies to light. Thus having left behind his second wife and two infant children at Tiverton, he visited other places; and at length, in July, 1802, arrived at the Queen's Head, in Keswick, in a carriage, but without any servant; where he assumed the name of the Honorable Alexander Augustus Hope, brother of the Earl of Hopetoun, and member for Lindlithgow. Unfortunately some evil genius directed his steps to the once happy cottage of poor Mary, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, an old couple, who kept a small public house at the side of the beautiful lake of Buttermere, Cumberland, and by their industry gained a little property.

He now became acquainted with an Irish gentleman, and member of the then Irish parliament, who had been resident with his family some months at Keswick. With this gentleman, and under his immediate protection, there was likewise a young lady of family and fortune, and of great personal attractions. One of the means which Hatfield used to introduce himself to this respectable family was the following:—Understanding that the gentleman had been a military man, he took an 'Army List' from his pocket, and pointed to his assumed name, the Honorable Alexander Augustus Hope, lieutenant-colonel of the 14th regiment of foot. This new acquaintance daily gained strength; and he shortly paid his addresses to the daughter of the above gentleman, and obtained her consent. The

wedding-clothes were bought; but, previously to the wedding-day being fixed, she insisted that the pretended Colonel Hope should introduce the subject formally to her friends. He now pretended to write letters, and, while waiting for the answers, proposed to employ that time in a trip to Lord Hopetoun's seat, &c.

From this time he played a double game; his visits to Keswick became frequent, and his suit to the young lady assiduous and fervent. Still, however, both at Keswick and Buttermere, he was somewhat shy of appearing in public. He was sure to be engaged in a fishing expedition on the day on which any company was expected at the public house at Buttermere; and he never attended the church at Keswick but once.

Finding his schemes baffled to obtain this young lady and her fortune, he now applied himself wholly to gain possession of Mary Robinson. He made the most minute inquiries among the neighbours into every circumstance relating to her and her family; and at length the pretended Colonel Hope, in company with the clergyman, procured a license on the 1st of October, and they were publicly married in the church of Lorton, on Saturday, the 2d of October.

On the day previous to his marriage, he wrote to Mr. M——, informing him that he was under the necessity of being absent for ten days on a journey into Scotland, and sent him a draft for thirty pounds, drawn on Mr. Crumpton, of Liverpool, desired him to cash it, and pay some small debts in Keswick with it, and send him over the balance, as he feared he might be short of cash on the road. This Mr. M—— immediately did, and sent him ten guineas in addition to the balance. On the Saturday, Wood,

the landlord of the Queen's Head, returned from Lorton with the public intelligence that Colonel Hope had married the Beauty of Buttermere. As it was clear, whoever he was, that he had acted unworthily and dishonorably, Mr. M——'s suspicions were of course awakened. He instantly remitted the draft to Mr. Crumpt, who immediately accepted it. Mr. M——, the friend of the young lady whom he first paid his addresses to, wrote to the Earl of Hopetoun. Before the answer arrived, the pretended honorable returned with his wife to Buttermere. He only went as far as Longtown, when he received two letters, seemed much troubled that some friends whom he expected had not arrived there, stayed three days, and then told his wife that he would again go back to Buttermere. From this time she was seized with fears and suspicions. They returned, however, and their return was made known at Keswick. The late Mr. Harding the barrister, and a Welsh judge, and a very singular man, passing through Keswick, heard of this impostor, and sent his servant over to Buttermere with a note to the supposed Colonel Hope, who observed 'that it was a mistake, and that the note was for a brother of his.' However, he sent for four horses, and came over to Keswick; drew another draft on Mr. Crumpt, for twenty pounds, which the landlord at the Queen's Head had the courage to cash. Of this sum he immediately sent the ten guineas to Mr. M——, who came and introduced him to the judge, as his old friend, Colonel Hope. But he made a blank denial that he had ever assumed the name. He had said his name was Hope, but not that he was the honorable member for Linlithgow, &c. and one who had been his frequent companion,

his intimate at Buttermere, gave evidence to the same purpose.

In spite, however, of his impudent assertions, and those of his associate, the evidence against him was decisive. A warrant was given by Sir Frederick Vane on the clear proof of his having forged and received several thanks as the member for Linlithgow, and he was committed to the care of a constable. Having, however, found means to escape, he took refuge for a few days on board a sloop off Ravingass, and then went in the coach to Ulverstone, and was afterwards seen at the hotel in Chester. In the mean time an advertisement, setting forth his person and manners, was inserted in the public prints.

Though personally known in Cheshire to many of the inhabitants, yet this specious hypoerite had so artfully disguised himself, that he quitted the town, without any suspicion, before the Bow Street officers reached that place in quest of him. He was then traced to Brielth, in Brecknockshire, and was at length apprehended about sixteen miles from Swansea, and committed to Brecon gaol. He had a cravat on, with his initials, J. H. which he attempted to account for by calling himself John Henry.

Before the magistrates he declared himself to be Tudor Henry; and, in order to prepossess the honest Cambrians in his favour, boasted that he was descended from an ancient family in Wales for the inhabitants of which country he had ever entertained a sincere regard. He was, however, conveyed up to town by one of the Bow Street officers, where he was examined on his arrival before the magistrates. The solicitor for his bankruptcy attended to identify his person, and stated, that the commission of bankruptcy was issued against Hatfield

in June, 1802; that he attended the last meeting of the commissioners, but the prisoner did not appear, although due notice of the bankruptcy had been given in the 'Gazette,' and he himself had given a personal notice to the prisoner's wife, at Wakefield, near Tiverton, Devonshire. Mr. Parkyn, the solicitor to the Post-office, produced a warrant from Sir Fletcher Vane, Bart. a magistrate for the county of Cumberland, against the prisoner, by the name of the Hon. Alex. Augustus Hope, charging him with felony, by pretending to be a member of parliament of the United Kingdom, and franking several letters by the name of A. Hope, to several persons, which were put into the Post-office, at Keswick, in Cumberland, in order to evade the duties of postage. Another charge for forgery, and the charge of bigamy, were explained to him, but not entered into, as he was committed for trial for these charges at the next assizes at Carlisle. The Duke of Cumberland, and several other gentlemen, were present at his examination; in the course of which a letter was produced, dated, October the 1st, 1802, addressed to John Crumpton, Esq. Liverpool, and franked in the name of A. Hope, requesting him to accept the bill already mentioned, and promising that if, he would manage to pass a little time with him in Scotland, he, the pretended Mr. Hope, would make Liverpool in his way to London. This letter, it was proved, passed free of postage. Another letter was also produced from his wife at Tiverton, and a certificate of his marriage with Mary of Buttermere.

His trial came on August 15th, 1803, at the assizes for Cumberland, before the Honorable Alexander Thompson, Knt. He stood

charged upon the three following indictments:—

1. With having assumed the name and title of the Honorable Alexander Augustus Hope, and pretending to be a member of parliament of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; and with having, about the month of October last, under such false and fictitious name and character, drawn a draft, or bill of exchange, in the name of Alexander Hope, upon John Crumpton, Esq. for the sum of twenty pounds, payable to George Wood, of Keswick, Cumberland, innkeeper, or order, at the end of fourteen days from the date of the said draft or bill of exchange.

2. With making, uttering, and publishing as true, a certain false, forged, and counterfeit bill of exchange, with the name of Alexander Augustus Hope thereunto falsely set and subscribed, drawn upon John Crumpton, Esq. dated the 1st of October, 1802, and payable to Nathaniel Montgomery Moore, or order, ten days after date, for thirty pounds sterling.

3. With having assumed the name of Alexander Hope, and pretending to be a member of parliament of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the brother of the Right Hon. Lord Hopetoun, and a colonel in the army; and under such false and fictitious name and character, at various times in the month of October, 1802, having forged and counterfeited the handwriting of the said Alexander Hope, in the superscription of certain letters or packets, in order to avoid the payment of the duty of postage.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Scarlett opened the case in an address to the jury; and, in support of what he advanced called Mr. Quick, who was clerk in the house at Tiverton, where Hat-

field was partner, who swore to his handwriting.

The Rev. Mr. Nicholson swore that, when the prisoner was asked his name, he said it was a comfortable one, Hope. The other witnesses were Mr. Joseph Skelton, of Rockliffe, Cumberland; Mr. George Wood, of Keswick, innkeeper; John Gregory Crump, and Colonel Parke, who was well acquainted with the real Colonel Hope.

The evidence for the prosecution having closed, the prisoner then addressed himself to the jury. He said he felt some degree of satisfaction in being able to have his sufferings terminated, as they must of course be by their verdict. For the space of nine months he had been dragged from prison to prison, and torn from place to place, subject to all the misrepresentations of calumny. 'Whatever will be my fate,' said he, 'I am content; it is the award of justice, impartially and virtuously administered. But I will solemnly declare, that, in all my transactions, I never intended to defraud or injure the persons whose names have appeared in the prosecution. This I will maintain to the last of my life.'

The prisoner called, in his defence, — Newton, attorney, at Chester, who said he was employed by the prisoner in the summer assizes in recovering an estate in the county of Kent. He understood the prisoner's father to be a respectable man; some of the family very opulent. Believes the prisoner has a mother-in-law; says the prisoner is married; never knew him to bear any other name than John Hatfield; he married a lady of the name of Nation. His assignees have sold the estate in question. Witness knows nothing of his circumstances previous to the recovery of the estate. It was rented at one hundred

pounds per annum. Does not know why the prisoner quitted Devonshire. Did not then travel in his own carriage, but formerly kept a carriage.

After the evidence was gone through, Sir A. Thompson summed up the evidence, and commented upon such parts as peculiarly affected the fate of the prisoner, 'Nothing,' his lordship said, 'could be more clearly proved than that the prisoner did make the bill or bills in question, under the assumed name of Alexander Augustus Hope, with an intention to defraud. That the prisoner used the additional name of Augustus was of no consequence in this question. The evidence proved clearly that the prisoner meant to represent himself to be another character; and under that assumed character he drew the bills in question. If any thing should appear in mitigation of the offences with which the prisoner was charged, they must give them a full consideration; and, though his character had been long shaded with obloquy, yet they must not let this in the least influence the verdict they were sworn to give.'

The jury consulted about ten minutes, and then returned a verdict—Guilty of Forgery.

The trial commenced about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and ended about seven in the evening, during the whole of which time the court was excessively crowded. The prisoner's behaviour in court was proper and dignified, and he supported his situation from first to last with unshaken fortitude. He employed himself during the greatest part of his trial in writing notes on the evidence given, and in conversing with his counsel, Messrs. Topping and Holroyd.

When the verdict was given he discovered no relaxation of his ac-

customed demeanour. After the court adjourned, he retired from the bar, and at eight o'clock the next morning the Court met again, when he appeared to receive his sentence. Numbers of people gathered together to witness this painful duty of the law passed upon one whose appearance, manners, and actions, had excited a most uncommon degree of interest. After proceeding in the usual form, the judge addressed the prisoner in the following impressive terms:—

'John Hatfield, after the long and serious investigation of the charges which have been preferred against you, you have been found guilty by a jury of your country.

'You have been distinguished for crimes of such magnitude as have seldom, if ever, received any mitigation of capital punishment, and in your case it is impossible it can be limited. Assuming the person, name, and character, of a worthy and respectable officer, of a noble family in this country, you have perpetrated and committed the most enormous crimes. The long imprisonment you have undergone has afforded time for your serious reflection, and an opportunity of your being deeply impressed with a sense of the enormity of your crimes, and the justness of that sentence which must be inflicted upon you; and I wish you to be seriously impressed with the awfulness of your situation. I conjure you to reflect with anxious care and deep concern on your approaching end, concerning which much remains to be done. Lay aside now your delusions and imposition, and employ properly the short space you have to live. I beseech you to employ the remaining part of your time in preparing for eternity, so that you may find mercy at the hour of death, and in the day of judgment. Hear now

the sentence of the law:—That you be carried from hence to the place from whence you came, and from thence to the place of execution, and there to be hanged by the neck till you are dead; and may the Lord have mercy on your soul!'

A notion very generally prevailed that he would not be brought to justice, and the arrival of the mail was daily expected with the greatest impatience. No pardon arriving, September 3, 1803, (Saturday,) was at last fixed upon for the execution.

The gallows was erected the preceding night between twelve and three, in an island formed by the river Eden, on the north side of the town, between the two bridges. From the hour when the jury found him guilty, he behaved with the utmost serenity and cheerfulness. He received the visits of all who wished to see him, and talked upon the topics of the day with the greatest interest or indifference. He could scarcely ever be brought to speak of his own case. He neither blamed the verdict, nor made any confession of his guilt. He said that he had no intention to defraud those whose names he forged; but was never heard to say that he was to die unjustly. None of his relations ever visited him during his confinement.

The alarming nature of the crime of forgery, in a commercial country, had taught him from the beginning to entertain no hope of mercy. By ten in the morning of September 3 his irons were strack off: he appeared as usual, and no one observed any alteration or increased agitation whatever.

Soon after ten o'clock he sent for the 'Carlisle Journal,' and perused it for some time: a little after he had laid aside the paper, two clergy-

men (Mr. Pattison, of Carlisle, and Mr. Mark, of Burgh-on-Sands) attended, and prayed with him for about two hours, and drank coffee with him. After they left him, about twelve, he wrote some letters, and in one enclosed his penknife: it was addressed to London. About this time he also shaved himself: though intrusted with a razor, he never seems to have meditated an attempt at self-destruction, notwithstanding it was generally reported on Friday night that he had poisoned himself; but it was founded merely on what was reckoned probable. To all who spoke with him, he pretended that what he had to suffer was a matter of little consequence. At three he dined with the gaoler, and ate heartily. Having taken a glass or two of wine, he ordered coffee. He took a dish a few minutes before he set out for the place of execution. The last thing he did was to read a chapter from the 2d of Corinthians. He had previously marked out this passage for his lesson before he was to mount the scaffold.

The sheriffs, the bailiffs, and the Carlisle volunteer cavalry, attended at the gaol-door about half past three, together with a post-chaise and a hearse. He was then ordered into the turnkey's lodge, for the purpose of being pinioned, where he inquired of the gaoler, who were going in the chaise with him? He was told the executioner and the gaoler. He immediately said, 'Pray, where is the executioner? I should wish much to see him.' The executioner was sent for. Hatfield asked him how he was, and made him a present of some silver in a paper. During the time of his being pinioned, he stood with resolution, and requested he might not be pinioned tight, as he wished to use his handkerchief when on the platform; which was complied with.

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A prodigious crowd had assembled: this was the market-day at Carlisle, and people had come from the distance of many miles out of mere curiosity. Hatfield, when he left the prison, wished all his fellow-prisoners might be happy: he then took farewell of the clergyman, who attended him to the door of the chaise, and mounted the steps with much steadiness and composure. The gaoler and the executioner went in along with him. The latter had been brought from Dumfries upon a retaining fee of ten guineas.

It was exactly four o'clock when the procession moved from the gaol. Passing through the Scotch gate, in about twelve minutes it arrived at the Sands. Half the yeomanry went before the carriage, and the other half behind. Upon arriving on the ground, they formed a ring round the scaffold. It is said that he wished to have had the blinds drawn up, but that such an indulgence was held inconsistent with the interest of public justice.—When he came in sight of the tree, he said to the gaoler, he imagined that was the tree (pointing at it) that he was to die on. On being told yes, he exclaimed, 'Oh! a happy sight, I see it with pleasure!'

As soon as the carriage-door had been opened by the under-sheriff, the culprit alighted with his two companions. A small dung-cart, boarded over, had been placed under the gibbet. A ladder was placed to this stage, which he instantly ascended. He was dressed in a black jacket, black silk waistcoat, fustian pantaloons, white cotton stockings, and ordinary shoes. He wore no powder in his hair. He was perfectly cool and collected. At the same time his conduct displayed nothing of levity, of insensibility, or of hardness. He was

more anxious to give proof of resignation than of heroism.—His countenance was extremely pale, but his hand never trembled.

He immediately untied his neck-handkerchief, and placed a bandage over his eyes. Then he desired the hangman, who was extremely awkward, to be as expert as possible about it, and that he would wave a handkerchief when he was ready. The hangman not having fixed the rope in its proper place, he put up his hand, and turned it himself. He also tied his cap, took his handkerchief from his own neck, and tied it about his head also. Then he requested the gaoler would step from the platform, and pinion his arms a little harder, saying that when he had lost his senses he might attempt to place them to his neck. The rope was completely fixed about five minutes before four o'clock: it was slack, and he merely said, 'May the Almighty bless you all!' Nor did he falter in the least, when he tied the cap, shifted the rope, and took his handkerchief from his neck.

He several times put on a languid and piteous smile. He at last seemed rather exhausted and faint. Having been near three weeks under sentence of death, he must have suffered much, notwithstanding his external bearing; and a reflection of the misery he had occasioned must have given him many an agonizing throb.

Having taken leave of the gaoler and the sheriff, he prepared himself for his fate. He was at this time

heard to exclaim, 'My spirit is strong, though my body is weak.'

Great apprehensions were entertained that it would be necessary to tie him up a second time. The noose slipped twice, and he fell down above eighteen inches. His feet at last were almost touching the ground: but his excessive weight, which occasioned this accident, speedily relieved him from pain. He expired in a moment, and without any struggle.

He was cut down after he had hung about an hour. On the preceding Wednesday he had a carpenter to take measure for his coffin, and ordered it to be a strong oak one, plain and neat, requesting that, after he was taken down, he might be put into it immediately, with the apparel he might have on, and carried to the churchyard of Burgh-on-Sands, there to be interred in the evening.

The conscientious parishioners of Burgh, however, objected to his being laid there, and the body was consequently conveyed in the hearse to St. Mary's, Carlisle, where it was interred in a distant corner of the churchyard, far from the other tombs. No priest attended, and the coffin was lowered without any religious service. Notwithstanding his various and complicated enormities, his untimely end excited considerable commiseration. His manners were extremely polished and insinuating, and he was possessed of qualities which might have rendered him an ornament of society.

ANNE HURLE.

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

It does not often fall to our lot to adduce cases of artful forgeries committed by females.—The present was highly aggravated by this

woman's selecting an old infirm man as the object of her depredation.

Anne Hurle, only twenty-two years of age, was, on Saturday, Ja-

nary 14, 1804, capitally indicted at the Old Bailey, for having forged and counterfeited, uttered and published, as true, in the city of London, a letter of attorney, purporting to have been signed, sealed, and delivered, by Benjamin Allin, residing in Greenwich, in the county of Kent, for the purpose of transferring the sum of five hundred pounds, of three per cent. reduced annuities, to herself, with an intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.

The counsel for the prosecution opened the case, by stating to the jury that the Bank felt themselves bound, both for their own security, and the justice of the country, to bring this grievous charge against the unhappy young woman at the bar. The indictment imputed to her a capital offence—forgery, in whatever manner it may be committed, being always punished with death; and he had no doubt that he should be able to make out the facts of the case to be as clear as the law upon the subject. If it do not suit a proprietor of stock personally to transfer his property in the funds, it is the custom of the Bank to allow him to make out a deed, authorizing any other person to make a transfer. These deeds are not prepared by the private solicitors of the parties, but issued by the Bank directors themselves; and it is filled up and delivered to the party making the application, and it must be signed by the proprietor of stock, in presence of two witnesses. Such was the nature of deed which the prisoner procured, authorizing her to transfer five hundred pounds, three per cent. annuities. On her offering it at the Bank, however, it appeared evident that the signature of Mr. Allin did not correspond with that inserted in their books, being very clumsily executed, and the

name ‘ Benjamin ’ written at full length, instead of being contracted, according to that gentleman’s usual custom. From any examination which the prisoner had previously undergone, it appeared impossible for her to adduce any proof of her having been imposed upon, or to show that she did not know but that the deed was really good, and actually signed by Mr. Allin. He then proceeded to give a short statement of the facts, as they came out in evidence.

George Francillon, a stock-broker, said he was acquainted with the prisoner at the bar for five or six months, and recollected her applying to him on Saturday, the 10th of December, 1803, at the Bank Coffee-house, and requesting him to take out a power of attorney for the sale of five hundred pounds reduced. She told the witness it was to be taken out of the stock of a Mr. Benjamin Allin, of Greenwich, who, she said, was an elderly gentleman;—that she had been brought up in his family from her infancy, and that her aunt had been for many years housekeeper and nurse to Mr. Allin. The prisoner then said that this five hundred pounds stock was a gift made to her by Mr. Allin, for her great attention to him during her stay at his house. The witness, on hearing this, took out a power of attorney from the Bank-office, and delivered it to her the same day, which he desired her to take to Greenwich, in order to get it executed. She told the witness she would have it executed that afternoon, and return with it on the Monday morning, in order to transfer the stock into her own name. She accordingly brought back the deed on Monday morning, at eleven o’clock, executed in the name of Benjamin Allin. [The deed was here shown to the witness, who at-

tested it as being the same which the prisoner brought to him.] He then desired her to wait a few minutes, till he went to the proper office at the Bank, in order to have the power passed; and, as she had said she was inclined to sell the stock, he told her he would inquire the price of it in the market, and let her know. Having left the power of attorney, at the Bank, he returned in about twenty minutes afterwards; and the clerk of that office told him that Mr. Bateman, the clerk who passed the powers, desired to see him. He accordingly went, in company with the prisoner, to the gentleman, who said that the signature of Benjamin Allin differed from that gentleman's handwriting, which they had at the Bank. The witness told Mr. Bateman he did not know Mr. Allin; that he only knew Anne Hurle, who wished the power of attorney. She, on being questioned by Mr. Bateman, said she had been brought up in Mr. Allin's family from a child; that he was a very old man, nearly ninety years of age, in a very infirm state of health, and, if the handwriting differed, she could account for it in no other way but by his not being accustomed to writing, which might occasion some difference in the signature; but, if it was necessary, she would take out a fresh power of attorney. Mr. Bateman said it would be a pity to put her to additional expense in getting another; and that he had some recollection of an acquaintance with Mr. Peter Verney, a cheescmonger, in Greenwich (whose name he saw on the deed as a witness); he told her she might take it to that gentleman, and get him to certify what he (Mr. Bateman) would write upon the power of attorney. Mr. Bateman accordingly wrote the words—
 'The within Benjamin Allin has

been for many years personally known to me.' He then delivered the deed to the prisoner, and they parted. On leaving Mr. Bateman's office, the witness questioned her more particularly, and pressed her to give some account of herself. She said she had been married a few days before.

When the witness heard this, he expressed his surprise, and told her that, if she was married, the power of attorney ought to be taken out in her married name, and not in her maiden name; and that a fresh power would on that account alone be necessary. She then told the witness she was very sorry she had dropped any thing about her being married, as she had every reason to believe that her marriage was not a good one. On being questioned by the witness relative to it, she said that, in going down to Bristol in the stage-coach, a man of the name of James Innes, after a few days' acquaintance, paid his addresses to her, and said that he would marry her; that she had agreed to the proposal, and that a marriage accordingly took place. The witness asked her what church they were married in. To which she answered that they were not married at a church, but at a private house, and that it was on an afternoon. She said she had, however, found out that the character of this man Innes was very bad; and, within two hours after the marriage, he took all the money she had with her, and even part of her clothes, and left her altogether; that she afterwards heard he had entered on board a ship, and likewise that he was a married man, previous to his marriage with her. On her return to Greenwich, she acquainted her friends in what manner she had been used by Innes; and she said that all of them, and even Mr. B. Allin, requested of her to

go by her own name, Anne Hurle, as she certainly was not lawfully married. Nothing further passed betwixt the prisoner and the witness on this occasion; but she took the power of attorney, and said she would see him again on Tuesday morning. After she had left the witness, he was not satisfied in his own mind whether she was actually married or not; and not wishing to run any risk, in identifying a married woman as a single woman, or a single one as being married, he called on Messrs. Owen and Hicks, attorneys, who had recommended her to him; but they could give no information on that point. She returned at the appointed time with the power of attorney, signed on the back 'Peter Verney, cheesemonger.' He again delayed settling the business, and put her off till Wednesday, intending in the mean time to make further inquiries concerning this power of attorney. Having found out where her father was, he went to him, and told the circumstance, and they both went to Greenwich that same afternoon. They were soon convinced of the deception. On the Wednesday he went to the Bank very early, to call on Mr. Newman, of the Reduced Office; and, in going through the Rotunda of the Bank, he observed the prisoner, and a man with her, standing near to the door. He said to her 'You have come very early this morning: I'll be with you in a minute;' and immediately left her. He did not see her again till apprehended. After mentioning the circumstances to Mr. Newman, he accompanied that gentleman to the Accountant-general's Office, and afterwards to the Directors of the Bank, to whom the witness delivered up the power of attorney.

Mr. Thomas Bateman, inspector of letters of attorney at the Bank,

swore to the power of attorney shown to him, as he had put a mark at the corner of it. On this witness stating his objection to the signature when the prisoner called at his office along with the last witness, she said she expected it would be so; and that Mr. Allin had been so long out of the habit of writing, that her aunt had to sign all his drafts on his banker. The deponent observed to her that perhaps her aunt had also signed the power of attorney. To this she replied 'No; you may depend upon it that Mr. Allin has signed it himself.' The deponent then said to her, 'If I may put the question, what is this old gentleman going to do with this five hundred pounds?' To this she answered that he was going to make her a present of it, for the great attention she had for many years paid him, and that her aunt was willing he should do so. He then inquired of her how the power of attorney came to be in such a mutilated state, being torn across, and wafered together. She gave as a reason that, just as it was going to be executed, the dog in Mr. Allin's house had got hold of it, and torn it; but, if there was any objection to the paper, she would take out a fresh one. The witness, recollecting some acquaintance with Verney, one of the witnesses, asked her if she knew him. She said she did, and that he had been many years cheesemonger to the family. He observed to her that, if Verney would certify what he (the witness) would write on the back of the deed, he should then take the matter into further consideration. He accordingly wrote a certificate on the back of the deed, relative to Mr. Verney's personal knowledge of Mr. Allin, and gave it to the prisoner to get signed. Since that time he had had no conversation with her.

Benjamin Allin said he resided at Greenwich, and had a person of the name of Jane Hurle in his service, and knew Anne Hurle, her niece, but had not been much in her company, nor in any company whatever. On being shown the power of attorney, he deposed that it was not his handwriting, and that he had not signed any paper whatever since the first day of December. He had no occasion to sign any papers but receipts to receive money from his bankers: he had not written his name at full length for several years past; he never authorized any person to sell his stock. Did not know Peter Verney by name, though he might, perhaps, know him by sight. Had seen a person of the name of Nowland (the other alleged witness to the deponent's signature), but could not say that he had ever executed any deed in that person's presence. On being asked if he ever signed any paper in presence of Peter Verney, this witness, who was quite superannuated, answered, 'O Lord, I do not know that ever I did: Oh, no! I did not: if I did, can't those persons come and say it?' When he had occasion to sign papers, they were commonly presented to him by Jane Hurle, his housekeeper, an old lady, who attended to all his affairs.

Peter Verney, a cheesemonger, at Greenwich, said that he never saw Mr. Benjamin Allin till this morning, as that gentleman always confined himself to his house: he farther deposed that his handwriting was not on the power of attorney shown him.

Thomas Nowland deposed that he never saw Mr. Allin but once, and that was about twelve years ago, when he was removed from one house in Greenwich to another. Knew the prisoner perfectly well,

being related to her. His name, on the deed, was not of his handwriting.

Jane Hurle, aunt of the prisoner, said she had resided twelve years in Mr. Allin's family as a housekeeper and attendant on him. She generally presented all papers for his signature. Had not seen her niece at Mr. Allin's house since Michaelmas last. Could not say that the signature, on the power of attorney shown her, was of Mr. Allin's writing, but was like it, though she never saw him write the name of Benjamin at full length: never saw either of the witnesses mentioned in the deed at the house of Mr. Allin; and they could not have access to him without her knowing it. From her earliest knowledge, Mr. Allin had confined himself to his lodgings; and she believed he had done so for no less than fifty years.

The prisoner was here called on for her defence, but she made none, saying she left it to her counsel. No witnesses were adduced to speak in her behalf. She was much affected, and fainted twice during the trial. The jury, after deliberating a short time, returned a verdict of Guilty.

The unfortunate Anne Hurle was ordered for execution February 8, 1804. For eight days she had taken but little nourishment; and her feelings, while attending the condemned sermon preached on Sunday, were so great, that she was several times deprived of sensation, and supposed to be dead. Her father, mother, and other relations, were with her during the gloomy hours of sadness that preceded her fate, the whole of whom she embraced for the last time. A petition was presented to his majesty on her behalf; and an answer was returned that she need not entertain

hope of mercy, her crime being of that magnitude that admitted of no other alternative than the execution of the law. She attempted to protract the fatal moment by pleading pregnancy, and so contrived to baffle the skill of the women appointed to examine her, that they could not come to any satisfactory decision. In order, therefore, to decide the point, the sheriffs had recourse to the judgment and experience of Doctor Thyme, whose report negatived the plea of the prisoner.

Anne Hurle was a young woman of very interesting appearance, and her whole demeanour at and previous to her execution manifested how little she expected pardon in this world.

On Wednesday, the appointed morning, she was brought out of the debtors' door in Newgate, at eight o'clock. The mode of execution by the drop having been for the present changed to that of the

common gallows, she was put into a cart, and drawn to the widest part of the Old Bailey, where she expiated her offences in penitence and prayer. When the halter was fixed, she seemed inclined to speak; but her strength evidently failed, and she was incapable. Her appearance, upon the whole, excited emotions of compassion among the numerous spectators, who became at last so clamorous, that the sheriff, in a loud voice, described to them the impropriety of their behaviour; after which they were more silent. The caps having been pulled over the faces of the sufferers, the cart drew away. As it was going, she gave a faint scream, and, for two or three minutes after she was suspended, appeared to be in great agony, moving her hands up and down frequently.

She was executed along with Methuselah Spalding, who was convicted of an unnatural crime.

MARY PARSELL, EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE mischief attending forgery is still greater in the hands of a female of address than of the greatest adept of the other sex; because, in putting off the counterfeit, she is less suspected.

When we came to the case of Anne Hurle, we did not, indeed, expect so soon to bring forward another woman guilty, even in a greater degree, of the same mischievous offence. Anne Hurle made her attempt upon a weak individual; but Mary Parnell took the public at large to impose upon, to the injury of many a poor family.

Mary Parnell was, according to her own account, an unfortunate girl, aged twenty-three, who was indicted at the Old Bailey, July, 1804, for feloniously forging, on

the 9th of the preceding March, a certain Bank of England note, value five pounds, with intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. There were several other indictments of a similar nature.

Charles Baddeley, a shoemaker in the Strand, swore that the prisoner came to his shop, March 9, and purchased two pair of shoes: they came to twelve shillings and sixpence; the prisoner tendered him a five-pound note. Having looked at it, and compared it with another, he did not think it was a good one, and asked her where she had taken it. She said she could not tell. She took another bank-note out of her pocket, which appeared a good one. This, however, he returned,

and said he would keep the first that she tendered, and take it to Bow Street, or the Bank, on Monday morning, desiring her to come on Wednesday morning, when she should either have the note or the change. The prisoner never called on the appointed day. This witness was particular in identifying the person of the prisoner: as she held her pocket-book in her hand, he observed that one of her fingers was cut across: it was an old sore.

William Wilmot, foreman to Mr. Baggett, shoemaker, Cranbourne Alley, Leicester Fields, said that the prisoner came to his master's shop, March 9, about eleven o'clock in the evening, and asked for two pair of shoes, one pair of double soles, and one pair of single; the price was eleven shillings and sixpence. She tendered a five-pound Bank of England note: it had no name whatever on it: it was quite new. She drew it from a little red pocket-book: she seemed to be confused while doing this, and appeared to have more notes in the pocket-book. The witness had not change enough in the till, and his master was not at home: he went, therefore, to Mr. Perkins, linen-draper, next door to Mr. Baggett's, and procured change for the note. On his return, his master came in: he gave the change to him, and Mr. Baggett gave it to the prisoner, who took it and the shoes.

William Perkins, linen-draper, corroborated the testimony of this last witness; and William Smith, a Bow Street patrol, said he found a pair of shoes in the prisoner's lodgings, and showed them to Wilmot, who thought they were the shoes he sold to the prisoner: they were double soles, and of the same size and description.

Anne Levermore, who keeps the Pewter Platter, St. John Street,

West Smithfield, said that the young woman at the bar came to her house, some day between the 19th and 24th of March, for a quart of brandy, the price six shillings: she said she had nothing smaller than a five-pound note, which she took out of her pocket-book. The witness went up stairs for change, and a friend of hers, Elizabeth Walter, who was sitting in the bar, saw her very much agitated. The witness gave her the change; and she asked the price of the bottle, which was threepence. She told her to take sixpence for it. The witness gave the note to Mr. Harris, the collector of Mr. Hanbury, the brewer. She knew the note by the paleness of the Britannia, and the figures, 4 and 8, being larger than the others.

Elizabeth Walter confirmed the above. She suspected the note was a bad one, from the agitation of the prisoner; and, when she was going away with the brandy, she desired her friend to send her little girl out, to watch where she went to.

James Cook, an apothecary, residing in Bridge Road, Surrey, said that the prisoner at the bar came to his shop in the middle of April, to purchase a bottle of Gowland's lotion. She offered a five-pound note, and, not having change, he directed his boy to get change for the note. She seemed anxious for the boy's return, and wished to get out, to see where he was gone. She was afraid, she said, the boy had lost the note. He was only gone five or ten minutes. On his return he gave her the remainder of the change. She had on a gown with a white ground and a chocolate spot.

Robert Godyere, the boy, got the change at the Red Lion, Globe Place; and William Gower, the landlord, identified the note.

John Willats, a cutler in the Poultry, said he sold the prisoner a

dozen knives and forks, on the 3d of May, which came to thirty-three shillings. She offered a five-pound note in payment, and gave her address, 'Anne Brown, No. 37, Wood Street,' which he wrote on the note.

Stephen Walker proved that no such person had resided at 37, Wood Street, for two years.

The inspector of notes, and the engraver to the Bank, proved the several notes to be forgeries.

Edward Crocker searched the prisoner's lodgings, and found a gown, which she acknowledged to be hers, and a bottle of lotion. Mr. Cook said that the bottle was like that

which he sold, and the gown like that which the woman had on that purchased it.

The prisoner, in her defence, said she was a very remarkable person, and it was very odd they could not give a better description of her. She had a particular cut on her hand, as well as on her finger; and she had but one eye, which had not been observed by any of the witnesses. As for the Gowland's lotion, a gentleman, she said, made her a present of it, with a shawl. She had no witnesses in her behalf, and the jury found her Guilty. She was executed at Newgate, July 12, 1804.



The pretended Hammersmith Ghost frightening a poor Woman to death.

FRANCIS SMITH,

CONDEMNED TO DEATH FOR THE MURDER OF A SUPPOSED GHOST.

SUPERSTITION, in the beginning of the enlightened year 1804, was revived in the vicinity of Hammersmith, near London, where the in-

habitants were possessed with an opinion that a ghost haunted their neighbourhood; but the fancied spectre was proved to be composed

of human flesh and blood, which were unfortunately mangled and shed unto death by the unhappy man whose case is now before us.

The wanton performer of the pretended spirit merited severe punishment, for, with the frogs to the mischievous boys, who were pelting them with stones, they might truly have said, 'It is *sport* to you, but death to us.' Besides, the poor man who lost his life being mistaken for this mimic ghost, Smith was condemned to die for the murder.

One poor woman in particular, who was far advanced in her pregnancy of a second child, was so much shocked, that she took to her bed, and survived only two days. She had been crossing near the churchyard about ten o'clock at night, when she beheld something, as she described, rise from the tomb-stones. The figure was very tall, and very white! She attempted to run, but the ghost soon overtook her, and, pressing her in his arms, she fainted; in which situation she remained some hours, till discovered by some neighbours, who kindly led her home, when she took to her bed, from which, alas! she never rose.

The ghost had so much alarmed a waggoner belonging to Mr. Russell, driving a team of eight horses, and which had sixteen passengers at the time, that the driver took to his heels, and left the waggon and horses so precipitately, that the whole were greatly endangered.

Neither man, woman, nor child, could pass that way for some time; and the report was, that it was the apparition of a man who had cut his throat in the neighbourhood above a year ago.

Several lay in wait different nights for the ghost; but there were so many by-lanes and paths leading to Hammersmith, that he was always sure of being on that which

was unguarded, and every night played off his tricks to the terror of the passengers.

Francis Smith, doubtless incensed at the unknown person who was in the habit of assuming this supernatural character, and thus frightening the superstitious inhabitants of the village, rashly determined on watching for, and shooting, the ghost; when unfortunately he shot a poor innocent man, Thomas Milwood, a bricklayer, who was in a white dress, the usual habiliment of his occupation. This rash act having been judged wilful murder by the coroner's inquest, Smith was accordingly committed to gaol, and took his trial at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, January 13; when Mr. John Locke, wine-merchant, living in Hammersmith, stated, that on the 3d of January, about half past ten in the evening, he met the prisoner, who told him he had shot a man, whom he believed to be the pretended ghost of Hammersmith.

A rumour of a ghost walking about at night had prevailed for a considerable time. He went with the prisoner, in company with Mr. Stowe and a watchman, up Limekiln Lane, to Blacklion Lane, where the deceased was lying apparently dead.

The witness and Mr. Stowe consulted together upon what was proper to be done, and they directly sent for the high constable. The body had no appearance of life; there was a shot in the left jaw. The prisoner was much agitated. The witness told him the consequences likely to be the result of his conduct. The prisoner replied, that he fired, but did not know the person whom he had shot; he also said that, before he fired, he spoke twice to the deceased, but received no answer.

Mr. Const, for the prisoner, cross-examined this witness. For five weeks previous to this melancholy catastrophe, the ghost had been the subject of general conversation in Hammersmith. He had never seen it. The dress in which the ghost was said to appear corresponded with that worn by the deceased, being white. The deceased had on white trowsers, down to his shoes; a white apron round him, and a flannel jacket on his body. The ghost sometimes appeared in white, and frequently in a calf's skin.

The prisoner was so agitated when the witness met him, that he could hardly speak. The deceased, after the prisoner called out, continued to advance towards him, which augmented his fear so much that he fired. The witness described the evening as very dark: Blacklion Lane was very dark at all times, being between hedges; and on that evening it was so very obscure, that a person on one side of the road could not distinguish an object on the other.

The prisoner, when he first mentioned the accident, expressed to the witness his wish that he would take him into custody, or send for some person to do so. The prisoner was a man mild and humane, and of a generous temper.

William Girdle, the watchman in Hammersmith, after stating that he went to the spot with Mr. Locke, described the posture in which the deceased was found. He was lying on his back, stretched out, and quite dead. His left jaw was broken by a shot. The prisoner came to the witness, and said he had hurt a man, and he was afraid very badly. Previous to this the prisoner told him he was going to look after the ghost. The witness replied that he would join him, after crying the hour, and that they would search the

lanes together. They agreed on a watch-word: 'Who comes there?'—A friend.—Advance, friend.' The witness went his rounds, and just before he got to Blacklion Lane he heard the report of a gun. He took no notice of that circumstance, as he frequently heard firing in the night. He did not see a gun lying by the deceased. The prisoner offered to deliver himself up.

On his cross-examination, the witness said that he himself was armed with a pistol, as other watchmen are. He had seen the supposed ghost himself on the Thursday before, being the 29th of December. It was covered with a sheet or large table-cloth. He encountered it opposite the four-mile stone, and pursued it, but without success, as the spirit pulled off the sheet and ran. The alarm had been very great for six weeks or two months, and many people had been terribly frightened. He knew the prisoner, and he was nothing like a cruel man.

Anne Milwood, sister to the deceased, was next called. The Lord Chief Baron lamented that any questions relative to this melancholy affair should be put to her, but for the ends of justice they were rendered indispensably necessary. She stated that she lived with her father and mother; between ten and eleven of the evening of the third of January, her brother called; he had been to inquire for his wife, who was at Mr. Smith's, the outrider. The witness and her mother were going to bed, and her mother asked the deceased, whether his wife had come home? He replied, that she had not. She then desired him to sit down, and wait for her half an hour. He sat till the witness heard the clock go eleven. She then desired him to go home; and he got up and went away, wishing the witness a good night. He shut the

door behind him, and the witness directly went and opened it, stepped out, and stood on some bricks, looking after him. At that instant she heard a voice exclaim, 'Damn you, who are you, and what are you? I'll shoot you, if you don't speak.' This address was directly followed by the discharge of a gun. The witness, exceedingly alarmed for her brother's safety, called out 'Thomas' three or four times. The witness then went into the house, but she could not persuade either her father, mother, or a gentleman who lodged with them, that any accident had befallen her brother. She went out alone, and found him quite dead. She ran for assistance to a neighbour's house, and in returning from it she saw the prisoner, Mr. Locke, Mr. Stowe, and the watchman.

Her brother was in his usual working-dress, as described by the first witness in his cross-examination. The witness added, that she had heard great talk of a ghost stalking up and down the neighbourhood, all in white, with *horns* and *glass eyes*, but she did not know that any body had ever watched in order to discover and detect the impostor.

Mr. Flower, a surgeon at Hammersmith, saw the body the day following the accident; and on the 6th of January examined it by order of Mr. Hodgson, the coroner. He found that the deceased had received a gun-shot wound on the left lower jaw, with small shot, as he thought, No. 4, which penetrated to the vertebra of the neck, and injured the spinal marrow, which is a continuation of the brain. The face of the deceased was black, and that blackness was occasioned by the discharge of powder from a gun. The wound in the jaw was doubtless the cause of Milwood's death. He

knew Smith; he was not a vindictive, but, on the contrary, a remarkably mild man.

A constable then stated that the prisoner had surrendered to him, and that he had been two days in his custody.

This finished the case for the prosecution.

The prisoner, having been called upon for his defence, said he would leave it to his counsel; but, on being told that they could not speak on his behalf, being only allowed to examine his witnesses, he stated that he went out with no bad design or intention; and that, when the unfortunate accident happened, he knew not what he did. He solemnly declared his innocence, and that he had no intention or idea of taking the life of any one.

The prisoner's counsel then called Mrs. Fullbrook, mother-in-law to the deceased: she said that, on the Saturday evening before his death, he told her that two ladies and a gentleman had taken fright at him, as he was coming down the Terrace, thinking he was the ghost. He told them he was no more a ghost than any of them, and asked the gentleman if he wished for a punch in the head. The witness advised the deceased in future to put on a great coat, in order that he might not encounter any danger.

Thomas Groom was called, as it would appear, to prove that some supernatural being actually visited the town of Hammersmith. He said he was servant to Mr. Burgess, a brewer, and that as he and a fellow-servant were going through the churchyard, one night, something, which he did not see, caught hold of him by the throat.

A number of witnesses were then called to the prisoner's character, which they described as mild and gentle in the extreme.

One of these witnesses said he had known the prisoner for fifteen years; and, during that period, his life had been marked by singular acts of humanity and benevolence.

The Lord Chief Baron then proceeded to address the jury. His lordship observed, that nothing which had been stated, or had appeared in this case, could possibly change the nature of the offence from murder. Although malice was necessary to make out the crime of murder, yet it was not necessary, according to law, to prove that the prisoner had known the deceased, or had cherished any malice, or, as was vulgarly called, spite against him. If a man should fire into the hall where he was now sitting, and kill any body at random, such a deed was murder. On the same principle, if a person was killed by design, without any authority, but from a supposition that the person ought to be killed, such an act was also murder, unless the killing was accidental.

If a man went out armed on the highway, intending to shoot robbers, and should decide in his own mind that an individual whom he might see was a robber, and should kill the man, who actually was not a robber, such an act would be held as murder.

However disgusted the jury might feel in their own minds with the abominable person guilty of the misdemeanour of terrifying the neighbourhood, still the prisoner had no right to construe such misdemeanour into a capital offence, or to conclude that a man dressed in white was a ghost. It was his own opinion, and was confirmed by those of his learned brethren on the bench, that if the facts stated in evidence were credible, the prisoner had committed murder. In this case there was a deliberate carrying out a

loaded gun, which the prisoner concluded he was entitled to fire, but which he really was not; and he did fire it with a rashness which the law does not excuse. In all the circumstances of the case, no man is allowed to kill another rashly.

His lordship here recapitulated the evidence, and commented on the defence made by the prisoner, which he remarked was singular. The prisoner had gone out persuaded that he was to meet a man, and yet when he did encounter him, he was so terrified as to be unconscious of what he did.

The prisoner had received an excellent character; and here his lordship explained the reason why no witness but one could speak to his character farther than two years. The prisoner was an excise-officer, and, as such, liable to be removed and shifted from one situation to another, so that it was a great chance if he remained long in one place.

His lordship was afraid that his good character could not avail, in point of law, in that place, whatever effect it might have in another quarter, which did not become him to conjecture.

The jury retired for above an hour, and returned a verdict 'Guilty of Manslaughter.'

On hearing this verdict, it was stated by the bench, that such a judgment could not be received in this case; for it ought either to be a verdict of *murder*, or of *acquittal*. If the jury believed the facts, there was no extenuation that could be admitted; for supposing that the unfortunate man was the individual really meant to have been shot, the prisoner would have been guilty of murder. Even with respect to civil processes; if an officer of justice uses a deadly weapon, it is murder, if he occasions death by

it even although he had a right to apprehend the person he had so killed.

Mr. Justice Rooke.—‘The court have no hesitation whatever, with regard to the law, and, therefore, the verdict must be—‘Guilty of Murder,’ or ‘A total acquittal from want of evidence.’

Mr. Justice Lawrence.—‘You have heard the opinion of the whole Court is settled as to the law on this point, it is therefore unnecessary for me to state mine in particular. I perfectly agree with the learned judge who stated the law in so clear and able a manner. If an officer kills a person whom he had a right to apprehend, upon suspicion of felony, he is guilty of murder, except in particular cases. Now this man was not even attempting to run away, supposing it had been the very person who was guilty of the misdemeanour; there was, therefore, no excuse for killing him. But though it had been the person who was alarming the neighbourhood, the prisoner had no right to kill him, even if he should attempt an escape, for the crime is only a misdemeanour. Upon every point of view, this case is, in the eye of the law, a murder, if it be proved by the facts. Whether it has or not is for you to determine, and return your verdict accordingly. The law has been thus stated by Justice Foster, and all the most eminent judges.’

Recorder.—‘I perfectly agree with the learned judges who have spoken. Gentlemen, consider your verdict again.’

The jury then turned round, and, after a short consultation, returned their verdict ‘Guilty.’

Lord Chief Baron.—‘The ease, gentlemen, shall be reported to his majesty immediately.’

The Recorder then passed sen-

tence of death on the prisoner in the usual form; which was, that he should be executed on Monday next, and his body given to the surgeons to be dissected.

The prisoner, who was dressed in a suit of black clothes, was then twenty-nine years of age, a short but well-made man, with dark hair and eyebrows; and the pallid hue of his countenance, during the whole trial, together with the signs of contrition which he exhibited, commanded the sympathy of every spectator.

Several of the prisoner's relations were present, and apparently in great distress.

The sessions-house was crowded in every part by nine o'clock; and the yard was filled with an anxious multitude, all making inquiry, and interested in the fate of the prisoner; who, affected by shame and remorse, was now and then so seriously agitated, that he could with difficulty support himself. When called upon for his defence, his voice faltered, inasmuch that it was not without a considerable effort he could articulate a word. On the retiring of the jury to reflect on his case, and the return of the verdict, he betrayed such apprehensions of real danger, as to deprive him of the power of sustaining himself without the friendly aid of a bystander.

When the jury returned, he made a sort of desperate effort—stood up, and endeavoured to attend to the verdict given. When the dreadful word ‘Guilty!’ was pronounced, he sunk into a state of stupefaction exceeding despair. He at last retired, supported by the servants of Mr. Kirby.

The Lord Chief Baron having told the jury, after they had given their verdict, that he would immediately report the case to his ma-

jesty, was so speedy in this humane office, that a 'respite during pleasure' arrived at the Old Bailey, before seven o'clock, and on the 25th he received a pardon, on condition of being imprisoned one year.

ROBERT ASLETT,

CONDEMNED TO DEATH FOR EMBEZZLING PUBLIC PROPERTY.

MR. ASLETT had been in the employ of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England for about twenty-five years, and had conducted himself faithfully and meritoriously until he had been induced, unfortunately, to speculate in the funds; and, in dereliction to that duty and fidelity which he owed to his employers, had subtracted immense sums from the property trusted to his care.

In the year 1799, having gone through the necessary and regular gradations, he was appointed one of the cashiers. It was a part of the business of the Bank to purchase Exchequer bills, to supply the exigencies of government; the purchases were entrusted to the care of a very meritorious and excellent officer (Mr. A. Newland); but on account of that gentleman's growing infirmities, having been fifty-eight years in the service of the Bank, the management was left wholly under the care of Mr. Aslett. These purchases were made of Mr. Goldsmid, by the means of Mr. Templeman, the broker. It was usual to make out a bill in the name of the person from whom they were purchased, which was delivered to Mr. Aslett, to examine and enter them in what is called the Bought-book, and then gave orders to the cashiers to reimburse the broker. The bills were afterwards deposited in a strong chest, kept in Mr. Newland's room, and when they had increased in bulk by subsequent purchases, they were selected by Mr. Aslett, tied up in large bundles, and carried to the room in which

the directors held their meetings, accompanied by one of the clerks, with the original book of entry, when the directors in waiting received the envelope, and deposited them in the strong iron chest, which had three keys, and to which none but the directors had access; nor could they be brought forth until the course of payment, unless by consent of at least two of the directors. Therefore it was not possible for them to find their way into the hands of the public or the money market, unless embezzled for that purpose. On the 26th of February, 1803, Mr. Aslett, according to the practice, made up three envelopes of Exchequer Bills, of one thousand pounds each bill; the first containing bills to the amount of one hundred thousand pounds; the second, two hundred thousand pounds; and the third, four hundred thousand pounds; making, in the whole, seven hundred thousand pounds: these were, or in fact ought to have been, carried into the parlour, and were signed as being received by two of the directors, Messrs. Puget and Smith; one of these bundles, namely, that containing the two hundred thousand pounds' worth of bills, was withdrawn.

The confidence which the Governor and Company placed in Mr. Aslett had enabled him to conceal the transaction from the 26th of February to the 9th of April; and it was next to an impossibility that it should be discovered, as no period of payment had arrived; but on that day, in consequence of an applica-

tion made by Mr. Bish, the fraud was detected. On the 16th of March, Mr. Aslett went to that gentleman, and requested he would purchase for him fifty thousand pounds consols, to which request no objection was made, provided he deposited the requisite securities. The fluctuation of the market at that time was six per cent. and Aslett, in order to cover any deficit, deposited with Mr. Bish three Exchequer bills, Nos. 341, 1,060, 2,694, and which he knew had been previously deposited in the Bank. From some circumstances, and from his general knowledge of the business of the funds, Mr. Bish suspected all was not right, and accordingly went to the Bank, where an investigation took place, at which Mr. B. Watson, one of the directors, was present. Mr. Newland was sent for, and asked whether any of the Exchequer bills could, by possibility, get into the market again from the Bank? To which he answered in the negative, observing they were a dormant security. The same question was put to Mr. Aslett, and the same answer given by him. It was found necessary to tell him that the bills in question, which could be proved to have been in the Bank, had found their way into the money-market; and at the same time it was observed, that he had made purchases, to a large amount, of stock, with the bills: this was acknowledged by him; but he said he had done so for a friend, named Hosier, residing at the west end of the town; and he declared they were not Bank property, nor to be found in the Bought-book. The directors, however, were not satisfied on this point, and he was immediately secured. His trial was, however, postponed to July, as it occurred to those employed in the prosecution

that the bills in question had been issued with an informality in them, not having the signature of the Auditor of the Exchequer. They were aware of the objections that might be taken, and Parliament not then being sitting, it was thought advisable to postpone the trial, lest it might create an alarm in the money-market. The fact was no sooner known, than a bill was brought into parliament for remedying those defects, and to render the bills valid.

On Friday, July 8, 1804, Mr. Aslett's trial commenced. Mr. Garrow, on the part of the prosecution, stated the facts above mentioned; but, when about to call witnesses to give evidence, Mr. Erskine insisted that the Exchequer Bills, which the prisoner stood charged with having stolen, were not good bills till the act of parliament had made them so; and consequently that they were pieces of waste paper when stolen. The Chief Baron Macdonald, Mr. Justice Rooke, and Mr. Justice Lawrence concurred, that the present indictment could not be maintained; and the jury were accordingly desired to acquit the prisoner. He was afterwards tried on nine other indictments, the evidence being the same, Mr. Garrow having applied to the Court to detain him in custody, it being, he said, the intention of the Bank Directors to issue a civil process against him for one hundred thousand pounds, and upwards, the monies paid for the bills which he had converted to his own use.

Mr. Kirby at first hesitated to receive the prisoner, understanding he was acquitted; but was peremptorily desired by the Court to take him back.

Mr. Aslett was dressed in a lightish brown coat, his hair being full powdered. He appeared quite collected,

but held his head down, never once looking up, except when the application was made to keep him in custody, when he expressed symptoms of great surprise, and looked very stedfastly at the Court.

On Saturday, September 17, at a quarter before ten o'clock, Mr. Aslett was again brought to the bar of the Old Bailey, before Baron Chambre and Mr. Justice Le Blanc. The prisoner was attended by four or five gentlemen, who continued in the Dock during the whole time of the trial.

Three indictments were read, with two counts in each, charging the prisoner with secreting and embezzling three notes. The first indictment was, for that he, being an officer or servant of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, had secreted and embezzled a certain piece of paper, partly written and partly printed, being No. 835, purporting to be of the value of five hundred pounds; the second, 2,694, for one thousand pounds; and the third, No. 6,061, for one thousand pounds. One count in each stated them as securities, and the other as effects belonging to the said Governor and Company. There were other counts, diversifying the statement of the property in other forms, such as were deemed to come within the law.

A jury was after some time empannelled, Mr. Aslett's counsel having challenged fifteen, eleven having been absent, and one who was summoned having died on Friday morning.

Mr. Garrow stated the case at a considerable length to the jury. There was one point, to which he called particular attention, and that was that the gentleman had been tried before, and acquitted of the charge of purloining Exchequer Bills to an immense amount; as it

was then proved to the satisfaction of the learned judges on the bench, for whom he entertained the highest respect, that they were not actually such as might in law be termed Exchequer Bills, in consequence of their not having been signed as the act directs. The present indictments, however, stated them as papers *purporting* to be Exchequer Bills, which they evidently were on the face of them, and subdivided the charge, by stating them one time as securities, and at another time as effects belonging to the company. This he had no doubt that the jury would be convinced of upon hearing them read; and it was an important duty which the Bank owed to the public, that they should not suffer so great a delinquent to escape the justice of the country in consequence of any want of exertion on their part.

Mr. Erskine, in behalf of the prisoner, delivered a most animated address to the jury. He stated, that the former indictments against the gentleman at the bar had been objected to on grounds which were approved of by the learned judges who then sat upon the bench.—He was now brought up again to be tried for exactly the same offence, though differently stated; and he thought that the present proceeding was liable to the same objections which were then admitted to be valid, but he should oppose it on much stronger grounds. He then stated the exception which had been taken to the legality of Mr. Jennings's signature, in the place of that of Lord Grenville, as auditor of the exchequer. That the same illegality in a criminal sense existed with respect to all bills issued at that time from the exchequer was manifest from the circumstance of the legislature having found it necessary to pass an act expressly

for the purpose of making them legal in a civil view; and that act had a most humane proviso, which declared, in plain terms, that the act was to be considered to make the exchequer bills issued at that time valid only in a civil view, and was not to have any retrospective view to any criminal offence committed before the passing of that act. He then read the proviso in the act. The learned gentleman stated, that as securities, they were nothing in law, for a person, at the time of their being passed, could not recover at law; he was not therefore legally secured by the possession of such bills. As to the idea of calling them effects, he considered that, though the legislature had thought proper to pass an act for the protection of that company above all others, by passing what is generally termed the Bank Act, in consequence of the immense magnitude of that concern, yet effects must obviously mean the same, as in a case of petty larceny would be considered as effects, that is something intrinsically valuable in themselves, without taking in or mixing in the mind, the idea of their professed or avowed value. If that was not the case, a clerk who took away a loose half-sheet of paper lying about the office, or a pen that was worn to the stump, came within the limits of the act, and would be liable to a prosecution for felony. If he did not know the highly respectable character which that Company supported, and the very great ability by which they were counselled, he should be induced to say that the prosecution of the gentleman at the bar a second time, for exactly the same offence of which he had been before acquitted by law, was vexatious; and he should declare, not only as a lawyer, but as a man, that they

were rather inclined to be severe towards the prisoner, than that they should be thought in the least to relax from their duty, or from an idea of justice to the public. The articles stated in the indictments must either be really and *bonâ fide* Exchequer bills, or else they were securities; they were no effects in law; they were no more than pieces of waste paper, for the embezzlement of which he had never known a prosecution to be sustained at law. The generosity of government, or the justice of the country, could not at that time pay a single farthing for them; the strings of the national purse were only to be drawn by the consent of the legislature, and at that time there was no such consent obtained; the articles in the indictment were at that time nothing but so many pieces of waste, printed, and written paper, which had not been called into existence as any thing of valuable property, as any effects belonging to the Bank which had obtained the sanction of parliament; they had not been animated by the breath of the legislature. The learned gentleman then quoted several cases from the reports of the most eminent law-writers, stating that chattels or effects must be something valuable intrinsically in themselves; and said that it was his firm belief that the learned judges at present on the bench would deliver a charge similar in effect to that which had already been delivered by the learned judges sitting on that bench at the time of Mr. Aslett's former trial: he believed that they would find themselves in the same situation, and instruct the jury to find a verdict for the acquittal of that gentleman without hearing any evidence upon the case; as in his opinion it was not such as could be supported in law.

Mr. Serjeant Best followed on the same side. He also adverted to the passing of the act last session to make the Exchequer Bills then passed valid, and from thence inferred that it was an implied proof of the idea which the legislature entertained that they were otherwise of no value. He also read a clause in the Bank Act with respect to articles secreted or embezzled by any officer or servant of the Bank, which enumerated 'bullion, money, or other effects;' and contended that it was such an association of ideas as must naturally lead any man to consider the Company in which those words were found; the act must certainly mean other effects *ejusdem generis*.—If a person was to pay for base metal as gold, that payment was not sufficient to constitute its value, nor make it be considered as gold; he therefore considered that his client was entitled to acquittal, as nothing valuable had been taken, notwithstanding it might be asserted that the Bank had paid for them as such.

Mr. Garrow was rising to reply, when

Mr. Justice Le Blanc observed that he did not think that the present was that clear case upon which he could immediately decide. There might be found, perhaps, a difference in the definition of a case of larceny and that of felony. At present he thought it most advisable that the Court should proceed into a hearing of the evidence to be adduced, and reserve the disputed point of law for the opinion of all the judges.

Mr. Robert Best, secretary of the Bank, was called first in evidence. He stated that Mr. Aslett was engaged as a clerk in the Bank on the 19th of March, 1778; on the 19th of September, 1793, he was appointed assistant to Mr. Abraham

Newland; and on the 17th of January, 1799, he was raised to the situation of cashier to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.—Mr. Aslett had during the whole of that time conducted himself with the utmost integrity and respectability.

Mr. Abraham Newland, the principal cashier, deposed that Mr. Aslett or himself always signed the order for payment of the bought Exchequer bills: an entry was regularly made in the bought-book by the one or other of them; they were then given in to the directors in the parlour, where they were put into a strong closet, and could not possibly get out again into the market unless by fraud. It was frequently some weeks, he said, before they were delivered in by the cashiers, which was sometimes done by Mr. Aslett, and at other times by himself. On the 25th of February, the day stated in the indictment, Mr. Aslett had given the bills in. He also bore most honorable testimony to the good character of the prisoner, and stated the high estimation in which he was held by the directors.

Mr. Abraham Goldsmid swore that, on the 3d of December, 1802 his house had sold eighty-five thousand pounds, in Exchequer bills, to the Bank of England, and proved that Mr. Aslett's signature was subscribed to the order for payment.

Mr. Benjamin Kiddell generally made out the order for payment, and a bill of parcels to correspond; he then took them to Mr. Aslett to sign. He swore to Mr. Aslett's handwriting.

Several witnesses proved that various Exchequer bills outstanding in the market, had been bought up by the Bank, particularly those which were in the hands of Messrs.

Cole, Templeman and Co. to the amount of thirty-one thousand, nine hundred, and eighty-five pounds, two shillings, and two-pence, which were bought on the 11th of December, 1802, and the money paid for them by the Bank of England.

Mr. William Horton, a hosier, in Newgate Street, about the latter end of March, or beginning of April, had lent Mr. Aslett eleven thousand pounds, consols, for which he received a deposit of Exchequer bills, a list of which he delivered into court, and swore to its correctness. Among the numbers was one of those stated in the indictment.

Mr. Chambers, a merchant in Dove Court, St. Swithin's Lane, had received a deposit of ten thousand pounds on the 16th of March; sixteen thousand pounds on the 17th ditto; and seventeen thousand pounds on the 9th of April, all in Exchequer bills, to secure a loan of consols.

Mr. James Vansummer, a broker, had borrowed fifteen thousand pounds for the prisoner, of the houses of Messrs. Down and Co. and Messrs. Chambers and Co. for which he got a deposit of Exchequer bills, to the amount of thirty thousand pounds.

Mr. T. Bish, stock-broker and lottery-office keeper, deposed that the prisoner came to his house on the 15th of March, and desired him to purchase fifty thousand pounds consols for him. Mr. Bish endeavored to dissuade him from making such a hazardous enterprise, as it was very probable that the funds would be liable to very great fluctuation. Mr. Aslett, he said, then asked him how much would be the probable fluctuation; and the witness told him probably five or six per cent. Mr. Aslett persisted in his disposition to purchase, and deposited with the witness three

Exchequer bills, of one thousand pounds each. He bought the stock on account for the next opening, three times over; but from some suspicion arising in his mind as to the propriety of such bills being in the market, he waited on some of the directors, and communicated his suspicion. Upon this an inquiry was instituted, and Mr. Aslett was then taken into custody.

The numbers of the various bills were compared with the Bought-book; when it was found that they had been already bought in by the Bank, and that they were entered as delivered on the 26th of February, in an envelope, which was endorsed as containing two hundred thousand pounds.

Mr. John Puget, a director, deposed that he and Mr. Smith, another director, attended in the parlour on the above day, for the purpose of receiving the bought-up bills. Mr. Aslett had that day delivered in four parcels, the first of which was to the amount of two hundred thousand pounds, of the supply of 1802. The parcel was supposed to be placed in the strong closet, immediately after the witness had signed the entry; but had it been really placed there, he did not suppose that they could possibly find their way into the market again, as that closet was never opened but in the presence of two directors, and had three locks.

Mr. Winthrop, the deputy-governor, stated the particulars of Mr. Bish's communication, and the circumstance of Mr. Aslett having been taxed with being concerned in the fraud. At first he hesitated; he then said that he had got them from a Mr. Hosier; which not proving satisfactory, he was committed by Mr. Alderman Watson. The bills were entered in the Bought-book as bought up.

Mr. Alderman Watson corroborated the statement of the last witness; and mentioned that, at the time of the private examination of Mr. Aslett, he had acquainted him that he need not answer any question that might tend to criminate himself.

Mr. Boddington, of the Cash-office, proved the circumstance of Mr. Aslett's desk having been broken open on the 11th of April, when it was found to contain an envelope, marked as two hundred thousand pounds, in bills, of the supply of 1802, and one hundred and nine bills, to the amount of sixteen thousand pounds, which were given to the directors then in the parlour.

Mr. Hase proved that the contents of the strong closet was two hundred thousand pounds less than in the Bought-book.

The prisoner being called on for his defence, said that he trusted entirely to his counsel.

Mr. Erskine observed to the Court that he had a host of witnesses to prodnce to the character of his client; but that on account of the honorable testimony which his learned friend, Mr. Garrow, and several of the principal witnesses, had given of the very high and respectable character which Mr. Aslett had supported for such a number of years up to the time mentioned in the indictment, he should think it unnecessary to take up the time of the Court, by hearing the evidence which he had it in his power to bring.

Mr. Justice Le Blanc delivered a most minute and able charge, going through the different evidence in the most clear and correct manner, and informing the jury that they were only for the present to consider whether the prisoner had been proved to have secreted or em-

bezzled the articles stated in the indictment. If they were of opinion that he had, they were bound to find the prisoner guilty. If there was any doubt upon their mind, whether he might not have obtained possession of them by committing a burglary, or in any other manner than that stated in the indictment, they would find him not guilty.

The jury consulted together for about five minutes, and then returned the prisoner Guilty.

The court was exceedingly crowded, and the trial lasted till six o'clock.

Mr. Aslett betrayed neither a symptom of fear nor levity, but seemed to pay the greatest attention to every thing that passed, and conducted himself with a becoming firmness throughout the whole of the trial. When the verdict was pronounced there was a great buzz in the court: Mr. Aslett waited for about two minutes, then bowed to the Court, and withdrew, accompanied by his friends.

February 16, 1804, Mr. Aslett was brought to the bar to receive his sentence, when Mr. Baron Hotham addressed him as follows:—

‘ Robert Aslett, you were tried and convicted in this court, in the September sessions, 1803, for embezzling effects belonging to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, you being an officer and servant of that Bank, and, as such, entrusted with their property. The indictment stated, in the first count, that you, being in the employment of the said Bank, and being entrusted with a certain paper, partly printed, and partly written, commonly called an Exchequer Bill, purporting to be for five hundred pounds, did feloniously secrete and embezzle the same, it being the property of the said

company, and remaining unpaid and unsatisfied to them, as holders thereof. The indictment then set forth two other bills, each for one thousand pounds, which you, as an officer and servant of the Governor and Company aforesaid, did also secrete, embezzle, and run away with. You have thus been charged in the indictment, with having feloniously secreted and embezzled property belonging to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, to the amount of two thousand, five hundred pounds, and that against the statute and king's peace. There were other counts in the indictment, which did not state the paper to be of any value; but showing that the Governor and Company had, on the credit and security of such pieces of paper, advanced a certain sum of money, which was then unpaid and unsatisfied to the Bank. Other counts again called these pieces of paper securities, instead of money or effects. It was argued by your counsel, that those bills were not valid or legal bills, having been signed by a person not properly authorized by Lord Grenville, though they had been issued as good, and paid as such. On this indictment you have been lawfully convicted by a jury of your countrymen, but judgment has been suspended till the opinion of the twelve judges of England was taken on this important case, in order to ascertain whether these bills were good, according to the statute 15 Geo. II. Eleven of these judges were of opinion that some of the objections, so ably argued by your counsel, should be sustained: they have since held various conferences, which produced various different opinions; and it is now my duty to communicate to you the result of their investigation. Several points were urged in your favour, such as,

supposing that the offence with which you have been charged was of such a description as to fall within the act of 15 Geo. II. c. 13. you stood acquitted by the statute passed in the reign of George III. which operated as a repeal of the former. It is, however, unnecessary for me now to enlarge upon this topic, or to state the reasons which occasioned all of the judges, ultimately, to be of a different opinion. I am authorized by them to say that they entertain no doubt upon the subject; and that they all concur in opinion that nothing is contained in the second act which can operate as a repeal of the first act. The only question which then remained for their consideration was, whether or not these bills fell within the meaning of the statute 15 Geo. II. and could be denominated effects according to that act. On this point, indeed, the judges were not unanimous, but the majority are of opinion that they are effects and securities within the true meaning of the act. In order to make the matter more intelligible, I shall read to you the clause of that act to which I particularly allude:—

‘Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any officer or servant of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, be entrusted with any note, bill, dividend, warrant, bond, deed, or other security or effects, belonging to the said company, or having any such security from any other person lodged with the said company, shall secrete, embezzle, or run away with any such note, &c. every officer or servant so offending shall suffer,’ as the act directs. The great object of the legislature was to add security and administer protection to the Bank of England. The immense national concerns with which it was and still is entrusted, called

upon the legislature for particular provisions in its favour. The principles of legislation must now be applied to the object then under contemplation; and the view we take of any code of laws must be more comprehensive when it concerns so materially such a large incorporated body, than when it only relates to private individuals. Considering this law, then, in the enlarged and liberal view on which it was framed by the legislature (at the same time that all the judges disclaim any wish to strain any part of it where it is so penal,) the recollection of the enormous weight of Exchequer Bills, in which the public were so deeply and materially concerned, cannot fail to occur to every mind. That these bills had become the fair and valuable property of the Bank was allowed on all hands; but still it was argued that they were not such securities as fell within the true meaning of the act of parliament, because they were not of any positive or intrinsic value. Now, whatever shall be deposited with the Bank, was expressly guarded by the words of the act; and although the bills in question be of no descriptive value, yet they carry about them such a consequence at least as may make their preservation of the utmost importance to the Bank. In that view, therefore, they surely have their value. The very Exchequer bills which they would be, were the defects removed, the government of the country were called on to pay, in as much as they have been issued under the authority of parliament. They were given as valid bills, and the holders of them have as strong a claim, I will not say upon the honour only, but even upon the justice and equity of parliament, for the payment of them, as if they had been perfectly correct in every

particular, and in all their parts. They are at least valuable papers, whatever they may be called, and the holders of them have them as such, having paid for them the value which they respectively import. They are therefore to be included in the true meaning of the word 'securities,' which may be in the end available to any person who may be possessed of them. Nor are they less to be deemed included under the meaning of the word 'effects,' which is confined to no particular species of property, but may consist either of specie, or any other article whatever. It was this that the legislature had in view when the act was passed; for, be they effects, or securities, or both of them, they import value upon the face of them. The embezzling or secreting of such effects or securities, constituting part of the property of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, is not (by the act alluded to) made larceny, but it is created a felony, which does away the necessity of any value being ascertained. But it must be acknowledged that these bills of themselves are such a species of security, or effects, as no man would hesitate about giving the value which appears on the face of them. They are such effects or securities, that if a bankrupt had got value for them, he would be bound by law to account to his creditors for them, as a part of his just debt. An executor, who found such bills in the possession of his testator, would be bound to pay a tax for them to government, as making part of that property which might fall into his hands; and he would be liable to punishment were he to destroy them. But it was argued that the words were to be construed in a manner that they would not ascribe value to things which were perfectly

nugatory in themselves, as pieces of waste paper, &c. The judges, however, have not found themselves driven to that extreme length in construing the act of parliament, which they have so minutely considered. Their judgment only goes to the express words of the act itself, referring to such securities or effects only as are intrusted to the officers or servants of the Bank. These bills, therefore, being of such a nature, as that government were bound to correct all deficiencies or irregularities, and pay the amount to the Bank, who had purchased them for a valuable consideration, the majority of the judges are of opinion

that they are really the effects and securities of the Bank, falling under the construction of the act 15th Geo. II. and that their embezzlement by you, an officer and servant of that company, subjects you, in point of law, to conviction upon the indictment on which you was found guilty.'

On the Monday following, February 20, 1804, this unfortunate man received sentence of death. A report of his case was not made to the king by the recorder till November 18th, when he was respited during his majesty's pleasure; and, after remaining many years in Newgate, was allowed to transport himself.



Mitchell cutting his Daughter's Throat.

SAMUEL WILD MITCHELL.

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS INFANT DAUGHTER.

In pity to the memory of this wretched old man, we are inclined to hope that a sudden fit of frenzy

alone hurried him to the commission of this most unnatural, horrid, and cruel deed, On the very day be-

fore he murdered his daughter, a separation had taken place between him and his wife; and the child, Sally, went that night to the lodgings which her mother had taken for herself. On the next morning the little innocent returned, and was employed in quilling (*i. e.* putting silk on a shuttle for her father to weave with, he being a weaver), when the inhuman parent took a razor, and cut the child's throat from one ear to the other: the wound was four inches in length, and two in depth. He then left the house, confessed his guilt to an acquaintance, and wandered about the streets till evening, when he found his way to his son-in-law's house, and was there apprehended. The officers went to his room, where the razor was found open, and covered with blood, within four or five feet of the unfortunate deceased. The prisoner was taken before a magistrate, and voluntarily confessed the whole of this horrid transaction.

His trial came on at the Sessions House in the Old Bailey, January 11, 1805, before Sir Archibald Macdonald, Knight, Lord Chief Baron. The appearance of the prisoner, when brought to the bar, was wretched in the extreme: his hair was grey, and his head was covered with an old miserable night-cap.

William Godby deposed that he had been married to a daughter of the prisoner for more than eight years; that the prisoner lived, on the 18th of December, 1804, in Wheeler Street, Spitalfields; that he was a married man, and lodged in the top room of the house; his wife, and his child, Sally, the deceased, had lived with him, but he and his wife had been separated the day before this horrid transaction. The prisoner at the bar was a weaver, and Sally, the deceased,

used to be employed in winding quills for her father. He saw the prisoner at nine o'clock in the morning of this transaction, and did not see him again on that day till about ten at night: he saw the prisoner at the house where he, the witness, lodged, and he told him he should not come into his room. About half past twelve on the same day, after he had been to the warehouse with his work, he went up to see him; and, when he came into his room, he saw the child, Sally, lying in her blood, but did not notice the wound, he was so alarmed: he went down to the room under the prisoner's, and told Mrs. Nicholls, who lived in that room; he then went away: he had some of his master's property about him, and that he carried home: he returned a second time, and went into the room again, and saw Mr. Kennedy, the officer, there.

Mrs. Nicholls said that she lived in the room immediately under the prisoner; that she was at home on the 18th of December, and said that the prisoner's wife had been with him that morning; that she had a light of her (to light his fire) before eleven o'clock; and that she heard Sally, the deceased, go up stairs, on her return from Spitalfields' charity-school, about twelve o'clock; she knew it was the little girl by the step, and that when she got into her father's room, she heard the quill-wheel go, and the prisoner's loom make a noise, which it usually did when he was weaving; shortly after she heard a woman go down stairs, and after that a man's foot, but did not see either of them; that the prisoner had previously called out to her, a little before twelve, to know what o'clock it was; and that Godby, the former witness, came to her in about half an hour after she heard the quill-wheel go, and the

noise of the prisoner's loom when he was weaving: that she went up with him, and saw Sally, the deceased, lying in her gore of blood; that she saw nothing of the wound, was afraid of going into the room, and called out, to the landlord, 'Murder!' upon which he came up.

William Byron deposed that he was, on the 18th of December, the landlord of the house, No. 24, Wheeler Street, but had since removed, and that the prisoner, at that time, lodged in the garret. That, on the alarm of murder, he went up stairs, and took the child up by the waist, when her head fell back, and the gash appeared to him; he then gave the alarm, that her throat was cut, and desired them to go for a surgeon, and for her father, who he supposed was at the Elder Tree public house, just by: he then looked round the room, to see if he could find any instrument, but could not. He observed the quill-wheel was bloody, and the track of blood about the room.

Edward Dellafour, a journeyman broad-silk weaver, saw the prisoner on the 18th, between the hours of twelve and one, at his apartments, No. 26, Skinner Street, Shoreditch. He was at work, and the prisoner knocked at his door, upon which he let him in. The prisoner asked him to go down stairs with him, as he had something particular to communicate. He refused to leave his work, unless he would tell him his business; the prisoner then said something had happened that day which never had happened before, and that he should go to Newgate. Seeing him in a violent perturbation of mind, he reluctantly left his work; the prisoner having gone down stairs, and, anxious to know the cause of it, he followed, and found him at the street door; they went about fifty yards from the wit-

ness's door; the prisoner then, with a countenance full of grief, turned round to him, and said, 'Ned, I shall die!' The witness asked him what had happened, or what was the matter with him; the prisoner replied, 'I have killed my Sally.' The witness asked him if the child was dead; the prisoner said 'Yes, I have cut her head half off.' It was a very severe morning, and the prisoner was shivering with cold; he desired the witness to go with him into a public house, that he might warm himself, and have something to drink; they went into the first public house they came to, which was the Cock and Magpie, in Worship Street, and had a pot of beer; the prisoner called for it, and a pipe of tobacco. There were three men and a woman there, entire strangers to the witness. The prisoner then said to the witness in the tap-room, 'Sit down, I have something to say to you.' Seeing the strangers in the room, the witness thought it imprudent to speak before them, and desired the prisoner not to say it there: in about a quarter of an hour they went out. The witness asked the prisoner where he was going, and what he meant to do with himself. He said he was going to Shadwell to see two friends of his who were rope-makers, who would, when he was in prison, allow him a shilling or two: he then asked when the sessions would begin; the witness told him; he said he would give himself up to justice, and suffer, with this remark—'It would make no odds to him if they cut him in a thousand pieces, for that when he went hundreds would go at the same minute.' The witness told him he should not have killed his child. The prisoner looked him in the face, and said, 'I know that—do not you retort on me now it is done.' The witness accompanied

him as far as Whitechapel Church, then shook him by the hand, and saw him no more till at the office; the witness said the magistrate sent for him, and he gave the same account at that time as now. When in the public house he observed a small quantity of blood on one of his hands.

Thomas Grice, a watchman, of Bethnal Green, apprehended the prisoner, who said he was the man that was guilty of the murder, and resigned himself up.

James Kennedy, an officer of Worship Street, received information of the murder about one o'clock in the afternoon, and went with Bishop into the prisoner's room, and there saw the deceased lying with her head towards the door, with no cap on, and her throat cut quite through the windpipe; she had done bleeding when the witness saw her, but the blood lying on the floor was warm. On the block of the quill-wheel there was a quantity of blood, and a track of blood from the wheel to where the body lay. Near the quill-wheel there was a low stool, and at the side of it he found a razor open. It was covered with fresh blood at that time. [This he produced in court, and a cap of the deceased, stained with blood, that had fallen from her head.] About twelve at night they received information that he was in Spital-fields' watch-house. Armstrong and he went there, and saw the prisoner sitting by the watch-house fire. He turned his head round, and said, 'Kennedy, I have given you much trouble to-day in searching after me.' Armstrong said to him, 'What do you mean by that? Is your name Mitchell?' He said it was. Armstrong again asked him did he know he was charged with murdering his own daughter; and said he had found a cap and a razor in his

room. The prisoner then answered, with that razor he had often shaved himself, and with that razor he committed the horrid deed.

Joseph Moser, Esq. the magistrate of Worship Street office, stated that the prisoner was brought before him to be examined on Wednesday, the 19th of December: he took down the confession of the prisoner in writing, telling him the consequences in every point of view, and the use that would be made of it after he had signed it: he repeated it over to him several times, said it was true what he had signed, and signed it in the magistrate's presence.

The prisoner's examination was as follows:—

' Public Office, Worship Street.

' The voluntary confession of Samuel Mitchell, weaver, for the wilful murder of his child, aged nine years, taken by Joseph Moser, Esq. December 19, 1804.

' I, Samuel Wild Mitchell, weaver, late of the parish of Christ Church, Middlesex, now standing at the bar of the public office, Worship Street, being fully apprized of the nature of my situation by the magistrate, and through him made perfectly sensible of the nature of this acknowledgment, do make this free and unbiassed confession, which is taken by my own desire:—That I had a daughter named Sally, and my wife had a daughter named Elizabeth, who at one time did live with me, but whom I afterwards took to my apartment, where I instructed her in the art of weaving, and we lived all together: this said daughter of my wife's caused some uneasiness, as I thought; and I thought my wife was more indulgent to her faults, and favoured her more than she ought, which was the reason of our separation on the 17th

of December last ; my wife also took with her Sarah Mitchell, whom I loved with the most ardent affection, which vexed me a great deal, as I saw there would be a continual dispute. I could not bear the little girl coming to see me, as coming on a visit. I resolved that neither my wife nor me should possess her. I seized the moment of the mother going away ; the child was sitting by the fire, winding quills. I took the razor from the drawer ; my affection made me almost lay it down again, but my resolution overcame that. I turned round, and cut her throat. I was too resolute to make a faint attempt ; the child was dead in a moment ; she neither made noise nor resistance. When I had done the deed, the child fell. As I went out I saw her blood ; then I ran down stairs. After this act was done to my child, Sarah Mitchell, I went to a man named Bell, where I had lived, and left word for him to run and secure my master's work ; then I went to Mr. Dellafour, and my friends at Wapping. This acknowledgment is free, and made by my own desire.

(Signed)

'SAMUEL WILD MITCHELL.

'JOSEPH MOSER.'

'Dec. 19, 1804.'

The prisoner having been now called on for his defence, the wretched man addressed the Court and jury in a manner above his rank or appearance. His defence was nearly as follows :—

'My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury,—I stand in this place to-day, an awful spectacle of guilt and disgrace ; but I will endeavour to be as collected in my reason as possible, though at certain times and seasons I am particularly under heavy pressure of mind, which my wife well knows, and was well aware of : that I have committed the

horrid deed laid to my charge I have no wish to deny, any more than I have to avoid the dreadful punishment that awaits my guilt ; to that I am resigned ; nor was it my wish from the unfortunate moment of my crime to evade justice ; but that I committed the deed maliciously against my poor child, who was the victim of my fatal passion, I solemnly deny. Malice I had none. I declare in the presence of God, before whom I stand, and make this declaration, and before whose awful tribunal I must shortly appear, instead of bearing to her malice, I loved her most tenderly. I had kind love to the child, and wished her not to be from me ; and to that love, strange and perverse as it may seem, is owing chiefly the sad cause that brings me here this day. I am married to a second wife, by whom this child was my only daughter ; we had long known each other before our marriage, when I was in better days, and when she and I were the wife and husband of others. I thought I could be happy with her ; but I found her temper incompatible with my happiness or her own. I found the friends and the family with which she was connected thought her marriage with me degrading to her. Disputes and controversy, for ten years, frequently took place between us ; in which, unhappily, both were in fault, too much so ; those disputes were often carried to a pitch of fury (and may this sad spectacle that I now stand be a warning to others, that if they meet with double families to have more love to their duty) ; and what tended still more to exasperate me and aggravate our dissensions was, that those she called her friends always sided with her in every thing, whether right or wrong ; and many of them, I am sorry to say,

who were strenuous supporters of religious principles, were always more ready to lend a hand to the creating of mischief than to the promotion of charity and peace:—May the Lord forgive them, and take me to himself! Our disputes at last ended in a mutual agreement to separate, and the child I so tenderly loved was to go with her mother: this my unhappy temper and feeling could not bear, which led me to the fatal resolution that neither she nor I should have the child, by committing the horrid deed, by putting an end to her life in the manner I have done! I pray God Almighty to forgive me, and to direct you in your decision upon me this day; and though here I stand an object of sin and misery, yet I hope my unhappy fate will prove an awful example to those who form second marriages, with children on both sides, against giving way to intemperate disputes, that may lead them, as they have done me, to acts of desperation and vengeance, beyond the control of reason or reflection. If my wife was present, she could vouch and prove that it was impossible I could ever have deliberately executed such an act. She could testify that my disposition was not cruel; and that, when I have been the most resolute to good purposes, unfortunately, under agitations of mind or provocations of temper, such has been my weakness, I am not always the same man: and, under such circumstances, I have very frequently been led into excesses of frenzy, which, in cool moments, have astonished me. Once, in particular, urged by distress, when I had no work, I applied for relief at my parish workhouse. I had come too late in the day, when, wound up by disappointment to madness, I broke as many windows as cost the parish four pounds for the repair; and

yet the parish officers, though they might have punished me, did not, knowing that my act was the result of a mind deranged.—May the Lord forgive me, and take me to himself! I must die a spectacle of sin and horror!

The learned judge observed to the jury, 'That the fact of a person's being overcome by any sudden paroxysm of passion to commit a deed of so flagitious a nature operated as no justification of the crime. If God afflicted any man with a temporary or occasional want of reason, that was a different question. There, from the mere occasional suspension of the reasoning faculties, the crime might have been committed; but such could by no means be compared to the case where the dereliction of the reasoning faculties had been occasioned, either by the contemplation of a circumstance, by which alone the mind was affected, or by which, after its completion, the mind could be supposed capable of being agitated. Here a strange mixture of affection was discernible amidst the cruelty which had prompted the perpetration of the deed; but he could see nothing in the case to induce him to point out to the jury any distinction between this case and the various other cases of a similar kind which presented themselves.'

After the Lord Chief Baron had made his remarks, the prisoner requested permission to speak again, which was granted immediately by the Court.

'There is one single point I have to say, which my wife could attest, if she was here, as she was well acquainted with my misery, as well as my mother's, who would frequently go into the same way; she was a very sensible woman; she would frequently ask me to cut her hair, for, unless her hair was kept

out in a very particular close manner, her weakness was upon her. So it has been with me.'

The jury having found him guilty, the prisoner was asked what he had to say for himself, why sentence of death should not be passed according to law? The prisoner distinctly replied, 'I have nothing to say.'

The awful sentence, that he was to be hanged the succeeding Monday, and his body afterwards dissected and anatomized, was immediately pronounced by the recorder; which the prisoner heard without any visible emotion. The court was crowded in almost every part, and particularly with ladies; and not only the women, but even the jury, the counsel, and nearly all present, were melted into tears. During the whole trial the prisoner appeared calm, but not insensible. He was very attentive to the evidence, and appeared frequently to utter a low ejaculation.

On the morning after his trial, this unhappy man expressed a desire to see his wife, that they might exchange forgiveness. The day following (Sunday) she came to visit him in Newgate, but was so ill that she was obliged to be brought in a hackney-coach, supported between two friends. As soon as the distressing interview was over, he applied himself devoutly to prayer, in which he continued nearly the whole of the day. On that day he was extremely solicitous to obtain Dr. Ford's promise to publish to the world that he died in the faith of the Church of England; as it had been generally understood that he belonged to the sect denominated Methodists. At half past six o'clock Mitchell's cell was unlocked, and the Ordinary attended him to the chapel to prayers; which being concluded, he returned to the Press-yard, and there walked for some time, holding two friends by the

arms; meanwhile his mind was occupied with his unhappy situation: he begged of all around him to pray with him. He first put up a prayer to Heaven for his own soul; next invoked a blessing on his wife, his two daughters by a former marriage, his son and daughter-in-law, in the most pathetic manner. The unhappy man blessed the memory of his murdered child, and trusted the sacrifice he was about to make would, in some degree, expiate his crime in Heaven, which he did not despair to see. Then, in language which would have done credit to the pulpit or the bar, he besought God to grant the king health and long life; and to endue his ministers with wisdom, that it might be applied to the happiness and prosperity of his country.

His last petition was to the sheriffs, to request that, after the surgeons had practised upon his body, his mangled remains might be given to his daughter, for burial; which request the sheriffs promised should be complied with.

On Monday, January the 14th, at a very early hour, every avenue leading to the Old Bailey was crowded by persons of various descriptions, all eager and anxious to witness the last moments of this unhappy man; indeed a greater crowd was seldom seen on any similar occasion.

Mitchell seemed to attend with much earnestness and fervour to the clergyman, and he was seen to clasp his hands together the instant the rope was fixed. After the drop fell he appeared to feel great pain, as he swung round twice, which was occasioned by the violence of the convulsive struggles he sustained.

He suffered before Newgate, January the 14th, 1805, and, after hanging the usual time, was taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for dissection.

ELIZABETH BARBER, *ALIAS* DALY,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF A CHELSEA PENSIONER.

HERE we have another shocking instance of female depravity. When a woman once pollutes the marriage bed, ruin, robbery, and even murder, generally mark her guilty course: so it certainly was in the case of Elizabeth Barber.

She was born in King Street, Deptford, of honest parents, of the name of Wright; but this, their child, evinced a wayward turn of mind. She married an honest waterman, named Barber, by whom she bore children. Barber's good conduct obtained him an excellent situation in the Custom House, while his wife was ruining him by her flagitious conduct. She was soon beyond all control. On one occasion she stabbed a man of the name of Thomas Seerles, for which she was imprisoned at Maidstone twelve calendar months; this, however, proved no check to her fury, for, having formed an intimacy with John Dennis Daly, a poor college-man at Greenwich, she murdered him on the 14th of October, 1804, by stabbing him in the breast with a knife, for which she was sent to Maidstone gaol.

The first witness called on her trial was Morgan Callaghan, a pensioner at Greenwich Hospital; he knew Daly and the prisoner, who lived together as man and wife. On the above-mentioned day the prisoner and her daughter went out; the witness staid at home with Daly in his room. When the prisoner came back they had a pint of gin together. He staid with them till a little after eight. While he was with them they had a dispute about two seven-shilling pieces, when she took a case-knife from the mantle-piece, and said she would have his life if he did not give the money to

her. When she took the knife, the witness said 'Good night, I shall not stay here any longer,' and went away. She had not at that time laid the knife down.

Anne Ward, the next witness, stated that she lived in the room under the prisoner's room at Greenwich; she heard a trampling over her head, as though of persons scuffling. This was half an hour before she heard the cry of 'Murder!' and she heard Mrs. Daly, the prisoner, say, 'I'll do it—I'll do it! I will not put up with it!' In about half an hour afterwards she heard the prisoner open the door, and cry out 'Murder!—bloody murder! my husband has stabbed himself, and is dead enough; will nobody come to my assistance?' The witness called the woman who lived underneath in the kitchen, and they both went up stairs with the prisoner. When they got up, they saw Daly sitting in a chair, with his head hanging on his left shoulder; the bosom of his shirt was open, and the wound on his breast was washed very clean. The prisoner was all the time smoking her pipe very unconcernedly, merely observing that he had stabbed himself. The witness, being frightened, went down stairs; Mrs. Barber, the prisoner, followed them down, and continued smoking at the bottom of the stairs.

Anne Broughten deposed that she knew Daly, and saw the prisoner on the 14th, in the evening, before the college bell had done ringing. She said 'she had done mischief, and mischief she was bound for.' The witness went up stairs with her, and, observing her hands all over blood, she asked her, 'What have you done?' She kept repeating, 'I

have done it!' She took the knife, and pointed it against her side, saying it was that which had done the mischief: she took the knife, and washed it and her hands. The witness sat down, and the prisoner kept walking about the room, but said very little.

A soldier in the West London militia deposed that as he was standing at a public house door at Greenwich, near the hospital, about nine in the evening, the prisoner came up to him, and said that her husband had stabbed himself, begging that he would go with her. He went with her; and, meeting two men at the bottom of the stairs, he desired that they would go with him, but they said they would have nothing to do in the matter. He went up into the prisoner's room, and saw the deceased sitting in a chair, his head hanging on his shoulder. He was dead, but not cold. He then undressed the dead man, and laid him out upon the bed, covering him with his own great coat. Soon afterwards two women came in, one of whom was Anne Broughton; they had some beer, and the prisoner all the time kept smoking her pipe. While they were sitting together, one of the women moved a dish with her elbow, and underneath were two seven-shilling pieces. She took them up, and said, 'What are these? they do not belong to me.' The prisoner immediately got up, and clasped her hands together: she walked to the bed, and, looking at the corpse, she exclaimed, 'What have I done? Through these pieces you and I have parted.' But she did not say, in the recollection of this witness, that she had inflicted the wound: on the contrary, she always said that the deceased had stabbed himself. The other woman, who came in with Broughton, gave the same testimony

as to the finding of the two seven-shilling pieces, which she said were wrapped up in a greasy bit of paper. When they were found, the prisoner showed some emotion, and went to the bedside, and exclaimed over the deceased, 'What have I done?'

Mr. Henry Irish, a surgeon at Greenwich, who examined the body, stated that the wound was inflicted above the sixth rib, the knife passing through the left lobe of the lungs, and penetrating for about an inch the apex of the heart. From the direction of the wound, it was not probable that the deceased inflicted it upon himself, for it would require great strength to effect it, and it was not in the direction that a man was likely to strike himself.

The prisoner, in her defence, persisted that the deceased had stabbed himself, and that he was occasionally slightly affected in his head. The learned judge called Callaghan again, to ask as to that assertion; but he said Daly was never violent unless he was drunk, but that he was not drunk on that day.

The learned judge summed up the evidence of the witnesses with great minuteness and precision; but as the witness, Anne Broughton, had varied considerably in the evidence she gave on the trial, from that which she gave before the coroner, he observed that he thought her testimony so doubtful, he would not advise the jury to attend to it at all.

The prisoner was found guilty, and, when the learned judge pronounced sentence of death, she begged her body of him for her children.

Her execution took place March 25, 1805, on Pennenden Heath; and, before leaving the prison, she made an ample confession of her guilt, and appeared very penitent. She was aged fifty-three



Perfect, disguised as a Clergyman, imposing on Lord Clarendon.

**HENRY PERFECT, ALIAS THE REV. MR. PAUL, REV.
MR. BENNET, &c.**

TRANSPORTED FOR FRAUD.

OF all the adepts in swindling brought forward in our pages, no one was a greater proficient than Henry Perfect. He had long carried on his depredations on the public without detection, under assumed names and characters; and his plans for duping the credulous were, perhaps, the most artful that ingenious wickedness could contrive. He was the son of a clergyman in Leicestershire, and formerly a lieutenant in the 69th regiment of foot. He was twice married, and had considerable property with each wife. Having been at length found out in his impositions, he was indicted on the statute of George II. for obtaining money, under false pretences, from the Earl of Clarendon. His trial, which occupied the

whole of the day, and excited universal attention, came on at Hicks's Hall, October 27, 1804. Mr. Gurney, in a very able and eloquent address, expatiated on the enormous guilt of the prisoner, who had personated the various and imaginary characters of the Rev. Mr. Paul, the Rev. Daniel Bennet, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Smith, &c. and who also had the art of varying his handwriting on every occasion, having kept notes in what hand every original letter had been written, with what kind of wafer or wax it was sealed, &c. He likewise kept his book of accounts as regular as any merchant in London.

The Earl of Clarendon having been at his seat near Wade's Mill, Hertfordshire, in the month of July,

1804, received a letter, which was read in evidence: it was signed 'H. Grant,' and stated in substance as follows:—

That the writer having heard from a lady, whose name she was not at liberty to reveal, the most charming character of his lordship for kindness and benevolence, she was induced to lay before him a statement of her distressed circumstances. The supposed lady then detailed her case, which was, that she was a native of Jamaica, of affluent and respectable family; that a young man, a Scotchman, and surgeon's mate to a man of war, was introduced at her father's house, who so far ingratiated himself with her father, that he seriously recommended him to her for her husband. She did not like him, because he was proud, and for ever vaunting of his high family; but, as her father's will had always been a law, she consented, on condition that he would live at Jamaica. They were accordingly married, and her father gave him one thousand pounds. He, however, soon became discontented with remaining at Jamaica, and continually importuned her to go with him to Scotland; and, as her friends joined in the solicitation, she consented. They had now been six months in England; but her husband always evaded going to Scotland, and left her whenever she spoke upon the subject. In short, he gamed, drank, and committed every excess; and within the last six weeks he died in a rapid decline, leaving her a widow, with two children, and hourly expecting to be delivered of a third. A lady had given her such a character of his lordship, that she was induced to implore his assistance. She was not twenty-three years of age, and never knew want till now; but she was left without a shilling to sup-

port herself and miserable children; she owed for her husband's funeral, and the apothecary's bill, for which she was afraid of being arrested. To avoid this, she was going to seek shelter with a poor widow in Essex; and, if his lordship would write to her at the post-office at Harlow, she would, if brought to bed in the mean while, get some safe person to go for the letter.

His lordship's answer evinced the most benevolent heart. He expressed his readiness to alleviate her distress, but justly observed that it ought to be authenticated by something more than the recital of a perfect stranger. He desired to know who the lady was who had recommended the application to him, and assured the writer she need not conceal her, for he considered it was doing him a great kindness to afford him the means of rendering service to the distressed. On the 14th of July his lordship received a note nearly as follows:—

Mrs. Smith, widow of Captain Smith, begged leave to inform Lord Clarendon that Mrs. Grant was brought to bed. It was she who recommended Mrs. Grant to Lord Clarendon; while her husband was living, she had frequently been with him on the recruiting service in Hertfordshire, where she had heard of the benevolent character of his lordship, and recommended Mrs. Grant to state her case to his lordship. She added, that Captain Smith, when in Jamaica, had frequently visited Mrs. Grant's father, who was a person of great wealth; that she had herself done more than she could afford for an amiable and unfortunate young woman. She had no doubt but that, as soon as she could receive an answer from Jamaica, Mrs. Grant's father would send her abundant relief; but till then she might, without the friend-

ship of some individual, be totally lost.

In consequence of this last note, his lordship returned an answer, and enclosed a draft for five guineas, offering at the same time to write to any person at Harlow who might be of assistance to her, particularly to any medical person. On July the 23d the supposed Mrs. Grant wrote again to his lordship, acknowledged the receipt of the five guineas, and stated that she had the offer of a passage home: she wished to see his lordship, to return her grateful thanks, &c. at the same time she was extremely delicate, lest their meeting should be misconstrued by a malignant world, and entreated that it might take place a little distance from town. The answer to this letter she begged might be addressed to A. B. C. at George's Coffee-house, to which place she would send for it. His lordship, at her request, wrote an answer, and appointed the Bell Inn, at Kilburn. Before, however, the arrival of the day of meeting, his lordship received another letter from Mrs. Grant, stating that ever since she came to town she had met nothing but trouble. Her last child had died, and she was seized with a milk-fever; that she had twelve shillings left of his lordship's, and Mrs. Smith's bounty, when she came to town; that she was afraid of coming further than Whitechapel, lest her creditors might arrest her, where she was miserably lodged in only one room: she concluded with a request of the loan of five pounds, to be enclosed in a note addressed to Mr. Paul, to be left at the Saracen's Head Inn, Aldgate. His lordship, in reply to this note, sent the money requested, and with great humanity condoled on her supposed situation. He then purposed to take her into the country, where

she might live quiet, and free of expense, until she heard from her friends. The next letter introduced another actor on the stage. It came from the Rev. H. Paul. Mr. Paul, at the desire of Mrs. Grant, (then said to be delirious,) acknowledged the receipt of the five pounds. He would write again, and say any thing Mrs. Grant might dictate in a lucid interval. He begged his answer might be left at the Chapter Coffee-house. His lordship accordingly wrote to the Rev. H. Paul, with particular inquiries after the state of Mrs. Grant, and proposed to send her proper medical assistance. The Rev. Mr. Paul replied to this letter, and stated the nature of Mrs. Grant's complaint, which was of a delicate nature. He then stated the high notions of Mrs. Grant, who would not condescend to see any person from his lordship in her present wretched state. She thought her situation such, that it was not delicate to admit any one to see her but those absolutely necessary. Mr. Paul therefore promised, he said, not to divulge her residence; but, in her lucid intervals, she expressed the utmost anxiety to be enabled to thank her benefactor.

This correspondence produced a meeting between the supposed Rev. H. Paul and his lordship, which took place at the Bell Inn, at Kilburn, on the 8th of August. The prisoner then introduced himself to his lordship as the Rev. Henry Paul. They entered into conversation on the subject of Mrs. Grant, when his lordship asked every question as to her situation, with a view to alleviate it. Mr. Paul said he had not seen her distinctly, for the curtains were closed round her; but the opium had had an effect which he had known it frequently to produce: it had given her eyes more than

usual brilliancy. With respect to her lodging, it was a very small room. The woman who attended her seemed a good sort of woman enough; and she was also attended by a surgeon or apothecary. As Mr. Paul seemed to be a man of respectability, his lordship asked him at what seminary he had been brought up: the prisoner replied he had been educated at Westminster and Oxford, and had the living of St. Kitt's, in Jamaica, worth about seven hundred pounds per annum; that he had property in Ireland, and was going to America on private business. To his lordship's question, how he was so fortunate to meet this young woman, he said it was by accident, that quite looked like a romance.—He was coming to town in the Ongar stage, in which were a young woman, two children, and a lady, all in mourning. He entered into conversation with her, and was surprised to find her the daughter of a person at whose house, in Jamaica, he had himself been frequently received with kindness. Although his business pressed, he determined to stay and afford her some assistance. He then stated that he had that day given her a two-pound note more, which his lordship, at this interview, returned (being the note on which this indictment was founded). He added, that Mrs. Grant's father was extremely affluent, and he should not wonder if he was to remit five hundred pounds at the first intelligence of his daughter's situation. His lordship added, that he expressed himself in the language of the purest truth and benevolence; and as he appeared a well-educated gentleman, who had seen the world, his lordship had no suspicion of any fraud.

After this interview a correspondence ensued between Mr. Paul and his lordship; the former informing

his lordship daily of the state of Mrs. Grant's health, accompanied with requests for linen, poultry, fruit, and wine, all of which were supplied by the bounty of his lordship.

At length Mrs. Grant was sufficiently recovered to write to his lordship; in which letter she remarked that, but for the kind assistance of the Rev. Mr. Paul, she should have been lost. And, although she was ordered by her medical attendant to keep herself perfectly quiet, yet she sat up in bed to write to his lordship, and anticipated the pleasure of meeting her benefactor. The last letter from Mr. Paul was dated August 13. He acknowledged the receipt of six pounds, two shillings, which had been expended for Mrs. Grant; and informed his lordship that the sheets which had been sent had, by some accident, been near brimstone, which affected Mrs. Grant very much; that her situation required fine old linen, if his lordship had any such. He apologized, if there were any inaccuracy in his letter, because he *had a head-ach, and some degree of fever.*

The farce now began to draw to its conclusion. His lordship received another letter from Mrs. Grant, dated Saturday, August 11, in which the supposed lady said:—

Last Saturday, her father's sister came to town, and found her out. She was a sour old lady, a man-hater, and snarled at the whole sex. She had taken Mrs. Grant into the country with her, although she was removed at the peril of her life. The lady she was with was nearly as bad as her aunt; but, as the latter was going out for a few days, her Argus would let her come to town, which would enable her to meet his lordship. As her ill-tempered aunt had given her neither

money nor clothes, she begged four pounds of his lordship. If this opportunity was lost, she should never be able to see him, as her aunt was a vigilant guarded woman, and hated the men so much, that at the first entrance into her room, finding the Rev. Mr. Paul there, she most grossly affronted him. She could not have any letter addressed in her own name, lest it should fall into the hands of her aunt, and therefore begged his lordship to direct to Mrs. Harriet, post-office, Waltham.

His lordship, in his answer to this letter, expressed some suspicions that he had been duped; in answer to which Mrs. Grant thanked Lord Clarendon for his favours, was sorry to think he should conceive himself duped, but he would find his mistake when she got home to the West Indies. In a postscript she added—'That best of men, Mr. Paul, died suddenly on Saturday last.'

This closed the intercourse between his lordship and his correspondents, Mrs. Grant and Mr. Paul. Soon afterwards he received

another letter from a Rev. Mr. Bennet, setting forth a deplorable tale of misery; but his suspicions being awakened, he employed his steward to trace the supposed Rev. Mr. Bennet; when it turned out to be the prisoner at the bar, who had imposed himself on his lordship as the Rev. Mr. Paul, that 'best of men, whom Mrs. Grant stated to have died suddenly.' His lodgings being searched, a book was found in his own handwriting, giving an account of money received, (by which it appeared that he had plundered the public to the amount of four hundred and eighty-eight pounds within two years,) with a list of the donors' names, among whom were the Duchess of Beaufort, Lord Willoughby de Broke, Lord Littleton, Lady Howard, Lady Mary Duncan, Bishops of London, Salisbury, and Durham, Earls of Kingston and Radnor, Lord C. Spencer, Hon. Mrs. Fox, &c. &c.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the Court immediately sentenced him to seven years' transportation. He was sent to Botany Bay in April, 1805.

RICHARD HAYWOOD,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

IN relating the shocking depravity of Avershaw, we hoped that we had come to the very acmé of turpitude; but here we find a more miserable wretch, threatening even to outdo, in blasphemy, his wicked prototype.

Richard Haywood, *alias* Reginald Harwood, was indicted for having stolen two bolsters and two pillows, value ten shillings, the property of Richard Crabtree; and for cutting, with a certain sharp instrument, Benjamin Chantry, in order to prevent his apprehension of him.

Miss Jenkins, cousin to Mrs. Crabtree, deposed that on Saturday evening, October 20, 1804, in consequence of some suspicions which she and Mrs. Wilson had, they sat watching in Mr. Williamson's house, which was opposite to Mr. Crabtree's, No. 11, Thayer Street, Manchester Square. They saw two men go into Mr. Crabtree's house with a key, upon which Mrs. Wilson went down stairs, and the witness observed her cross over, and knock at Mr. Crabtree's door. She saw the door open, but nothing else.

Mr. Williamson said that he fol-

lowed Mrs. Wilson, and was, when she knocked at Mr. Crabtree's door, close to the step of it. He saw two men come out of the house: one ran to the left, who, he believed, made his escape; the other (the prisoner at the bar,) made a blow at Mrs. Wilson, and ran to the right. The witness cried 'Stop thief!' and he had not got above twenty yards before he was stopped by a gentleman: the prisoner fell down in the middle of the street, but got away. The witness never lost sight of him till he was stopped by several people in Marylebone Lane.

Henry Holford, a merchant in Crutched Friars, said that he was passing through Thayer Street, Manchester Square; he saw the prisoner coming out of the house, No. 11, and making a violent blow at a lady: he immediately ran towards Hind Street, and came so close to the witness, that he seized him. He struggled, and made a blow at the witness's head, which he avoided, and the prisoner fell. The witness returned the blow, and the prisoner fell. He got up again, and turned, and escaped for a moment. The witness kept sight of him till he saw Chantry at the door of his own house. The witness called out to him, 'Stop thief!' Chantry laid hold of him immediately. The witness told Chantry to take care, for he had an iron crow in his hand. Chantry looked round, and the prisoner lifted up his hand, and made a violent blow at him with the iron. He was then taken to the watch-house.

After conviction, he behaved with shocking depravity, seeming to exult in his guilt, and regretting he had not done a deed more deserving of death. It was his constant boast that he would, on the scaffold, surpass the notorious Avershaw in evincing his contempt of death;

and he constantly endeavored to instil into the mind of his fellow-sufferer those diabolical principles which he had imbibed himself.

His fellow-sufferer was John Tennant, who had lived as footman with Robert Shaw, Esq. a solicitor, in New Bridge Street, Blackfriars; but, inflated with the *ambition* of keeping a public house, quitted his service, and obtained the command of a tap in Little Suffolk Street, Dirty Lane, behind the King's Bench Prison. Finding his golden prospects in a public house, in a great measure, delusive, he determined on robbing his late master, Mr. Shaw; and, being well acquainted with the place, broke open his money-drawers, and stole to the amount of more than five thousand pounds, in cash, bank-notes, and other property. With such a prize such a man could not long remain unsuspected, and he was soon detected in passing some of the stolen notes. Mr. Shaw recovered the greatest part of his property: indeed, the robber, finding no hopes of evading his impending fate, voluntarily returned bills and notes to the amount of five hundred pounds, and upwards, which were not charged in the indictment; on which account the prosecutor recommended him to mercy; but it could not be extended to one so betraying a trust once reposed in him. The relentless Haywood corrupted the mind of Tennant, and, in the condemned cells, stimulated him to follow his horrid example. They uttered the most blasphemous expressions, and sung lewd songs the whole time they ought to have employed in making their peace with offended Heaven.

When the keeper went to warn them of their approaching execution, they behaved in so riotous a manner, that it was necessary to secure them with irons to the floor. Hay-

wood, who was supposed to have procured a knife from his wife, while she was permitted to see him, rushed upon the keeper, and would have stabbed him with it if he had not left the cell. They uttered the most horrid imprecations; and, after declaring, in cant terms, that they would *die game*, threatened to murder the Ordinary if he attempted to visit them. Their behaviour, in other respects, was so abandoned, that the necessary attendants were deterred from further interference, and left them to the dreadful fate which awaited them.

When the time for quitting the court-yard arrived, Haywood called to a friend, who was present, to deliver him a bundle he had in his hand, out of which he took an old jacket, and a pair of old shoes, and put them on. 'Thus,' said he, 'will I defeat the prophecies of my enemies: they have often said I would die in my coat and shoes, and I am determined to die in neither.' Bring told it was time to be conducted to the scaffold, he cheerfully attended the summons, having first eaten some bread and cheese, and drank a quantity of coffee. Before, however, he departed, he called out in a loud voice to the prisoners, who were looking through the upper windows at him, 'Farewell, my lads; I am just going off: God bless you.'—'We are sorry for you,' replied the prisoners. 'I want none of your pity,' rejoined Haywood; 'keep your snivelling till it be your own turn.' Immediately on his arrival up on the scaffold, which he ran upon with great agility, in a loud laugh, he gave the mob three cheers, intro-

ducing each with a 'Hip, ho!' While the cord was preparing, he continued hallooing to the mob, 'How are you?—Well, here goes.' It was found necessary, before the usual time, to put the cap over his eyes, besides a silk handkerchief, by way of bandage, that his attention might be entirely abstracted from the spectators.

At the suggestion of Mr. Holdsworth, however, Tennant made some alteration in his conduct. This officer, finding his advice attended to in this instance, entreated him no longer to follow the evil counsel of Haywood, but to employ the few moments he had left in a Christian-like manner. Tennant shed tears, showed some contrition, and suffered the Ordinary to attend him to the scaffold. Dr. Ford continued in prayer with him; and, though he did not join with, yet he listened to him attentively. He came on the platform with great resolution, but did not then follow the daring and abandoned example of his companion: he was cleanly dressed, and observed a suitable propriety of conduct; he shook hands with Haywood; and, just as the noose was placed round his neck, he emphatically exclaimed, 'Lord, have mercy upon me!' Haywood uttered some words in reply, which were not perfectly understood, but were supposed to be said to Tennant by way of reproach. He then gave another halloo, and kicked off his shoes among the spectators, many of whom were deeply affected at the obduracy of his conduct. Soon afterwards the platform dropped. They suffered on the 30th of April, 1805.

JOHN ROGER TURNER,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THIS malefactor had been clerk to Messrs. Stonard and Ryland, corn-factors in Mark Lane, for several years, who were in the habit of purchasing stock for their country correspondents. By this means he knew that Mr. Waltham had ten thousand pounds stock in the three per cents. reduced. He informed a Mr. H. Engell that he wanted to sell out seven thousand pounds stock, requesting that he would recommend him a broker, the one that sold for him having run away. Mr. Engell recommended Mr. Sherrott, in Ratcliffe Highway, whom he called on on the 8th of January, 1805, and gave orders accordingly. Turner was accompanied by another person, who afterwards proved to be his father-in-law, Mr. Price, a shoemaker. Mr. Sherrott said he would have the business done the next day, when they went to the Three per Cent. Reduced Office, and the necessary proceedings for selling out were resorted to. Turner gave Mr. Sherrott a receipt, which was in the usual form, and a blank was left for the attestation of the clerk at the Bank, after the transfer should be completed. Mr. Sherrott informed Turner that, before the transfer could be completed, the clerks must be convinced of his identity. He said that he knew no person near the 'Change since his late broker had fled; and he therefore requested that Mr. Sherrott would satisfy the clerks on this head. Mr. Sherrott, however, fortunately declined identifying the man, whom he was a stranger to; when it was agreed that he should meet Mr. Sherrott at the Bank the next day, with a friend, who would identify him. He, however, failed in the appointment, and Sherrott

did not see him till half past four that day, when he came to his house, where he said that he had been in search of a Mr. Thomas Rutt, who had purchased stock for him, in order to clear up any doubts; but that he could not see him till the next day. Mr. Sherrott expressed great displeasure at the disappointment; for the stock had risen two per cent. and he was obliged to sell at the price agreed for. Being hurt at the thoughts of paying these two pounds out of his own pocket, he was a little warm. During this interview, a Mr. Robinson, corn-chandler, in Ratcliffe Highway, who knew Mr. Turner, came in, and addressed him by name—'How do you do, Mr. Turner?' Turner pretended that he was mistaken in his person and name, when Mr. Robinson said, 'Pray don't you live as clerk to Stonard and Ryland?' Sherrott saw that he was confused, and told him, 'As you said that your name is William Waltham, and it is not, I think it my duty to take you into custody;' and accordingly he charged an officer with him.

On Friday, February 22, he was indicted at the Old Bailey, before Mr. Justice Le Blanc, for forging, uttering, and publishing, as true, a certain instrument, purporting to be a receipt for the sale of seven thousand pounds of reduced three per cent. stock, the property of William Waltham.

During the trial the above particulars were sworn to, and the receipt read, viz. :—

'Reduced Three' per Cent. Annuities.—Received this 9th day of January, 1805, of Joseph Lightfoot, the sum of four thousand and seventy-seven pounds, ten shillings,

being the consideration for seven thousand pounds stock or share in the capital or joint stock in the Three per Cent. Reduced Annuities, consolidated by act of parliament, in the 22d of George II. and 25th of George III. and other subsequent acts, charged to the sinking funds, transferable at the Bank of England, by me, this day, transferred to the said Joseph Lightfoot.

‘Witness my hand,

‘W. WALTHAM.’

The prisoner's counsel asserted that, as the receipt had not been signed by the witnessing clerk, it could not have the effect of forgery; but this objection was overruled by the Court, who observed that this indictment was for forging a receipt—it had nothing to do with a transfer.

The jury found the prisoner guilty.

GEORGE WEBB,

EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

WE know no greater danger to young men coming from the country to London than that of falling into profligate company; and this alone brought the subject before us to an ignominious end.

George Webb was born near Bromsgrove, in Worcestershire; and, though the son of a clergyman, became a most notorious depredator. Having come to London, he got acquainted with Richard Russel, John Leonard White, and Edward Egerton, men of infamous character, went to Woolwich, worked as a lumper, and there married a young woman of the name of Cocks, and commenced smuggler. About Deptford he was known by the name of Smith, and was committed for an assault, tried at the quarter sessions at Maidstone, where he received sentence of imprisonment, to

On Wednesday, May 8, 1805, this unfortunate culprit suffered the sentence of the law on the scaffold, opposite the debtors' door, at Newgate. He was a young man of prepossessing appearance and gentlemanly manners, fat and florid, and thirty-four years of age. In place of having his hands tied with a rope, as usual, he produced a new muslin handkerchief, and for his girt a silk twist, which were substituted. When he mounted the scaffold, the rain fell almost in torrents, and, at his own request, he was instantly tied up, and launched into eternity. He left a wife, children, and an aged mother, to bemoan his untimely fate, and an additional example to the ten thousand others of the folly and wickedness of attempting to get riches by dishonest means.

pay a fine of five pounds, and to find bondsmen for his good behaviour. He lay there six months after his sentence had expired, for want of sureties, and then volunteered to serve in the West Kent militia, in which regiment he remained five or six months, and deserted; was taken up, and punished.

Soon after this he again deserted, and took an apartment on Blackheath, in the neighbourhood of which many depredations having been committed, he was apprehended, and taken to Bow Street, with Richard Russel and Sarah Russel, on suspicion of feloniously and burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Thomas Ebenezer Taylor, situate at New Cross, and stealing a pair of pistols, an opera-glass, and divers other articles.

They also stood charged with

breaking and entering the dwelling-house of William Shadbolt, in the parish of Deptford, and stealing divers articles of plate, several silver coins, seven shirts, &c.: also with breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Joseph Warner, in the parish of Eltham, and stealing six window-curtains, and divers other articles. When taken into custody, it was found he had been at Birmingham, having sent his mother a letter, a copy of which is as follows:—

‘My dear Mother,—Ingratitude, mingled with shame, almost dares me to either write or see you again; however, I have this assurance and full determination of seeing you, please God, and with your approbation, on Wednesday next, at the Hen and Chickens, New Street, Birmingham, with my sister or sisters. It is my intention, please the Almighty nothing happens, to be there on the before-mentioned day, and I hope you will give me the meeting there, if possible you can make it convenient. Do not let the expense be an hindrance, as that’s of no consequence; I will defray the whole. So you will, I hope, excuse this short epistle, and forward an answer by return of post, to oblige your ungrateful son,

Blackheath. GEORGE WEBB.

‘P. S. Direct for Mr. Webb, near the Hare and Billet, Blackheath, Kent.’

The magistrates at Bow Street now thought it advisable to dispatch William Adkins, an officer, to Bordesley, near Birmingham, the residence of his mother, who, on his arrival there, searched her house for silver table-spoons, and other goods, stolen from the house of General Twiss, of Southend, near Eltham, in Kent. Mr. Payn and Mr. Eagle, constables, assisted him in the search. When he entered

Mrs. Webb’s house, he found in the house Mrs. Webb and her two daughters, Mrs. M’Gaa and Miss Webb, and Mrs. Knot, a lodger, and the servant girl. He asked Mrs. Webb if she had a son who lived in Blackheath; she said she believed she had: he then asked her if he had not been down to see her lately; she said he had: he then asked her if he had not brought a box or trunk, with plated goods in it; she replied he had brought a box, but there was nothing but clothes in it: and what he had brought he had taken away with him: he then told Mrs. Webb he was an officer from Bow Street, and he and Mr. Payn and Mr. Eagle had a warrant to search her house: that her son was in custody on a very serious charge, and if he had left any thing with her, or if there was any thing in her house which he had brought down with him, he begged her to mention them, as otherwise, if any thing were found, it might be of serious consequence to her; for, as to him (her son), no evidence was wanting to convict him. Mrs. Webb said there was nothing left there at all. He again begged of her, if there was any thing, to inform him of it; she hesitated awhile, and then said there was a pair of pistols, which were in a box in the back kitchen; and the witness took possession of them, and also a pair of patent silver clasps or latches, and wrote his initials on them. He then asked her if there was any thing more, and she positively said there was not. Miss Anne Webb came up to him in the passage, and he asked her if there was any thing more, and she said there was; she had got a purse and a smelling-bottle in her pocket; and she immediately gave him a silver net purse, a smelling-bottle, and an opera-glass. He then asked her if

there was not something else; and she said 'Yes, there was; her sister had got a purse also, and a pocket-book.' He then went to Mrs. M'Gaa, and she acknowledged to have received from her brother a purse and a pocket-book, and went up stairs and fetched a silver net purse, a pocket-book, a pencil, and a pencil-case, and gave them to the officer. He then asked Miss Anne Webb if there were not some plated goods; she replied, 'Why, has not my mother told you?' He said 'Yes, but not where they are.' Mrs. M'Gaa then took him to a shed in the garden, and showed him where they were; and out of a rabbit-pen in that shed he took four plated stands, and two silver salt-spoons, which were covered with hay in the pen. He then asked her if there was any thing else; she said 'Has my mother mentioned a table-cloth?' Adkins said 'No;' and Mrs. M'Gaa then took him up stairs, and showed him a drawer, out of which he took a large damask table-cloth. He then said he must search them; and on that Mrs. Webb pulled out of her pocket a shagreen mathematical instrument case and instruments, which she said she had forgot, and a pocket-book of yellow leather, mounted with silver, which she gave to him. Mrs. M'Gaa afterwards gave him another pair of silver salt-spoons, all which goods Mrs. Webb said her son had given to them. He also took from Miss Anne Webb seven pieces of old silver coin, and one piece of gold coin; also a silver cross, set with garnets, and an enamelled trinket, mounted with brass. He likewise found in the cupboard in the parlour a silver pepper-box.

The next morning he found in a drawer, in the front chamber, a red morocco writing-case, which Mrs.

Webb and her daughters said they had no knowledge of. The widow, on examination, afterwards confessed that her son, George Webb, about twenty-eight years old, came to see her that day fortnight, in order to sign a conveyance of his interest in an estate to her, which she had contracted to sell to Sir Harry Featherstone Haugh; that he told her he resided at Blackheath, had married a wife with a fortune of nine hundred and fifty pounds, was in the wholesale tea-trade, and doing very well; that he should have it in his power to assist her if she wanted it, and to allow her fifty pounds a year; that he brought his clothes in a box; and, when he first came into the house, he told her he had brought her a small present, and went up stairs with his box, and brought down two pair of plated bottle-stands, and two pair of silver salt-spoons, and a table-cloth, which he gave to her; that soon after he gave to his sister, Mrs. M'Gaa, a silver net purse, and a silver pencil-case and pen-knife; and to his sister, Anne Webb, he gave a smelling-bottle, a yellow leather purse, mounted with silver, and an opera-glass. That, as soon as his brother Robert came home from work, he gave him, in her presence, a pair of brass pistols, which he said he designed for his brother Charles; that he also gave Robert a pair of patent silver latches, and a mathematical instrument case, as he thought Robert had been in a way of trade in which they might have been of service to him; that he said he had given five guineas for the pistols, and two pounds ten shillings for the mathematical instrument case; that she (the mother) was proud of these articles as a present from her son, and showed them to Mr. Allen and Mr. Dickenson, and many other neighbours;

that in return she gave her son George, before he left Birmingham, a silver watch of his father's, a gold seal, and a silver cup. She, however, confessed, a little before the officers came and searched her house, she had received a letter by the London post, without a signature, and ill spelt, dated July 1, 1805, desiring her to put every thing out of the house. Fearing from this that her son had done something wrong, she was distressed to the utmost, and put the two pair of bottle-stands and pair of salt spoons in the rabbit-pen; and that from the same fears, and under the same alarm, she was induced to give the false account she did to Mr. Adkins, respecting the things her son George had brought to her house.

The stolen property being thus ascertained, the suspected house-breakers, viz. Webb, Russel, White, Egerton, and Sarah Russel, (Russel's wife (aged thirty-five,) were removed from London to Maidstone, and there tried for the same; when Webb and Russel were found guilty, and White, Egerton, and Russel's wife, were acquitted. When sentence of death was pronounced, Webb did not appear the least affected; but Russel fell on his knees, and implored the judge's pardon in the most supplicating manner; and Webb's wife, who had been delivered, in Union Street, Maidstone, of a child only eleven days before, went to his lordship, in favour of her husband, but to no avail; as, the judge observed, so many depredations had been committed in that neighbourhood, that no pardon could be granted. After this Webb kept up his spirits, and expressed his sentiments in the following words at the time of his

being under sentence of death in Maidstone gaol:—'White is free this is a fine night for *cracking*, White has a right to rob another this night; had I been at liberty, I would have robbed two or three houses. My going to Shooter's Hill will save me three guineas;* that will be a reserve for my wife and crib.'

His accomplice, Richard Russel, (aged thirty-five,) was born at Greenwich, and formerly lived in Bermondsey: he then went to sea, and, on his return, worked as a journeyman brickmaker, at Messrs. Fentiman and Loat's limekiln, Greenwich, where he earned from thirty-five to forty shillings per week. He lived at Blackheath, where his wife and four children resided. He had been before in custody for stealing a piece of meat at Deptford.

When the officers came to apprehend him for the burglary for which he suffered, he made a stout resistance, and did not surrender till he had received several severe blows. The behaviour of these two men, while under sentence of death, was exceedingly hardened and depraved. In their repeated attempts to liberate themselves from that security, wherein it was necessary they should be placed, they literally gutted all the padlocks, cut through, with the greatest facility, a large iron ring, to which they were bound, forced many bolts and bars of iron, and drew up innumerable nails, five or six inches long, notwithstanding the vigilance of the keeper, night and day, upon guard over them.

On leaving the gaol, in order to suffer the sentence of the law at Shooter's Hill, they contumeliously gave three cheers, and Webb said 'It was all right.' They were

* *i. e.* 'The expenses of a hearse.'

placed in a coach and four, with the turnkey and another person, preceded by a post-chaise, with the Rev. Mr. Shelton, and followed by another, wherein was Mr. Watson, the gaoler, &c. guarded by a train of constables, and the whole escorted by a detachment of cavalry, in front and rear. One of the prisoners, looking at the guard, was heard to say, 'It is impossible for a fly to make his escape.'

On their arrival at Farningham, the guard from the depot was dismissed, and a larger detachment, consisting of a captain's guard, then escorted them to the gallows. On arriving there, they nodded to several of their acquaintances; but that display of boldness, which had been

so apparent in these unhappy men, now forsook them, particularly in Webb, who was the greatest bravo. Soon after twelve o'clock, when the usual time had been spent in prayer, in which they joined, through the pious admonitions of the chaplain, with great fervency, they were launched into eternity, showing, in their last moments, great resignation, and a constancy towards each other as confederates, by a voluntary act of their own, of having each others' hands tied together, and in which position they quitted the stage of life, on the 19th of August, 1805. Webb, when the caps were drawn over their faces, was heard to say 'Lord have mercy upon us!'

WILLIAM CUBITT, EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

IN the history of crime in the British dominions, instances of servants treacherously robbing their masters are lamentably numerous. Not content in places where they live in luxury, and find little employment, they must ape the manners and expenses of their masters, and, to support their mimic consequence, fall upon the property of their employers.

William Cubitt was a villain of this description, in the service of the Earl of Mansfield, and was convicted of stealing a gold snuff-box, set with brilliants, the property of that nobleman.

Lady Mansfield appeared upon his trial, and stated that the prisoner lived in their service, and was chiefly employed by her, as groom of the chambers. She discharged him by Lord Mansfield's directions, who was then at Ramsgate. Some time about the 26th or 30th of July, she had the snuff-box in question in her care. It was a blue

enamel on gold, with a miniature of the Emperor Joseph II. on the top, set round with brilliants. The last time she recollected seeing it was some time in May, before they went to Caen Wood. She kept it in a cabinet, in the organ-room, at their house in Portland Place. She knew nothing of the loss of it until they received the magistrate's letter at Ramsgate, and then, upon a search, she found that the box had been lost.

J. Dobree, a jeweller, stated that on the 15th of August the prisoner came to his house, and wanted to purchase a gold chain which was in the window. Having agreed for the price of it, he asked if he would take old gold coin in return. Being answered in the affirmative, he produced the fragments of a snuff-box, which the witness saw had been of curious workmanship. He called his journeyman aside, and conversed with him for a moment on the subject; and then he asked the prisoner

where he got that gold. He replied that he had it from a servant. The witness, in answer, said he was sure it was no servant's property, and that he should not go away until he had given an account of it. The prisoner then snatched up the pieces of gold that lay upon the counter, and ran out of the shop. The witness followed him, overtook, and apprehended him. He was immediately carried to Marlborough Street office.

Foy and Lovatt, the two police officers belonging to Marlborough Street office, said that the prisoner, on his examination, told the magistrate he lived at No. 21, Bolsover Street. They, in consequence, went to search his lodgings. They found in a drawer twelve brilliants, the crystal of a miniature picture, and, under the fire, half-burnt, they discovered the remains of a miniature painting.

Catharine Luffinan, housekeeper to Lord Mansfield, said the prisoner was discharged from their service on the 29th of July. On the 2d of August he came to the house in Portland Place, and said he had left some clothes behind him, which he wanted. She told him to go up stairs and get them. He did go up, but before he went he pulled his shoes off. She told him he had no occasion to do that; but he replied he did not know whether the house was not cleaned. When he came down she was sitting in the small library, under the organ-room,

where the cabinet stood; and if he had had his shoes on she should have heard him over her head. He brought down with him two bundles, which he said contained his own clothes. After her lady had received a letter from Mr. Conant, at Ramsgate, she, by her order, searched the cabinet, and found that the box was gone. The lock was not broken or forced, and, after some consideration, she found that the key of the organ, which was always left in the lock, opened the lock of the cabinet, which stood in the same room.

Lord Mansfield examined the broken pieces of gold found on the prisoner, and declared he was convinced, from the workmanship, they were part of the box he had lost. The brilliants were the same sort as those round the miniature, but he could not swear that they were the same: he was positive, however, to the remains of the miniature. The face was destroyed; but the breast, with the Austrian orders, remained visible. He added that the box was a gift from the late Emperor Joseph II. to his great uncle, on leaving Vienna. He did not know the exact value, but he presumed somewhat about two hundred guineas.

The jury found the prisoner guilty. He was executed, pursuant to his sentence, with two other malefactors, on Wednesday morning, November 13, 1805, at the usual place in the Old Bailey.

JOHN HARDING,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

VARIOUS as we have already described the commission of this crime, yet we find in this man's case a new species of forgery. He was indicted at the Old Bailey, September 21, 1805, for forging,

fabricating, uttering, and publishing, as true, a stamp on the ace of spades of a pack of cards.

The attorney-general opened the case, on the part of the prosecution, in a very long speech, in which he

stated to the jury the outline of the prisoner's transactions. The first witness called on was Mr. Hockley, the printer of the legal spade ace at the Stamp-office. He had (in consequence of suspicions entertained at the Stamp-office, on account of the small demand the prisoner there made for stamps, and the extensive business which he seemed to carry on) very frequently made purchases of packs of cards of the prisoner, as had also his apprentice, and the stamps on the aces of spades were all forgeries. These purchases, which were very numerous, took place in the month of May, 1804. It appeared, by the evidence adduced on the part of the prosecution, that the prisoner kept two shops, where these packs of cards were sold; the one in Hereford Street, Oxford Street, and the other in North Row, near Grosvenor Square. On the 27th of May Mr. Hockley ordered five dozen packs of cards to be sent to No. 74, Edgware Road, which were accordingly sent, and the person who carried them, Vincent Jackson (as he also deposed), gave a receipt for the money (ten pounds five shillings) in a fictitious name (B. A. Bates); Harding having desired him to give the receipt in any name he pleased. The prisoner's apprentice, Stephen Lepine, deposed that he saw his master making cards on one occasion, and observed him to paste labels on them, which he gave a gloss to by putting some liquid on them. Witness also proved that the prisoner occupied premises behind the house of Mr. Skelton, Green Street, Grosvenor Square. A body of evidence was adduced to prove that the prisoner had employed a seal-engraver of the name of Leadbeater to execute aces of spades for him. Leadbeater dined with the prisoner two years since,

when he asked him if he could engrave on copper. On being answered in the negative, the prisoner requested he would find some trusty artist in that branch. Leadbeater recommended a youth of the name of White, who, the prisoner was informed, could be depended on. Four duty aces were given to Leadbeater for White to imitate as closely as possible: and, if he was asked any questions, he was to say they were for a foreigner at Hamburg. White, however, was timid, and declined the task, so that all negotiations with him were abandoned. In six or seven months after, the prisoner pressed on Leadbeater to learn the art of engraving on copper, adding that he would be at the expense of a master. Mr. Woodthorpe, a respectable engraver in Fetter Lane, was applied to, and the witness was placed under his tuition. The prisoner's visits to Leadbeater were very frequent, and one day he showed him an old plate of the spade ace, which he wished to be touched up. Witness was unable to do the job, and an apprentice of the name of Banning was employed, under the impression that the plate was for Mr. Shepherd, at the Stamp-office. It was also proved in evidence that the prisoner had large dealings with Mr. Skelton for spirits, &c. for which he gave waste paper, that is, packs of cards, which Mr. Skelton sold at a profit. Rivet, Miller, and Carpmeal, searched the premises occupied by the prisoner, at the back of Mr. Skelton's house. They found a quantity of forged stamps of the spade ace, and also a quantity of forged plates for fabricating the stamps, which were concealed under ground. In the counterfeit ace, in the word 'Dien,' in the motto, the letter R was substituted for the letter E. Mr. Justice Heath

addressed the jury, and observed there could be no doubt in the case. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he suffered accordingly, before Newgate, in November, 1805.

He was a genteel man, thirty-five years of age: on the day of his trial he was dressed in black, and full powdered.

GEORGE RICHARD WALKER AND CHRISTOPHER DODD,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE first of these malefactors was a man of respectability, being employed by government to supply the different garrisons in Guernsey with coals. In the discharge of this duty he became acquainted with Major Richard Hawkins, of the Royal Engineer corps, who was stationed at Guernsey from 1793 to 1798.

On the 5th of April, 1803, the major removed to the island of Trinidad, where he died on the 10th of July following. Walker at this time cohabited with a woman named Browning, who pretended to have been intimate with the deceased major, and from her information he undertook to fabricate a will, purporting to be that of Major Richard Hawkins, by which he bequeathed the greater part of his property to some persons unknown, and making Walker his sole executor, who was to appear quite disinterested, as there was not a single farthing left him.

A difficulty arose respecting witnesses to the will; for, unless they personally filed their allegations in Doctors' Commons, it would be impossible to recover the sums bequeathed. Recourse was had to one Rochester, formerly in Walker's employ; and he made application to one Heddington, servant to Walker. This man was told that only one witness had subscribed, and that three were necessary; that he might sign with impunity, as he must have been aware of his master's respectability and prudence. Hedding-

ton at first consented; but, on seeing the paper, declined, though promised one hundred pounds.

Heddington subsequently meeting with Dodd, who was an attorney's clerk, related the whole affair, when he requested to be introduced to the parties. The meeting took place, and Dodd became a subscribing witness for a valuable consideration, affecting all the importance of a professional man, examining the water-marks, and directing the folding, &c.

The heir of Major Hawkins now took the alarm, and, knowing that no will was in existence, he had Walker, Dodd, Rochester, and one Richard Walker, apprehended on a charge of forgery.

Their trial came on at the Old Bailey, April 19, 1806, when Heddington appeared to give evidence against them. His testimony was corroborated by that of several others; after which Lord Ellenborough summed up in a very humane and perspicuous manner: he occupied three hours in his charge to the jury, who withdrew for about twenty minutes, and found George Richard Walker and Christopher Dodd guilty, but acquitted the other two. The trial lasted fourteen hours, and did not conclude till eleven o'clock. The court was excessively crowded, and many distinguished personages were on the bench with the judges. These two offenders suffered the sentence of the law opposite the debtors' door, Newgate.



The torture inflicted on Louisa Calderon.

THOMAS PICTON, ESQ.

CONVICTED OF APPLYING A MOST CRUEL TORTURE, IN ORDER TO
EXTORT CONFESSION FROM LOUISA CALDERON.

'ALL mankind, being exposed to the attempts of violence and perfidy,' says Voltaire, 'detest the crimes of which they may possibly be the victims; all desire that the principal offender and his accomplices may be punished; nevertheless, there is a natural compassion in the human heart, which makes all men detest the cruelty of torturing the accused into confession. The law has not condemned him; and yet, though uncertain of the crime, you inflict a punishment more horrible than that which they are to suffer when their guilt is confirmed. "Possibly thou mayest be innocent; but I will torture thee that I may be satisfied; not that I intend to make thee any recompense for the thousand deaths which I have made

thee suffer, in lieu of that which is preparing for thee." Who does not shudder at the idea? St. Augustine opposed such cruelty. The Romans tortured their slaves only; and Quintillian, recollecting that they were men, reproved the Romans for such want of humanity.'

These observations of the French philosopher do not inaptly introduce a case in which an English governor was convicted of putting to the torture a female, Louisa Calderon, one of his majesty's subjects, in the island of Trinidad, in the West Indies, in order to extort confession.

Mr. Garrow stated the case for the prosecution; and, whilst he expressed the strongest desire to bring to condign punishment an offence so

flagrant as that charged upon the defendant, yet much more happy would he be to find that there was no ground upon which the charge could be supported, and that the British character was not stained by the adoption of so cruel a measure.

The island of Trinidad (added Mr. Garrow) surrendered to Sir Ralph Abercrombie in the year 1797; and he entered into a stipulation, by which he conceded to the inhabitants the continuance of their laws, and appointed a new governor, until his majesty's pleasure should be known, or, in other words, until the king should extend to this new acquisition to his empire all the sacred privileges of the laws of England. He had the authority of the defendant himself for stating, that the system of jurisprudence adopted under the Spanish monarch, for his colonial establishments, was benignant, and adapted to the protection of the subject, previous to the surrender of this island to the British arms.

In December, 1801, when this crime was perpetrated, Louisa Calderon was of the tender age of ten or eleven years. At that early period she had been induced to live with a person of the name of Pedro Ruiz, as his mistress; and, although it appears to us very singular that she should sustain such a situation at that time of life, yet it was a fact, that, in this climate, women often become mothers at twelve years old, and were in a state of concubinage, if, from their condition, they could not form a more honourable connexion. While she lived with Ruiz, she was engaged in an intrigue with Carlos Gonzalez, the pretended friend of the former, who robbed him of a quantity of dollars. Gonzalez was apprehended, and she

also, as some suspicion fell upon her, in consequence of the affair. She was taken before the justice, as we, in our language, should denominate him, and, in his presence, she denied having any concern in the business. The magistrate felt that his powers were at an end; and whether the object of her denial were to protect herself, or her friend, is not material. The extent of his authority being thus limited, this officer of justice resorted to General Picton; and Mr. Garrow had now to produce, in the handwriting of the defendant, this bloody sentence:—'Infllict the torture upon Louisa Calderon.' You will believe there was no delay in proceeding to its execution. The girl was informed, in the gaol, that, if she did not confess, she would be subjected to the torture; that under this process she might probably lose her limbs or her life; but the calamity would be on her own head, for, if she would confess, she would not be required to endure it. While her mind was in the state of agitation this notice produced, her fears were aggravated by the introduction of two or three negroes into her prison, who were to suffer under the same experiment for witchcraft, and as a means of extorting confession. In this situation of alarm and horror, the young woman persisted in her innocence; the punishment was inflicted, improperly called picketing, which is a military punishment, perfectly distinct. This is not picketing, but the torture. Her position may be easily described. The great toe was lodged upon a sharp piece of wood, while the opposite wrist was suspended in a pulley, and the other hand and foot were lashed together. Another time the horrid ceremony was repeated, with this difference, that her feet were changed.

The learned counsel here produced a drawing in water colours, in which the situation of the sufferer, and the magistrate, executioner, and secretary, was described. He then proceeded:

‘It appears to me, that the case, on the part of the prosecution, will be complete when these facts are established in evidence; but I am to be told, that, though the highest authority in this country could not practise this on the humblest individual, yet, that by the laws of Spain it can be perpetrated in the island of Trinidad. I should venture to assert, that if it were written in characters impossible to be misunderstood,—if it were the acknowledged law of Trinidad—it could be no justification of a British governor. Nothing could vindicate it but the law of imperious necessity, to which we must all submit. It was his duty to impress upon the minds of the people of that colony the great advantages they would derive from the benign influence of British jurisprudence; and that, in consequence of being received within the pale of this government, torture would be for ever banished from the island. It is, therefore, not sufficient for him to establish this sort of apology; it is required of him to show that he complied with the institutions under the circumstances of irresistible necessity. This governor ought to have been aware that the torture is not known in England; and that it never will be, never can be, tolerated in this country.

‘The trial by rack is utterly unknown to the law of England though once, when the Dukes of Exeter and Suffolk, and other ministers of Henry VI. had laid a design to introduce the civil law into this kingdom as the rule of

government, for a beginning thereof they erected a rack for torture, which was called in derision the Duke of Exeter’s daughter, and still remains in the Tower of London, where it was occasionally used as an engine of state, not of law, more than once in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. But when, upon the assassination of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, by Felton, it was proposed in the Privy Council to put the assassin to the rack, in order to discover his accomplices, the judges, being consulted, declared unanimously, that no such proceeding was allowable by the laws of England.

‘Such are the observations of the elegant and learned author of the “Commentaries on the Law of England” on this subject; and, as the strongest method of showing the horror of the practice, he gives this question in the form of an arithmetical problem:—

“The strength of the muscles and the sensibility of the nerves, being given, it is required to know what degree of pain would be necessary to make any particular individual confess his guilt.”

‘But what are we to say to this man, who, so far from having found torture in practice under the former governors, has attached to himself all the infamy of having invented this instrument of cruelty? Like the Duke of Exeter’s daughter, it never had existence until the defendant cursed the island with its production. I have incontestable evidence to show this ingenuity of tyranny in a British governor; and the moment I produce the sanguinary order the man is left absolutely without defence. The date of the transaction is removed at some distance. It was directed that a commission should conduct the affairs

of the government, and among the persons appointed to this important situation was Colonel Fullarton. In the exercise of his duties in that situation, he attained the knowledge of these facts; and with this information he thought it incumbent on him to bring this defendant before you; and, with the defendant, I shall produce the victim of this enormity, whom, from the accident of my being conducted into a room by mistake, I have myself seen. She will be presented before you, and you will learn she at this moment bears upon her the marks of the barbarity of the defendant. In due time you will hear what my excellent and amiable friend near me has to offer in behalf of his client: I state the case at present with full confidence in your verdict; I ask nothing from your passions; nothing but justice do I require, and I have no doubt at the end of this trial that you will be found to have faithfully exercised your important duty.'

Louisa Calderon was then called. She appeared about eighteen years of age, of a very interesting countenance, being a Mulatto or Creole, of a very genteel appearance. She was dressed in white, with a turban of white muslin, tied on in the custom of the country. Her person was slender and graceful. She spoke English but very indifferently; and was examined by Mr. Adam, through the medium of a Spanish interpreter.

She deposed that she resided in the island of Trinidad in the year 1798, and lived in the house of Don Pedro Ruiz, and remembered the robbery. She and her mother were taken up on suspicion, and brought before Governor Picton, who committed them to prison, under the escort of three soldiers. She was put into

close confinement; and before she was taken there the governor said, 'If she did not confess who had stolen the money, the hangman would have to deal with her.' She knew Begora, the magistrate, or lord-mayor. He came to the prison, and examined her on the subject of the robbery many times, and on different days. De Castro, the clerk of the magistrate, also attended, and took down her depositions.

She was then carried to the room where the torture was prepared. Here her left hand was tied up to the ceiling by a rope, with a pulley; her right hand was tied behind, so that her right foot and hand came in contact, while the extremity of her left foot rested on the wooden spike. A drawing representing the exact situation, with the negro holding the rope by which she was suspended, was then shown to her; when she gave a shudder, expressive of horror, which nothing but the most painful recollection of her situation could have excited; on which Mr. Garrow expressed his concern that his lordship was not in a position to witness this accidental, but conclusive, evidence of the fact.

Lord Ellenborough objected to the exhibition of this drawing to the jury, until Mr. Dallas, on the part of his client, permitted it to be shown to them. The examination then proceeded, and the remainder of Louisa Calderon's evidence corroborated the statement of Mr. Garrow. She remained upon the spike three quarters of an hour, and the next day twenty-two minutes. She swooned away each time before she was taken down, and was then put into irons, called the 'Grillos,' which were long pieces of iron, with two rings for the feet, fastened

to the wall; and in this situation she remained eight months. A drawing of this instrument was also produced, which the witness said was an exact representation.

The effect from this picketing was excruciating pain; her wrists and ankles were much swollen; and the former bore the marks to the present day. In reply to a question by Lord Ellenborough, she said her feet were without shoes and stockings.

The gaoler, Ballot, the magistrate, Francisco de Castro, and Raphael, an alguazil, with the executioner, were present at these picketings.

Don Rafael Shando also, assisted by the interpreter, said, that he was an alguazil, in the island of Trinidad, in the year 1801; that he returned from the interior of the country on the 22d of December, and saw Louisa Calderon in gaol; that they were then giving her a glass of water, after bringing her down from the torture. She was supporting herself on a table; it was about seven o'clock in the evening. Beggerrat desired witness to bring Carlos up, and told her that she must repeat to Carlos what she had said to him.

After this interview, at which nothing transpired, she was instantly put in the grillos, and in the same room in which she had suffered the torture. The apartment was like a garret, with sloping sides; and the grillos were so placed, that, from the lowness of the room, she could by no means raise herself up, during the eight months of her confinement.

On the 23d of December she was again put to the torture, between eleven and twelve in the morning, and she remained in this situation for twenty-two minutes by the watch.

The witness here examined the drawing, and described the position much in the way it had been before represented, and then added,—She fainted twice in his arms. Beggerrat sent vinegar to the executioner, to administer to her in this situation.

There was no advocate appointed to attend on her behalf, and no surgeon to assist her. No one but a negro, belonging to Ballot, the gaoler, to pull the rope. As soon as she was taken down, she was put into the grillos. The witness had seen her sister bring her victuals, but never noticed the admission of her sister or her friend into the gaol. The witness had been four or five years in the post of alguazil. He never knew the torture inflicted in the island until the arrival of the defendant. There had been before no instrument for the purpose. The first he saw was in the barracks among the soldiers.

Before Louisa Calderon, the instrument had been introduced into the gaol perhaps about six months. The first person he saw tortured in Trinidad, was by directions of the defendant, who said to the gaoler, 'Go and fetch the black man to the picket-guard, and put him to the torture.'

After the eight months' confinement, both Carlos and Louisa were discharged.

On his cross examination by Mr. Lawes, he said that Carlos was discharged at the time the judge ordered him to bring the money; that he went from the island, he did not know by whose orders, and that he took his passage to Margarita.

Don Juan Montes said that he was acquainted with the handwriting of the defendant, and proved the document containing the order

of the torture, expressed thus:—
'*Aplicase la question a Louisa Calderon*,'* and signed Thomas Picton.'

After some observations from Mr. Dallas, which were answered by Mr. Garrow, the lord chief justice ruled, that the application of the *Alcade Beggerrat*, which led to the issue of this order, should be read.

Mr. Lowton then read the representation of this officer, advising that slight torture should be applied, stating that his own authority was incompetent to do it, without the order of the governor, and giving the result of the proceedings in the course of the examinations Louisa Calderon had undergone. The instrument was countersigned by Francisco de Castro.

Don Juan Montes said that he had known the island of Trinidad since the year 1793. That the torture was never introduced until after the conquest of the island, and was then practised by order of the defendant. It was first used with the military in 1799, and two years afterwards in the gaol.

Mr. Garrow then intimated to the Court that he had many more witnesses to these facts, but did not think it necessary to waste the time of the Court with any more of them.

Lord Ellenborough thought the evidence was sufficient on these points.

Mr. Dallas, for the defendant, rested his defence upon the following statements:—

First,—By the law of Spain, in the present instance, torture was directed; and, being bound to administer that law, he was vindicated in its application.

Secondly,—The order for the torture, if not unlawfully, was not maliciously issued.

Thirdly,—If it were unlawful, yet, if the order were erroneously or mistakenly issued, it is a complete answer to a criminal charge.

The learned counsel entered at considerable length into these positions, during which he compared the law of Spain, as it prevailed in Trinidad, with the law of England, as it subsisted in some of our own islands; and he contended that the conduct of General Picton was gentleness and humanity, compared to what might be practised with impunity under the authority of the British government.

After a long interlocutory discussion, several items of the examination taken on the island for the purpose of this cause were read by the clerk of the court.

The next testimony adduced was that of Mr. Gloucester, the attorney-general of his majesty in the island, who deposed to the authenticity of several books on the laws of the island, among which were the *Elisondo*, the *Curia Philippica*, the *Bobadilla*, the *Colom*, and the *Recopilacion de Leyes*.

Various passages in these books were then referred to, and translated, for the purpose of showing that torture was not only permitted in certain cases, but in the particular instance before the jury.

Mr. Garrow was then allowed to call a witness, to show that, however such a law might at any time have existed, or might still exist; in Spain, it did not prevail in the West-Indian colonies of that power. To this end Don Pedro de Vargass was sworn. He deposed that, during the early part of his life, he had been regularly initiated and admitted to the office of an advocate at the Spanish law-courts in the colonies; that he had practised,

* i. e. Put Louisa Calderon to the torture or the question.

after his admission, in the regular course, for two years, and had resided, for a shorter or more extensive period, at five or six of the West-Indian islands, in the pursuit of his profession; and that, according to his knowledge of the Book of Recapitulation, by which the laws are administered, there was nothing contained in it to justify the infliction of torture, nor was torture, to his knowledge, ever resorted to. He had not ever seen or heard of instruments for torture being kept in the gaols, or elsewhere.

In reply to a question, 'Do you know of any existing Spanish law whatever, which warrants the application of torment?' he said that there was a law of Old Castile, of the year 1260, which justified it in certain cases; but he never understood that it extended to the West-India colonies; and it had long been so abhorrent in Spain, that, if not repealed, it was fallen entirely into disuse.

On cross-examination by Mr. Dallas, he said that he did not know of any law which forbade the practice of torturing persons in the colonies; and admitted that he had been employed, by Colonel Fullarton, as an interpreter and translator of part of the evidence to be employed, in this prosecution.

In answer to a question from Lord Ellenborough, Mr. Dallas said that he certainly was not prepared with any parole evidence to prove that the infliction of torture prevailed generally in the Spanish West Indies.

Lord Ellenborough appeared to be about to close the case here, with the observation that the special verdict which had been consented to was granted on the supposition that a greater contrariety of evidence on the subject of the law of the colony would have been elicited

than now really appeared; but it was thought it would, perhaps, be better, before the jury were called on for a general verdict, that the counsel should, if they thought proper, address to them what observations they might have to make.

Mr. Dallas then said, that, in the stage of the investigation to which the jury had arrived, he should content himself with submitting to their determination the single fact, mentioned with any question of his, whether the criminal judge, by the law of Spain, could, in any instance, order the application of torture? To prove that the discretion did rest with that officer, he did not call to them persons who spoke from the observation they had made during any short periods they might have resided in the colonies; but he produced to them the unequivocal testimony of books of the first law authority, which were constantly resorted to, as had been proved by the judges, on all occasions of doubt or difficulty. As charitable men, and as men of sense, must they not conclude that this code of reference was correctly elucidatory of the law, as it was meant to be dispensed? The works of distinguished civilians, writing upon the jurisprudence of their country, were a ground upon which he felt he stood firmly in defence of his client. The law of 1260 was proved by them to have existed, and to be still existing, to the date of the works of the last writer he had cited. No attempt had even been made by the ingenious counsel to show that the universality of the Spanish law, as applied to the colonies, had been broken in upon by any special privilege enjoyed at Trinidad; and he would ask, therefore, could the jury, upon their oaths, decide that what had transpired there, and was the subject of this prosecution, was

not agreeable to a law that had authorized it, and which there was no proof had fallen into disuse.

Mr. Garrow said he looked at this case as he regarded the honour of our country, and the *redress of a stranger*, who had visited our land to procure it. If the defendant had had *an English heart in his bosom*, he would have wanted no restrictive provisions to have guarded him from the *commission of sanguinary acts*. He feared that it remained to the disgrace of the British name that General Picton was the *first* man to stretch authority, and order torture to be established in the island of Trinidad. After a few other animated observations, Mr. Garrow said he left the case to the decision of the jury, confidently anticipating their verdict.

Lord Ellenborough recommended to the jury to divest their minds of every feeling which they might have contracted in the course of the present trial, and to throw every part of the case out of their consideration except that which related to this simple point,—What was the law by which the island of Trinidad was governed at the period of its capture by the British? It was for the consideration of the jury, if the law then subsisting authorized personal torture as to witnesses. By the indulgence of the government of this country, the subsisting law was to continue; the question was, What was that subsisting law? The jury would attend, that it did not necessarily follow, because Trinidad was a colony of Old Spain, that it must therefore, in every part, have the laws of Old Spain. It did not originally form any part of that country, but had been annexed to it; and on what terms, there was no positive evidence. It did not appear that either the schedule peculiar to this island, or the recapitu-

tulation, embraced the criminal law, or made any mention of torture. So, if torture did subsist in this island, it must be on the authority of law books read to the jury, which it was for them to say whether they were sufficient to satisfy them of that fact. It was ascertained by a person of thirty-two years of age, and who had been almost all his life-time in the island; by another person, who had been an alcaid; by Mr. Nugent, who had resided in the island since the year 1786; and by a person who had studied the law of New Spain, and had known the Spanish West Indies from his infancy, that torture had not, to their knowledge, or within their recollection, ever been practised in the island. It was, therefore, for the jury to say, in absence of all positive proof on the subject, and in the face of so much negative evidence, if the law of Spain was so fully and completely established in Trinidad as to make torture a part of the law of that island. Without going through the authorities, he thought the jury might take it to be the existing law of Old Spain, that torture might be inflicted. It was too much to say, that a discontinuance of a practice could repeal a law; but still it was for them to say, if they were convinced, that torture had ever been part of the law of Trinidad. Our law books might be recognised in Jamaica, but yet it did not follow that every thing in them must extend to our colonies. It was, therefore, for them, on the whole, to say, if they were convinced that torture was part of the law of Trinidad at the time of its capture. If so, they would enter a special verdict; if otherwise, they would find the defendant guilty.

The jury found—There was no such law existing in the island of

Trinidad, as that of torture, at the time of the surrender of that island to the British.

Lord Ellenborough—‘Then, gentlemen, General Picton cannot derive any protection from a supposed law, after you have found that no such law remained in that island at the surrender of it, and when he became its governor; and therefore your verdict should be that he is guilty.’

By the direction of Lord Ellenborough they therefore found the defendant Guilty.

The trial lasted from nine in the morning till seven at night.

Governor Picton walked the hall of the Four Courts during the whole of the trial. He was a tall man, of a very sallow complexion, apparently about fifty years of age, and was dressed in black. He was accompanied by several of the civil officers of the island.

Mr. Dallas moved, on the 25th of April, for a new trial. He stated that the defendant was a person of respectability and character in his majesty's service, as governor of the island of Trinidad. He solicited for a new trial upon the following grounds:—

‘First,—The infamous character of the girl, who lived in open prostitution with Pedro Ruiz, and who had been privy to a robbery committed upon her paramour by Carlos Gonzalez; and when a complaint laid against her had been brought before a magistrate, she, refusing to confess, had been ordered to be tortured.

Secondly,—That Governor Picton, who condemned her to this torture, did not proceed from any motives of malice, but from a conviction that the right of torture was sanctioned by the laws of Trinidad; and that he was rooted in this opinion by a reference to

the legal written authorities in that island.

Thirdly,—That, whatever his conduct might be, it was certainly neither personal malice nor disposition to tyranny, but resulted, if it should prove to be wrong, from a misapprehension of the laws of Trinidad.

Fourthly,—That one of the principal witnesses in this trial, M. Vargass, had brought forward a book, intituled ‘Recopilation des Loys des Indes,’ expressly compiled for the Spanish colonies, which did not authorize torture. The defendant had no opportunity of ever seeing that book; but it had been purchased by the British Institution at the sale of the Marquis of Lansdowne's library, subsequent to his trial; and, having consulted it, it appeared that where that code was silent upon some criminal cases, recourse was always to be had to the laws of Old Spain, and these laws, of course, sanctioned the infliction of torture.

The Court, after some consideration, granted the rule to show cause for a new trial; and, as this was attended with a different result, we think it no more than just towards the memory of a brave man, after having gone at so much length into the arguments against him, to conclude our notice of this affair with the following apology for his conduct, which we extract from a highly respectable monthly publication:—

‘In an evil hour the British colonel associated with him, in the government of the island, the British naval commander on the station, and Colonel Fullarton. This was, as might naturally have been expected, and as certainly was *designed* by one of the parties, the origin of disputes and the source of anarchy. It is well known that Fullarton, on his return to England, preferred

charges against Picton, which were taken into consideration by the privy council, and gave rise to a prosecution that lasted for several years. No pains were spared to sully his character, to ruin his fortunes, and to render him an object of public indignation. A little strumpet, by name Louisa Calderon, who cohabited with a petty tradesman in the capital of Trinidad, let another paramour into his house (of which she had the charge) during his absence, who robbed him, with her knowledge and privity, of all he was worth in the world. The girl was taken before the regular judges of the place; who, in the course of their investigation, ascertained the fact that she was privy to the robbery, and therefore sentenced her, in conformity with the laws of Spain, then prevalent in the island, to undergo the punishment of the *picket* (the same as is adopted in our own regiments of horse); but, as it was necessary that this sentence should receive the governor's confirmation before it could be carried into effect, a paper, stating the necessity of it, was sent to the government-house, and the governor, by his signature, conveyed his assent to the judges. The girl was accordingly picketed

when she acknowledged the facts above stated, and discovered her accomplice. That the life of this girl was forfeited by the laws of every civilized country is a fact that will not admit of dispute; yet clemency was here extended to her, and she was released, having suffered only the punishment above stated; which was so slight, that she walked a considerable distance to the prison, without the least appearance of suffering, immediately after it was inflicted. But what was the return for the lenity of the governor? He was accused by Colonel Fullarton of having put this girl (whom he had never even *seen*) to the *torture*, contrary to law; and the caricaturists of England were enlisted in the service of persecution. After a trial which seemed to have no end, after an expense of *seven thousand pounds*, which must have completed his ruin, had not his venerable uncle, General Picton, defrayed the whole costs of the suit; while the expenses of his prosecutor were all paid *by the government*, his honour and justice were established on the firmest basis, and to the perfect satisfaction of every upright mind.

RICHARD PATCH,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MR. BLIGHT.

THIS is another of those cases which fully prove, that the most wicked caution, the most deliberately planned scheme, or the most artful preparatory measures to attach suspicion to some other cause, or to make it fall upon the guiltless, will never conceal murder. Such was the care taken by the ungrateful and cruel Richard Patch, to no purpose, in the murder of his benefactor, Mr. Isaac Blight, a ship-breaker, of Rotherhithe.

Richard Patch was born in the year 1770, at the village of Heavytree, Devonshire, within two miles of Exeter. This family had a name somewhat respectable among the yeomen of the country. The grandfather of Patch had a freehold estate in land, of the value of fifty pounds per annum, in a neighbouring village. His father, according to the custom of many of the petty farmers who reside on the sea coast in the distant counties, was a smuggling

gler. He was noted in his time for a fierceness and intrepidity peculiar to his class of men. Many feats are yet related of his dexterity and enterprise in eluding and daring the officers of the Excise. He has been said frequently to have cut his way through bodies of the military police, and to have spread such a terror by his name, that it was often judged safer to connive at, than to resist, his depredations of the revenue. Richard Patch's mother was a woman respected, and estimable in her condition. But, as the life of a smuggler is a scene of constant hazards and escapes, his father was at length laid hold upon by the officers of the revenue, condemned in heavy fines, and sentenced to imprisonment for twelve months in the New Gaol, Exeter. When the period of his confinement was at an end, he did not desert his station in the prison; but was engaged by the keeper as one of the turnkeys. In this situation he died, leaving several children; the eldest of whom was Richard, who had been bound apprentice to a butcher at Ebmere, a small village, the most notorious in Devonshire for the flagitiousness of the manners and morals of its inhabitants. Nothing perhaps contributed to taint his mind more in early youth than the excessive indulgence of his father. His pockets were perpetually filled with money, which consequently produced indolence, riot, and dissipation.

Upon the death of the elder Patch, this his son succeeded to the above-mentioned estate. He now quitted the trade of a butcher, and commenced farmer, uniting with his own paternal estate a small farm which he rented. It seems, however, that he farmed with little or no success, as he was soon obliged to mortgage his estate for more than one half of its value.

Some years, however, were passed at Ebmere, when an accident drove him from his home. From motives which it is unnecessary to examine, he had quarrelled with the rector of his parish, and, in order to be revenged, he removed the produce of his farm from off his land, without setting out the tenths for the rector. In other words, he refused to pay the tithes. The consequence was a lawsuit, and an immediate action in the Exchequer. Patch, shuddering at the expense of the litigation, and the certain result which awaited him, and perhaps somewhat embarrassed in his circumstances, quitted Devonshire, in the spring of the year 1803.

Upon his coming to London, he immediately presented himself at Mr. Blight's, with whom his sister at that time lived as a menial servant; together with a brother of his (of whom it is somewhat extraordinary that no mention was made in the course of his trial), who was brought up a baker, but, for some reasons which it is unnecessary to enter into, was now in the service of Mr. Blight, as a kind of overseer or superintendent in the shipping business.

It must here be observed, that Mr. Blight had formerly been a West-India merchant, and had failed; upon which he engaged in the ship-breaking business, and was at this time carrying it on with great success. His embarrassment, in fact, arose from the severity of certain trustees, who acted for his former creditors; thus his old debts, during the time in which he was engaged in the West-India business, weighed him down,—and not any contracted in his new occupation.

Patch had not long entered the service of Mr. Blight, when, from jealousy or some uneasiness, his brother quitted it. He had been

disappointed in endeavouring to set up for himself in the business of a baker, to which he was bred; and this mortification, perhaps, aggravated by the conduct of his brother Richard, excited such a disgust in his mind, that he immediately went to sea, and sailed to the West Indies, where he soon died a victim to the yellow fever.

Richard had not been long in the service of Mr. Blight, when he naturally cast a look towards his estate in Devonshire, and commenced a journey into that country for the purpose of making an arrangement respecting it. Accordingly, in 1804, he disposed of his land; from which, having first been obliged to clear off every embarrassment, he received a nett sum of three hundred and fifty pounds. Two hundred and fifty of this Mr. Blight received, for the purpose hereafter mentioned; and the remaining one hundred pounds passed through the hands of his bankers, whom he probably constituted as such, upon the credit of this money.

The next year, 1805, on the 23d September, Mr. Blight, who was induced to come to town, by means of Mr. Patch, during the absence of the latter, was mortally wounded by a pistol, which was secretly fired at him, and which occasioned his death the next day. The case was particularly inquired into by A. Graham, Esq. the magistrate, who, suspecting Patch of the horrid murder of his friend and master, committed him to prison, and his trial came on at the Surrey assizes, continued by adjournment to Horse-monger-lane, in the Borough, Saturday, April 5, 1806.

So great was the interest excited by the approaching investigation, that, by five o'clock in the morning, a vast concourse of the populace had assembled, and on the

opening of the Court it was with the utmost difficulty that the law-officers and others could obtain an entrance. The Dukes of Sussex, Cumberland, and Orleans; lords Portsmouth, Grantley, Cranley, Montford, William Russell, Deerpurth, and G. Seymour; Sir John Frederick, Sir John Shelley, Sir Thomas Turton, Sir William Clayton, Sir J. Mawby; Count Wronzow, the Russian Ambassador, and his secretary, were present. The magistrates had made every accommodation that the Court would admit of: and a box was fitted up for the royal family.

The prisoner was conducted into court soon after nine o'clock, and took his station at the bar, attended by two or three friends. He was genteelly dressed in black, and perfect composure marked his countenance and manner. Precisely at ten o'clock, the Lord Chief Baron Macdonald took his seat on the bench; and to the indictment the prisoner pleaded, in an audible voice, 'not guilty.'

He peremptorily challenged three jurors; after which a jury was sworn, and the indictment read.

The first witness called was Mr. Richard Frost, a publican, who kept the Dog and Duck. The first part of his testimony (for he was called in a second time) related merely to the fact of the death of Mr. Blight. He stated, that, on the morning of the 23d September last, he was sent for by the prisoner, in consequence of the deceased having been killed by a pistol-shot: he went, and found him leaning on his hands, and wounded.

Mr. Astley Cooper said he was called in to the assistance of Mr. Blight. Upon examining him he found he had received a wound near the navel, and another in the groin. He observed that they were gun-

shot wounds; and, as the body of the deceased was considerably inflated, he pronounced them mortal: he observed the bowels coming through the wounds. The next morning Patch came to him, said the deceased was in extreme pain, and wished to know whether any thing could be done for him. The witness told him he feared there could not. This was about seven in the morning. He rose and went to him, and found him in a very swollen state. He promised to return in the afternoon with a physician. He went to town, and came back with Dr. Barrington; but Mr. Blight had been dead about three quarters of an hour. He had not the smallest doubt that the wounds were the occasion of his death.

Richard Frost was again called up to speak to the firing of the gun. He stated that on Thursday, the 19th, 'there was the report of the firing of a gun at Mr. Blight's house;' he went out to ascertain the cause, but did not perceive any person coming from the premises; and he was in a situation in which, had the person who fired it attempted to make his escape, he must have observed him; it was about eight o'clock in the evening, and it was dark; but he was near enough to have seen any one run away, or climb the wall.

Miss Anne Davis and Miss Martha Davis, sisters, who happened to be walking by the premises in a different direction from the last witness, stated that they also saw the flash, and heard the report of a gun, and must have seen any person attempting to escape; but all was quiet, and they concluded that the gun was fired by some one on the premises.

After this head of evidence, to establish that the gun fired on the

Thursday preceding the death of Mr. Blight was not by any stranger, but by the prisoner, witnesses were then called to relate the circumstances which had taken place on the 23d.

Mr. Michael Wright stated that he was going past Mr. Blight's house a little after eight, when he heard the report of a pistol in the house; and having become acquainted, by the rumour, of the former attempt, he was induced to go up to the house, with a view to offer his assistance: he knocked for some time, and was not admitted; but, insisting on having the door opened, Mr. Patch made his appearance, and began informing him what a dreadful accident had happened. The witness was impatient at hearing this story; he thought that some means should be rather adopted to pursue the murderer, and recommended Patch to commission him to apply to Bow Street, as an inquiry taking place instantly after the assassination would most probably be attended with success. Patch seemed reluctant, and thought that no good effect could result from it. The witness was rather indignant at his assistance not being accepted, and therefore went away.

Hester Kitchener's evidence applied to the two days. She stated the 19th she had been ordered by the prisoner to shut up the shutters of the house earlier than usual. Her master and mistress were then at Margate. At eight o'clock the prisoner sent her out for some oysters; and, as she returned, she heard the report of a gun; but through the court-yard, the only passage to the house, she did not see any one. When she saw Patch, he cried, 'Oh, Hester, I have been shot at!' She rejoined, 'Lord forbid!' They then looked for the ball, which she found. The witness

continued to state that her master returned to town on the Monday morning; that in the evening he and the prisoner drank tea together in the back parlour, and afterwards had some grog. Her master was fatigued, heavy, and sleepy with his journey and the liquor. Patch came down in a hurry to her in the kitchen, and, complaining of a pain in his bowels, wanted a light to go into the yard. She gave it to him, as also a key of the counting-house, through which it was necessary he should pass. She heard him enter the back place, and slam the door after him; immediately she heard the report of a pistol. Her master ran down into the kitchen, exclaiming, 'Oh, Hester, I am a dead man!' and supported himself upon the dresser. She ran up to shut the door; and as she was half-way down the passage, on her return, she heard Patch knocking violently for admittance. He asked what was the matter; she told him; on which he went down and offered his assistance. He asked the deceased if he knew of any one who could owe him a grudge. Mr. Blight answered No, as he was not at enmity with any man in the world.

Mr. Christopher Morgan was passing by when the fatal shot was fired: he went to the house, and saw Mr. Blight lying in a wounded situation, and recommended Mr. Patch, in the first instance, to search the premises all over. Patch told him, and his friend Mr. Berry, who was with Mr. Morgan, to go and search an old ship that was off the wharf, as he had reason to think that the perpetrator might have escaped there; for he heard a noise in that direction on the night when the gun was previously fired. They went, but found that the ship was lying at the distance of sixteen feet from the wharf; that it was

low water; that from the top of the wharf to the mud was ten feet; that the soil was soft mud, and that any one who might attempt that way must have been up to his middle; besides the mud did not bear the appearance of any one having passed through it; he was therefore perfectly convinced that no one escaped over the wharf towards the water. Mr. Berry corroborated this evidence.

Six other persons, who happened to be in different directions leading from Mr. Blight's house to the public roads, most distinctly proved that, when the shot was fired that killed Mr. Blight, every thing was quiet on the outside of the premises; that there was no appearance of any person attempting to escape; and, if there had, that there was no possibility of his eluding observation.

The next series of evidence went to infer that the prisoner was carrying on a system of delusion and fraud against the deceased, in respect to certain pecuniary transactions between them. It was proved by Mrs. Blight, the deceased's widow, that her husband, who had fallen into some embarrassments, had, in order to mask his property, made a nominal assignment of it to Patch; but the assignment was not to be carried into effect unless the trustees of his creditors should, as he apprehended, become importunate. This confidential assignment Patch wished to convert into an absolute sale, for consideration given on his part; but Mrs. Blight declared that he had never paid her husband any money, excepting two hundred and fifty pounds, part of one thousand, two hundred, and fifty pounds, the consideration for a share of his business.

The next strong branch of evidence referred to the stockings which the prisoner had on the night

that Mr. Blight lost his life. It was proved that he generally wore boots; but the witnesses' memory enabled them to say that he had white stockings on during the evening of the 23d. Mr. Stafford, of the police-office, stated that, on examining the bed-room of Mr. Patch, they were folded up like a clean pair; but that, on opening them, the soles appeared dirty, as if a person had walked in them without shoes: the inference from this was, that the prisoner had taken off his shoes in order that he might walk out of the necessary without being heard by the maid.

The last important fact was the discovery of the ramrod of a pistol in the privy, and the proof that that place had not recently been visited by any person suffering under a bowel complaint. This, and a vast variety of circumstantial evidence, concluded the case on the part of the crown.

The prisoner, being called upon for his defence, delivered in a long and elaborate address, supposed to have been written by his counsel, which he requested might be read by the officer of the court: it began by thanking the learned judge for moving his trial from a place where prejudice might have operated against him; complained much of that prejudice having been excited against him by premature reports in the public journals; and then entered into a general train of argument, inferring that, in a case of life and death, juries ought not to convict upon circumstantial evidence; the more especially where they appeared, as in the present case, so dubious. He stated that, whatever might be the result of their judgment upon the evidence, it was almost a matter of indifference to him on his own account; for he was borne down and subdued

by the unjust prejudices of the public, by the long imprisonment he had endured, and by the enormous expenses to which he had been subjected; but he had those relations who made life dear to him; he had children who looked to him for support, and who would not only be dishonoured, but ruined, by his death. The only evidence which he adduced was that of three persons, who spoke to his general character.

The lord chief baron summed up the evidence in the most perspicuous manner, occupying nearly two hours in commenting upon every part of it.

The jury then retired for about a quarter of an hour, and, on their return, pronounced a verdict of Guilty.

His lordship then proceeded to pronounce the awful sentence of the law.—He observed that the prisoner had begun his career of guilt in a system of fraud towards his friend; he had continued it in ingratitude, and had terminated it in blood. He then directed that he should be executed on Monday, and his body should be delivered for dissection.

Patch, who had the appearance of a decent yeoman, and was about thirty-eight years of age, during the whole of the trial never betrayed the slightest symptom of embarrassment; his appearance evinced a seeming composure, which innocence alone could manifest, or the most consummate villainy could counterfeit. He also heard the dreadful sentence with a degree of sullen composure, bordering upon apathy, as if he had previously made up his mind to the event. The execution was, however, deferred till the next morning (Tuesday), it being deemed advisable that he should suffer with a man

and his wife, Benjamin and Sarah Herring, who had been convicted at Kingston, March 28, of coining, in order to obviate the inconvenience of having two public executions following each other so closely. It was in consequence of this suggestion of Mr. Ives, the keeper, to the chief baron (who, with the Dukes of Sussex and Gloucester, retired to his house after the trial), that his lordship was induced to order the respite, which he wrote thus on the margin of the first order for execution:—

‘Let the execution be respited till Tuesday, the 8th day of April, 1806. A. MACDONALD.’

It seems that Herring and his wife had carried on the trade of coining to a great extent, at their own house in St. George's Fields. On searching their premises, a complete set of coining implements, punches, aquafortis, &c. were found, besides upwards of seventy shillings, a quantity of dollars, half-crowns, and sixpences, all ready for circulation.

The prisoner Benjamin, in his defence, said he was a wire and bird-cage maker, and that the implements found in his possession were necessary for the carrying on of that business. The jury without hesitation found both prisoners guilty.

But to return to Patch.—This criminal, after condemnation, remained perfectly calm and unmolested. He slept well during the greater part of the Saturday night, rose at nine o'clock on the next morning, and attended divine service at half past ten. About a quarter before eleven, the Rev. Mr. Mann, the Ordinary, preached the condemned sermon, in a style the most impressive and affecting; to which Mr. Patch paid becoming attention. On his return

to his cell, the prisoner, for a few moments, looked steadfastly at the turnkey, and said ‘I am innocent,’ but did not attempt to utter another word. At two o'clock he dined, and made a hearty meal, and appeared as composed as usual during the remainder of the day. He continued to preserve a sullen silence until Monday afternoon, when that composure which marked his countenance left him. He was informed by the Ordinary of the goal that his friends approached to take their last farewell of him for ever, when he gave up all hopes of a reprieve, and exclaimed, ‘Is no mercy to be expected?’ His relations, viz. his sister, who had lived with Mr. Blight, a younger brother, and a brother-in-law, with his wife, a nephew, and another distant relation, were admitted to him, and remained with him until three o'clock, when they took their last farewell. Patch was now most sensibly affected, and the scene was truly distressing. He embraced each of his relatives, and wept bitterly. After this affecting scene, Mr. Ives, the governor of the prison, went to his cell, and Patch here uttered an expression adequate to a confession of his guilt. He said ‘I have confessed my sins to God; man can give me no relief.’ This day he was also visited by the Rev. Mr. Mann, and three dissenting ministers. In their interviews with him he evinced the strongest proofs of a penitent sinner; but invariably declined to give any answer to the urgent entreaties of the clergymen, to acknowledge the crime for which he was to die. Mr. Graham, the magistrate who committed him to prison, was the last person admitted to see him on this night. Before they parted Mr. Patch took him by the hand, and said, emphatically, ‘We shall, I trust, meet in Heaven.’

The three dissenting ministers remained with him all night; during the whole of which he appeared extremely penitent.

About half past six on Tuesday morning, the Rev. Mr. Mann, and the curate of the Rev. Rowland Hill, came to the prison; and, after a short interview, Patch and Herring went with the Rev. Mr. Mann to the altar, and resumed their devotions; the woman, being a Roman Catholic, went to the left side of the chapel, with a priest, the Rev. Mr. Griffiths. At eight Patch and Herring received the sacrament.

About nine o'clock the high sheriff demanded the bodies of the unfortunate sufferers; when Herring and his wife were placed on a sledge, and drawn to the entrance of the staircase leading to the apparatus for the execution, from which they ascended the stairs with as much firmness as could be expected. Patch displayed his usual intrepidity.

While Jack Ketch was fastening the ropes, the Rev. Mr. Mann attended Patch, and, for the last time, attempted to draw from him a confession, but with no better success. The sheriff then entreated him to confess; but he steadfastly refused. At this time the cap was drawn over his face, and every thing prepared to launch him into eternity. Apparently displeased at being pressed so much upon the subject, he threw himself considerably back with im-

patience, and, from the violent motion of his body, some of the spectators supposed that he meant to break his neck. Mr. Ives ran to him, and exclaimed, 'My good friend, what are you about?' when Patch took him by the hand, and conversed with him for about a minute and a half. A great anxiety was, at this moment, expressed by the by-standers, to know whether Patch had confessed his guilt in this conversation, but Mr. Ives answered that he could not at present divulge what he had communicated to him. He said, however, 'I believe him to be the man,' meaning the man who murdered Mr. Blight.

They suffered on the top of the New Prison, in the Borough, April the 8th, 1806.

The body of Patch, after hanging the usual time, was taken to the hospital in the prison, for the county surgeon, for the purpose of being dissected.

The multitude that assembled to witness this awful ceremony was said to be more considerable than even at the execution of Despard.

Patch was an athletic broad-shouldered man, about five feet seven inches high, and strong made in proportion: his florid looks never forsook him; but these arose from his constitutional formation; his lips, however, were pale enough to indicate sufficiently the state of his mind.

WILLIAM HONEYMAN,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

SELDOM have we presented the case of a malefactor so young, and yet so consummately artful. This young adept in the art of swindling was born at Portsmouth, of creditable parents, who, after giving him a good education, placed him as a

midshipman in the royal navy. He had not, however, been long on board the vessel to which he was appointed, then stationed at Sheerness, ere he deserted, and began his career of vice at Rochester. He afterwards took a route to the

West of England, following his nefarious practices.

On the 18th of November, 1805, under the name of Alexander Innes, captain in the navy, he was brought to Marlborough Street police-office, to answer a charge preferred against him by a Mr. Jeff, a liveryman, in Silver Street, Golden Square.

Mr. Jeff stated that the prisoner called at his stables on November the 9th, representing himself as the person above described, and residing at No. 49, Howland Street, and hired a chestnut mare to go to Richmond. The mare was never returned to her owner; and, after a week had elapsed, Mr. Jeff suspected he had been swindled. He consequently went to the given address, and had there further cause of suspicion; for the house was a brothel, and he was only known to have slept there one night.

In consequence of some information Mr. Jeff had received, he went to the house of an eminent tradesman in the Borough, where, it was said, the prisoner was known, having drawn money by bills, &c. Mr. Jeff was there informed of the circumstance alluded to, and that Capt. Innes had sent thither a mare from the country, which had been attended with unpleasant circumstances. The parties, however, said they knew but little of the prisoner.

He was detected by calling at the Gloucester Coffee House, Piccadilly, which house he had frequented with a person of the name of Kenesley, who left it without discharging his bill. The prisoner called to inquire after his friend, and, on leaving the house, two of the waiters followed him, suspecting him to be the person advertised by Mr. Jeff. At a convenient spot near Vauxhall, the waiters gave him in charge of an officer.

It was stated to the magistrates,

that the prisoner had been at the Castle, at Richmond, where the waiter was refused his bill; but, by assistance, the visitors were detained, and a watch was left as security.

Mr. Jeff had never heard of his mare, but it was reported she was at Andover, Hants. When at Richmond, on Sunday, at the Castle Inn, he was informed that a mare, answering the description of the one hired, was sold on Wednesday last, at Croydon, to a butcher at Richmond; but he had not an opportunity of seeing her, the butcher being from home. On the prisoner being questioned respecting what he had done with the mare, he merely answered, he had spoken to Mr. Jeff on that subject. He was dressed in the first style of fashion, and his person was very well known in the lobby at the theatres.

The next day the concourse of people that assembled at Marlborough Street office was immense. Several persons intimated their intentions of exhibiting charges against the prisoner on the next examination, which took place November the 21st. Numerous fresh charges were adduced against him; and it appeared by the evidence that an insinuating confident address, with a commanding person, had enabled him to enter the circles of gentlemen, whom he is said to have defrauded, as well as tradespeople, innkeepers, &c. in town and country.—The horse he hired of Mr. Jeff had been traced to George Yard, Drury Lane.

John Rich, ostler to Mr. Cartwright, Camden Place, Piccadilly, stated that the prisoner hired a brown gelding six weeks since, in the absence of his master. He said he resided in St. James's Street; that he merely wanted to ride out for two or three hours, and on his return he would send the horse

home by his servant. He, however, never returned, nor had the horse ever been heard of. A person in the office (Mr. Nuns) informed Mr. Cartwright, that a horse, answering the description he had given, was left at his livery stables, Vauxhall, on the 14th of October, and he believed by the prisoner. He hired a horse and chaise of Mr. Nuns, and left the horse in his care, until he should return, which he never did. The prisoner said his name was Becket, and that he resided at Gravesend. Mr. Nuns, finding the prisoner did not return, went to Gravesend, and Mr. Becket proved to be a banker, who informed him that a person answering the description of the prisoner had forged on his bank. Mr. Nuns had travelled three or four hundred miles after his horse and chaise; and at length found that the horse was at Alton, in Hampshire, and the chaise at Honiton, in Devonshire, the prisoner having left the horse as he had done at other places, and hired a fresh one.

It was proved, by another witness, that the prisoner had committed depredations in the West of England, by representing himself as the son of Mr. Pigeon, belonging to a distillery firm in the Borough. By this imposition, affecting to be travelling on account of the firm, he was very successful in obtaining money, by swindling bills, &c. In this part of the country he drove about in a post-chaise and four, associated with the best company, joined their hunting parties, and became a complete man of fashion. At Exeter he drove through the city a week before the news of the victory over the combined fleets, as a naval officer with dispatches from the fleet. The gentlemen belonging to a subscription-house, and the leading men of the city, desirous of hearing good

news, politely requested to be informed if the news was good. The prisoner, who represented himself as the son of Lord Mulgrave, assured them it was good news, and that it was from the hero, Nelson. The gentlemen were desirous of further information; but fearing to put the question too pointedly, they asked if it equalled the business of the Nile. The prisoner replied, 'The Nile is a fool to it;' and he immediately drove off, having diffused joy throughout the ancient city of Exeter.

A number of other charges were preferred against him. A gentleman positively proved the prisoner to be an impostor, in representing himself as Capt. Innes. The prisoner said his name was Innes, and he was addressed as a captain by naval characters. On being questioned by the magistrates, if he was ever in the navy, and what rank he held, the prisoner replied, He was a midshipman in the *Magnanime*, of sixty-four guns, but he had not been in the service since the last war. He was before that in the *Active*, of thirty-two guns. He was remanded again, to give country people an opportunity to attend; and, on the day appointed, the office was crowded so excessively, that many who repaired thither to take a view of the prisoner were disappointed.

Among other circumstances, Hamilton, the officer, said that he was authorized, by the gentlemen of the Gravesend Bank, to state a circumstance that recently occurred there, the complainants being unable to attend the examination: the prisoner, in the name of Charles Young, presented to them a bill of exchange for eighty pounds, purporting to have been drawn upon Simmons and Co. at the Canterbury Bank, for which he received cash and notes, and it was soon afterwards discovered to be a forgery.

There was also another serious charge against the prisoner, for a transaction during his tour in the West of England. It had been stated that he diffused joy throughout the city of Exeter, by proclaiming a victory, said to have been gained by the departed hero, Nelson, a week before that of Trafalgar. He also, it appeared, represented himself as the bearer of the joyful tidings, when the glorious victory was obtained. Being on the Portsmouth road when Lord Fitzroy was travelling to the Admiralty with the important news, and having obtained some slight information respecting it, or at least that his lordship was going with dispatches to town, he immediately ordered a post-chaise and four, and was driven after the messenger at full speed. On his entering the town of Basingstoke, his chaise was surrounded by the multitude, who were more ready to be imposed on, a ray of hope having spread itself that a victory had been gained. In the habit of a naval officer, the prisoner went to the bank, called himself Lord Fitzroy, drew one hundred pounds in his name, and gave a forged draft. He apologized to the gentlemen of the bank for the sudden intrusion, and alleged that his cash was insufficient to carry him to the Admiralty. This imposition was soon detected, the prisoner was followed, and the money recovered. On his being asked if he had any thing to say, he replied he had not, in his present disagreeable situation. He was then remanded till a gentleman from the Gravesend Bank could attend, when he was fully committed to take his trial, and soon after removed to Maidstone, where he was indicted March 13, 1806, for forging, uttering, and publishing as true, at Gravesend, a certain bill of exchange, for the sum of eighty

pounds, purporting to have been drawn by one Charles Young, and to be directed to Messrs. Simmons and Co. at Canterbury, with intent to defraud John Brenchley, Charles Becket, and George Rich, of Gravesend.

He also stood indicted, upon the oaths of Rich and others, with stealing one brown gelding, the property of Edward Cartwright; and, upon the oath of Richard Nuns, with stealing at Lambeth, in Surrey, one black mare, a chaise, and harness his property.

On the first indictment, it appeared he came to the Gravesend Bank, and represented himself as a person under the tuition of Mr. Stevenson (steward to the Earl of Daruley), for a knowledge of agricultural improvement, which afterwards proved to be false. The fraud on the bank being substantiated by the clerk, the jury, after a little deliberation, found the prisoner Guilty; and the judge considered it unnecessary to try him on the others.

From the time of the judge's passing sentence on him, and informing him he could not expect any mercy, the crime being so great, he became much dejected, and behaved himself in a very becoming manner.

On the 28th of March, the unfortunate prisoner wrote a letter from his cell to the Gravesend Bank, acknowledging the crime laid to his charge, thanking the prosecutors for their humanity in recommending him to the judge for mercy, and requesting they would sign a petition to the king; which had been done before, but which he was not aware of. He stated, in his letter, that he was deranged at the time of committing the fact. He also said it had ever been his father's wish to train him in the world to friendly society.

He made the following speech at the place of execution, from a written paper, which he gave to a friend upon his request:—

‘For my own part, I confess, with the greatest contrition, the crime which has brought me to this horrid place, and admit the justice of my sentence, while I am sinking under its severity; and I earnestly exhort you all, my fellow-prisoners, and young men at liberty, to acknowledge the offences you have been guilty of, and to bequeath to your country that confidence in public justice, without which there can be neither peace nor safety in this world.

‘As few of you suffer for the first offences, it is necessary to inquire how far confession ought to be extended. Whatever good remains in our power we must diligently perform. We must prevent, to the utmost of our power, all the evil consequences of our crimes. We must forgive all who injure us. We must, by fervency of prayer, and always praying to God, in constancy and meditation, endeavour to repress all worldly passions; and generate in our minds that love of goodness, and hatred of sin, which may fit us for the society of heavenly minds; and, finally, we must commend and intrust our soul to Him that died for the sins of men, with earnest wishes and humble hopes that he will admit us with the labourers who entered the vineyard at the last hour, and associate us with the thief whom he pardoned on the cross.

‘Thus, we humbly trust, our sorrowful prayers and tears will be acceptable in his sight. Thus shall we be qualified, through Christ, to exchange this dismal body, and these uneasy fetters, for the glorious liberty of the sons of God, and then our legal doom upon earth be changed into a comfortable declaration of

mercy in the highest heaven, and all through the most precious and all-sufficient merits of the blessed Saviour of mankind.

‘I wish you all the happiness that this land affords, and the enjoyment of life in all its branches. You, my brothers and sisters, will, I hope, take caution of so young a man as I am, whose years are only eighteen; and to think that I should suffer this ignominious and awful death before so many of you! Our happiness or misery only begins when we die.

‘It is but your sins that can make you afraid of dying. It concerns us more than our life is worth to know what will become of us when we die.’

This speech, which was spoken in a manly and distinct tone, made a deep impression on an unusual number of spectators (many of whom were soldiers). Shortly after he seemed to reflect on the jury, and the severity of the laws of this country, by saying ‘So young a man as he was might have been useful by being sent abroad;’ because the petition had been presented, and interest made, in vain, to his majesty, to save his life. He behaved, however, with the greatest decorum at the place of execution, praying in a most penitent manner, till the platform fell from under him.

‘Be thy pursuits, then, giddy youth,
The paths of industry and truth;
For those, who follow wicked ways,
With shame must terminate their days.’

Along with the unfortunate Honeyman, who suffered on Penenden Heath, the following unhappy men also underwent the final sentence of the law:—

James Danes, convicted of burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of the Rev. Joseph Andrews, at Marden in the county of Kent, and stealing therefrom

twenty shirts, twenty pounds in money, and other articles, to the amount of one hundred and fifty pounds.

Samuel Clarke, alias Hagger, convicted of breaking into the shop of John Elliott, watchmaker, at Ashford, on the 25th of January, and stealing therein divers watches, chains, seals, &c. and of having the same in his possession.

John Staines, who was found guilty of stealing two Welsh heifers, the property of Edward Back, of Mersham.

Danes had been a smuggler, well known in the county of Kent, having lived at Trottescliffe, where he left a wife and four children.

Clarke, whose friends lived at Rochester, had been master's mate on board a man of war; his character was notorious, having, it is said, returned from transportation; he declared himself, however, innocent of the charge for which he was condemned.—Staines likewise made the same declaration.

These four malefactors died sincere penitents.

JOHN MAYCOCK,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF AN OLD LONE LADY.

THOUGH these cruel men for a while escaped, yet, in about six months, the dreadful transaction was brought to light—

‘For murder,
Though it hath no tongue, will speak
With most miraculous organ.’

John Maycock and John Pope were tried on the 20th of March, 1807, at Kingston, on a charge of committing this crime on the 10th of August preceding.

Mr. Knowlys stated that it was one of the most aggravated nature, and perpetrated in the most deliberate manner, for the sake of plunder. The jury could have no doubt of the guilt of one of the prisoners, because the circumstances which he had to lay before them were of so strong a nature.—From the compunctions of remorse with which one of the prisoners (Pope) had been visited, he had disclosed the whole of the guilty affair; and he trusted that in the moment of need, at another tribunal, he might find mercy. The learned counsel then detailed the evidence which he meant to adduce, and proceeded to call his witnesses.

Mrs. Sarah Pooley, sister of the

deceased, stated that her sister lived in Freeschool Street, Horsley-down, in a very retired manner; the house being almost constantly shut up, and no servant attending. The last time she saw her was on the 26th of July, when she carried her the dividend due on her stock, which amounted to twelve pounds. This sum she paid her in six two-pound notes of the Bank of England, all new. Having been informed of the murder, she procured a Mr. Garrett to examine the house.

John Mackrill Garrett stated, that, on the 20th of August, he searched the house, and discovered the deceased lying on her back in the kitchen; her left leg was bent under her; her clothes were all smooth, but her pockets had been turned inside out: there were lying by her side a pair of scissors, a thimble, and a penknife. The body was in a putrid state. On making a further search, he found that all the drawers and boxes had been rifled; and that the house had been entered by pulling out some bricks which were under the wash-house window.

Mr. Thomas Brickenden, surgeon,

examined the body on the day the coroner's inquest was taken. He found it in so putrid a state, that it was impossible to say whether the deceased met her death by violence or otherwise. She was lying on the floor of the wash-house; the scalp of her head appeared to be separated.

Thomas Griffin, a corn-porter, knew the prisoner Maycock; met him about two months previous to the murder, when the prisoner said 'Tom, I'll put you into a good job.' The witness asked what it was; when the prisoner replied, 'I know an elderly lady who lives in a house by herself, which is shut up; and she is worth a deal of money; you and I, and a stont young fellow who works with Mr. Burgess, will do her out of it.' The witness refused to have any concern in the robbery; and, when he heard of the murder, communicated the circumstance to his brother, who brought Mr. Graham to his house (the witness being ill) to take his deposition. Previous to this communication, and subsequent to the murder, he had seen the prisoner, who told him he had plenty of money.

Thomas Cockburn, foreman of the corn-porters at Mr. Burgess's, stated that the prisoner, Maycock, worked at his master's at the time of the murder; and that on Saturday, the 9th of August, he was paid, in common with the other men, at Mr. Davis's, the Barley Mow, in Freeschool Street. He came to finish his job on the Monday following; but he did not see him again until he was apprehended. This witness proved that the wages which corn-porters earn are not very great, the labour being so fluctuating.

Aaron Graham, Esq. was examined touching the confession of Pope respecting the murder. Mr. Graham stated that Maycock was

not present when Pope made the confession. That the proclamation, offering a reward for the discovery of the murderers, lay on the table. Mr. Graham asked Pope if he had seen it, who replied in the affirmative; that this question was put to him in order to induce him to confess.

In this stage of the prosecution some discussion arose respecting the acquittal of Pope, it being contended by his counsel, Mr. Gurney, that he ought not to have been put upon his trial, having confessed under the inducement of being pardoned.

Mr. Knowlys, for the prosecution, contended that he ought to be made a party with the other prisoner; but the chief baron ruled that, as he had confessed under the promise of being pardoned, he was entitled to it. Pope was accordingly acquitted, and the trial proceeded against Maycock.

John Gray, the landlord of the public house in which Maycock and his wife lodged, proved the intimacy between Pope and Maycock, and that the latter was absent all one Saturday night, about the time of the murder, and that he did not return home till late on the Sunday; that he told the witness he had been on the water with Pope, and had not ate a morsel all the day. Pope's wife was with the wife of Maycock; and in a few minutes Pope came in. Maycock asked if any one had inquired after him, and directed the witness to say that he was ill, and gone into the country.

Two other witnesses were called to prove that Maycock had bought some new clothes, purchased awatch, &c.; from which it was inferred that the money with which he made the purchases was dishonestly obtained.

Mr. Knowlys here proposed to call the accomplice, Pope; to which Mr. Morris objected, on the ground that he was not a competent wit-

ness, having been put upon his trial. After some arguments of much ingenuity, the objection was overruled.

John Pope (the accomplice) was then called, and his examination was to the following effect:—‘I am a corn-porter at present, but formerly had some craft at Bishop’s Stortford, on the river Ware. I have known Maycock about a year and a half before the murder. About six weeks previous he asked me to go with him to rob an old woman, who lived in a *hugger-mugger* way, at a slut-up house. We had many conversations upon the subject; and it went on till Saturday, the 9th of August, when he asked me to go that evening. I agreed, though I was ill at the time. It was while he was at work at Burgess’s. I saw him in the evening at the Bull public house, where we sat drinking gin and water till about ten o’clock. We then, instead of going home, went backwards, and got through the loop-hole, or kind of cock-loft window, which joins the Bull, and is part of the deceased’s house. I took some bricks out in order to get in: I then unbolted the door, and let Maycock in. We tried to get further, but could not, the door being strongly barred. We remained in the wash-house till daylight, when I was much alarmed, and went twice into the public-house yard, in order to go away; but Maycock called me back, and we went down into the cellar, where we remained till about eight o’clock, when the deceased came down. Maycock went up to the top of the stairs, and the instant she opened the door he rushed at her, threw her down, and she screamed out ‘Oh!’ I then ran up stairs, and saw Maycock kneeling over her, with his hand or arm on her neck, which he held until she was quite dead: she never moved after I first

saw her. Said he to me ‘She is dead.’ We then went up stairs, and rifled the drawers; from whence we took out gold, silver, bank-notes, and halfpence, to the amount of about ninety pounds. Maycock took a roll of linen, for shirts; and we found a bottle of brandy, which we drank. We staid in the house all the day, being afraid to go out. In the course of the day we went and looked at the deceased two or three times. When the watchman went ten o’clock, I opened the door; Maycock took the bundle, and we quitted the house. He went home, and sent his wife to me on the ruins, near his lodging, for the bundle, having left it in my charge; and I followed her. We then divided the booty; the notes were all two-pound notes.’

On his cross-examination he admitted that he stood charged with stealing corn from Mr. Burgess’s, but that he was innocent. Did not charge Maycock till he saw the proclamation offering pardon; and then disclosed the murder to save himself.

The prisoner, in his defence, said he was quite innocent of the charge alleged against him.

The lord chief baron then summed up the evidence. The principal witness, he observed, was stained with the same crime; his evidence ought, therefore, to be taken with caution. The jury would attend, however, to see with what degree of probability his testimony was supported by the other witnesses. The learned judge then noticed the particular circumstances which made against the prisoner: such as his being out all Saturday night; having plenty of money; being seen in company with Pope, &c.

The jury returned a verdict of Guilty, and the learned chief baron proceeded to pass the sentence of the law. The crime of which he

had been convicted was of so foul a nature that not any apology could be found for it. It was begun in the contemplation of plunder, and concluded with murder. He advised the prisoner to make the most of his time in petitioning for mercy at that tribunal where he must soon appear. He was then sentenced to be hung on the following Monday, and to be dissected.

The prisoner was a robust-looking young man, about twenty-four years old, and did not appear to be greatly affected at his situation. When sentence was passed on him, he observed, on going from the dock, 'Thank you for that, I'm done snug enough.'

He was executed on Monday, March the 23d, 1807, at the top of the new gaol, Horsemonger Lane.



Rouvelett forging the Bill for which he was executed.

**JOHN DOCKE ROUVELETT, ALIAS ROMNEY,
EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.**

THIS notorious swindler was well known at Bath, where he passed for a West Indian of considerable fortune and family: he was about forty years of age, and had the appearance of a Creole. He lived with a woman of the name of Elizabeth Barnet, who passed for his wife, particulars of whom will be given in the course of this narration. Having

been arrested for debt, he was occasionally visited by this woman in the Fleet Prison, and was afterwards removed, by Habeas Corpus, into Somersetshire, on charge of forgery. Conscious that Elizabeth Barnet was the only witness against him, by whose evidence he could be convicted of the forgery, as well as of perjury, another case also pend-

ing, Rouvelett having falsely sworn a debt against Mr. Dorant, of the York Hotel, Albemarle Street, he had her taken up for a supposed robbery, and charged her with stealing his purse in the Fleet Prison, containing forty guineas, half a guinea, and a valuable diamond. This case of singular atrocity came on at the Old Bailey, Saturday, July 5, 1806. The young woman was fashionably attired, and her appearance excited universal sympathy. Rouvelett was brought up from Ilchester gaol, ironed, to prosecute on his indictment. An application was made to put off the trial, on the affidavit of the prosecutor, which stated that some material witnesses at Liverpool had not had sufficient notice to attend. The object of this attempt was to prevent the prisoner from appearing against him on his trial for forgery, as also to prevent her becoming a witness against him in the case of perjury, as already mentioned. The recorder saw through the transactions, which he described as the most foul and audacious that ever were attempted. He ordered the trial to proceed. Rouvelett, who called himself a gentleman, stated that the prisoner was with him on the 11th of June, 1805, when he drew half a guinea from his purse, and gave it to a messenger; after which he put the purse, containing the property as stated in the indictment, into the pocket of a surtout coat, which was hanging up in the room, in which was the ring, worth thirty pounds. There were no other persons in the room but the prisoner and himself; and in twenty minutes after she was gone he missed his property from the great-coat pocket. He concluded that the money was safe, as the prisoner was gone to Dorant's Hotel, Albemarle Street, and he did not suppose her capable

of robbing him. She, however, absconded, and he never saw her again until she was arrested at his suit, jointly with Dorant, in an action of trover for twenty thousand pounds, for deeds, mortgages, and bonds, bearing interest, for which bail was given. He had no opportunity of bringing her to justice for the alleged robbery, he being himself a prisoner. [The recorder here remarked that the prosecutor could find the prisoner for a civil suit, although he could not find her for the criminal act.] On the cross-examination of the prosecutor, he said he was born at St. Martin's, in the West Indies, and he had been at most of the islands in that quarter: his uncle was a planter in the West Indies, and he lived on such means, whilst in England, as his family afforded him: he was brought up in Amsterdam, at the house of Mr. Hope, banker; after which he became a lieutenant in the British army (the 87th regiment). He knew Mr. Hope, of Harley Street, Cavendish Square, and Mr. Hope knew him to be Mr. Rouvelett, of St. Martin's; for the two families had been closely connected for one hundred years. He lived in England on remittances from his uncle, in goods or bills, but he had no property of his own. Messrs. Stephens and Boulton used to pay witness his remittances at Liverpool, but he could not tell who paid them in London. The recorder observed that the witness should not be pressed too far in giving an account of himself, as he (the prisoner) stood charged with forgery. On being asked if he, the witness, had not said he would be revenged on the prisoner, as she was intimate with Dorant, and charge her with a felony, he answered that he did not recollect having said so; but the question being pressed, he partly acknowledged it. The purse, which

was empty, witness acknowledged was found under the pillow, on the 12th of June, the day after the alleged robbery, by his room chum, a man of the name of Cummings. The prisoner was with him in prison after the 12th of June, although he said she had absconded.

The recorder did not suffer the cause to be farther proceeded in, and directed the jury to acquit the prisoner; and observed this was the most foul charge he had ever heard of.

The disgust of the persons in court was manifested by hisses and groans, as the fellow retired, in such a manner as baffled the efforts of the officers of justice for some time to suppress.

The trial of this malicious offender, who was thus happily disappointed in his views, came on at Wells, August 12, 1806, before Baron Thompson, and excited uncommon interest throughout the county of Somerset.

The prisoner, John Docke Romney, *alias* Rouvelett, was indicted for having feloniously and knowingly forged a bill of exchange, dated Grenada, 10th of November, 1804, for four hundred and twenty pounds sterling, payable, at nine months' sight, to the order of George Danley, Esq. and drawn by Willis and Co. on Messrs. Child and Co. in London, with the forged acceptance of Messrs. Child and Co. on the face thereof, with intent to defraud Mary Simeon.

Mr. Burroughs entered into the details of the case, which were afterwards substantiated by the evidence.

Mr. Philip George, the younger, clerk to the Mayor of Bath, stated that the bill in question was delivered to him by the Mayor of Bath, and that he had ever since kept the bill in his own custody.

Mrs. Mary Simeon, dealer in laces at Bath, was next called, and

was proceeding to give her evidence, when Mr. Jekyl, counsel for the prisoner, submitted a legal objection to the Court. He observed a difference between the bill itself, and the bill as set forth in the indictment. The words to which he alluded were Willis and Co. in the bill, whereas in the indictment they were set forth Willis and Co. After some discussion, Baron Thompson and the jury agreeing that there appeared no essential difference, as the letter *o* could be distinguished, the objection was overruled.

Mrs. Simeon deposed that in April, 1805, she lived at Bath; the prisoner at the bar came to her house on or about the 16th of March, 1805; having looked at several articles in which she dealt, he bought a fan, paid for it, and said he should bring his wife with him in the afternoon. He accordingly did so, and brought Elizabeth Barnet as his wife, Mrs. Romney. He asked whether Mrs. Simeon had a Brussels veil of one hundred and fifty guineas value. The witness answered she had not. He then bought two yards of lace, at four guineas a yard, and went away. This happened on a Saturday. The Monday following he came again, accompanied by his wife, looked at a lace cloak, at veils worth five-and-twenty guineas, and other goods, but did not buy any. In the course of the week he called again, and proposed to the witness to purchase a quantity of goods, if she would take a bill of a long date, accepted by Messrs. Child and Co. bankers, in London. Witness answered she had no objection to take a bill accepted by such a house. He returned in two or three days, and purchased articles to the value of about one hundred and forty pounds, which, with other goods afterwards bought, and with money advanced

by her, made the prisoner her debtor to the amount of two hundred and ninety-nine pounds. He bought all the articles himself, unaccompanied by his wife. In the month of April, between the 20th and the 24th, the prisoner proposed paying for the different articles, and he brought his wife to the house; when a meeting took place between them and the witness, and her brother, Mr. Du Hamel. He said, 'I am going to London, and I should like to settle with you: this is the bill I have proposed to you to take; it is accepted by Child and Co. bankers, in London;' and, turning over the bill, he added, 'The indorser is as good as the acceptors.'

The bill was here produced, and proved by Mrs. Simeon to be the same which the prisoner gave to her in April, 1805.

The witness then took the bill, and her brother, Mr. Du Hamel, paid to him, for her, thirty-five pounds, which, with the articles previously bought, made the whole of the prisoner's debt to her two hundred and ninety-nine pounds. He wrote before her on the bill the name of John Romney as his name. He afterwards went to London by the mail. She sent the bill the next day to London.

The conversation which passed between her and the prisoner, in the presence of her brother and Elizabeth Barnet, was entirely in the French language. He left his wife at her house, where she slept. While he was absent, the witness received intelligence from London that the bill was a forgery, and she instantly wrote a letter to the prisoner, informing him of it. He came to Bath in consequence of the letter, late of a Sunday night, and a meeting took place then at her house between him, his wife, herself, her brother, and her solicitor, Mr. Luke

Evill, of Bath. The conversation then passed in English. Several questions were put to the prisoner, by herself and by Mr. Evill. Mr. Evill asked him whether he had any business with W. A. Bailey, the indorser, which induced him to take the bill. He said Mr. Bailey had sold some sugar for him. She asked him if Bailey lived in London: he replied, at some inn or coffee-house, the name of which she did not recollect. He was then asked in what island or islands Mr. Bailey's property was situated: he mentioned two or three islands in the West Indies, but he did not know in which of them Mr. Bailey at that time was. The prisoner then inquired where the bill was; and, being informed by the witness that it was in London, he said she must write to get it sent back. She, however, declared that such an application would be unavailing, and the prisoner pressed her to go to London herself. She refused to go alone, and he entreated Mr. Evill to accompany her, saying he would give Mr. Evill twenty pounds to defray the expenses of the journey, which he accordingly did. She set out at ten o'clock that night, accompanied by Mr. Evill, and obtained the bill from Messrs. Toper and Allen, in whose custody it was, by paying three hundred guineas, which was all the money she then had at her banker's. She brought the bill back to Bath, having stopped but one day in London; but the prisoner was not at Bath when she returned. He had left some property at her house with his wife, who had removed from Sidney House, with his clothes, &c. The bill remained after this in her custody about a twelvemonth, and was given up to Mr. Evill by her brother. Mr. Dorant paid the whole of the debt due by the prisoner, on

the 6th of May, 1805, a few days after the prisoner finally left Bath.

Upon the cross-examination of Mrs. Simeon, it appeared that she considered the prisoner and Elizabeth Barnet as man and wife. It was not until May, 1806, that she appeared before the Mayor of Bath against the prisoner, whom she knew to have been in the Fleet Prison. She did not go before the magistrate at the solicitation of Mr. Dorant, nor did she at any time, nor on any account, receive any money from Dorant, but what was actually and fairly due to her by the prisoner.

Mr. Du Hamel, brother of Mrs. Simeon, corroborated all the principal facts stated by his sister.

Mr. Whelan deposed that he was a clerk in the house of Messrs. Child and Co. He had filled that situation for about nine years; and, from his knowledge of the business, he was enabled to state their manner of accepting bills. The house had no correspondents whatever at Grenada by the name of Willis and Co. and the acceptance, which appeared on the face of the bill, was not the acceptance of Messrs. Child and Co.

Mr. Luke Evill, solicitor for the prosecution, stated that he had sent the bill from Bath to his agent in London, for the purpose of its being delivered to Mr. Dorant.

Elizabeth Barnet was next called. She deposed that she became acquainted with the prisoner in the month of September, 1804, when at Liverpool. About a fortnight after she first saw him she began to live with him, and continued till the 16th of June, 1805; during all that period she passed under the name of Mrs. Romney. She left Liverpool in the month of January, 1805, and came to London with the prisoner. They then took lodgings at

Mr. Dorant's hotel, in Albemarle Street. The account he gave of himself to her was, that he was a West-Indian planter, and that he had estates in Martinique and St. Kitt's. They remained between two and three months at Mr. Dorant's hotel, during which time they were not visited by any body except a Mr. Hope, whom she remembered seeing with the prisoner. This Mr. Hope was not represented to her as being from Holland. She accompanied Mr. Romney to Bath, and on their arrival there they lodged at the White Hart Inn, for about a fortnight, previous to her lodging at Madame Simeon's. Soon after their arrival at the White Hart, she went along with the prisoner to Madame Simeon's, to look at some laces and a black cloak. None of these articles, however, were purchased at that time by the prisoner, they being afterwards bought when she was not present. She heard the prisoner state to Madame Simeon that he would give her a bill of exchange, accepted by Child and Co. of London. She did not then see any bill in his possession, but saw him writing one three days afterwards, when he sent the witness for some red-ink. She brought it to him, when he was still writing on the same piece of paper, and he soon afterwards wrote thereon with the red ink, and put it up into his pocket-book without saying any thing. The next day he told her she must go and walk with him to Madame Simeon's, as he was going to pay her for some articles he had bought, which the witness had by that time got sent home to her. She accordingly accompanied him to Madame Simeon's shop, where she saw that lady, and her brother, a Mr. Du Hamel. A conversation then took place between them, which, being entirely in French, she did not un-

derstand. She, however, saw a paper given by the prisoner to Madame Simeon, which he took out of his pocket-book. This was the same paper which she had formerly seen him writing. A good deal of conversation ensued after the bill was put down, and she then saw Romney put his name to it, [The bill in question was here shown to the witness, and she distinctly identified it as being the same one she had formerly seen the prisoner write upon with red ink, and afterwards endorse with his name.] Two or three days afterwards the prisoner left Bath for London, and the witness remained at Madame Simeon's. He returned on the Sunday night following, and remained at Madame Simeon's till next day. She observed that he was then very much disturbed, and she inquired the reason. The prisoner answered by saying 'He must be hanged.' He asked her to fetch him his writing-desk, which she did. He then took out a large parcel of papers, and burnt them. She had no opportunity of seeing what those papers were. She asked him 'Were the papers any harm?' He said 'Yes;' and that there was a paper which must not be seen. He further desired her to go to such and such a trunk, and there she would find a plate, which he wished her to take the first opportunity of throwing into the river. This plate she found without any thing with it, and she put it into her own trunk, amongst her wearing apparel. He wrote her a letter afterwards from Chippingham, requesting her 'to remember the river.' [This letter not being produced, no interrogatories were put concerning it.] She had not an opportunity of throwing this plate into the river, as she never went out but under Madame Simeon's protection. She never lived with

the prisoner after that day, the 6th of June, 1805. She, however, remembered visiting him in the Fleet Prison. She was soon afterwards arrested at Bath, at the prisoner's instance, for the sum of twenty thousand, three hundred, and twenty pounds, and carried to Winchester gaol, and afterwards removed to the King's Bench. She saw the prisoner on this occasion, and again at the Old Bailey, when he was examined as a witness against her on her trial. He then charged her with having robbed him on the 11th of June, 1805, of forty guineas and a diamond ring, when he was in the Fleet Prison: this charge was totally without foundation, as was also the alleged debt for twenty thousand, three hundred, and twenty pounds. She never had any transactions in her life to which such a charge could refer. She heard him also give his evidence at Westminster Hall.

On her cross-examination she deposed that her real name was Elizabeth Barnet. She was the daughter of a farmer in Shropshire, from whom she had a plain education. She left her father when nineteen years of age, and went to Liverpool, where she lodged with a Mrs. Barns: she lived at Liverpool about nine or ten months. After she had left off seeing Mr. Rouvelett, in the Fleet, she lodged at a Mr. Fox's, in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, for seven or eight weeks. She afterwards went to Bury Street.

To some additional interrogatories by Mr. Burroughs, this witness further deposed that the prisoner, Romney, sued out a writ against her for one thousand two hundred pounds, exclusive of the sum before mentioned. This was after she had ceased to visit him in prison, and had gone to reside at her father's; and it was also previous to the

arrest for the twenty thousand, three hundred, and twenty pounds, already taken notice of. No demand was made against her by the prisoner when she visited him in the gaol. She is now about to return to her father's, and he knows of her intention to do so. She has three sisters and a brother, who were all residing with her father when she first left home. When she was arrested for the twenty thousand, three hundred, and twenty pounds, she was examined before the Mayor of Bath. What she related concerning the bill in question she most solemnly declared was the perfect truth.

On the interrogatories of Mr. Baron Thompson, the learned judge, this witness added that she could read writing very well: when she brought the red ink to the prisoner, she remembered asking him what he had written, and he said he was drawing on Child and Co. She then observed to him that what he had written with the red ink looked very handsome: this made her perfectly certain as to the bill produced on this trial being the identical bill she had seen the prisoner writing. Mr. Romney at that time thought she could not read writing: he was at that time teaching her to write his name as he did, and she made considerable progress in imitating his hand. The bill upon which he wrote across with the red ink was printed (meaning engraved) exactly as the one now produced. The next day, when she saw the bill given by the prisoner to Madame Simeon, she particularly remarked the date upon it being the same as that she had formerly seen.

The prisoner was called upon for his defence, and, apparently with considerable confidence and firmness, addressed the Court as follows:—

'The circumstances attending the bill for which he stood charged he could very well explain. About the month of June, 1803, a quantity of coffee, rum, and sugar, the produce of his estates in the West Indies, were sold by his agent, a Mr. McClaurin, to a gentleman of the name of William Anthony Bailey, for which he (Mr. Bailey) gave a bill of exchange, drawn by the house of Calvert and Simpson, of St. Christopher's, in the West Indies, upon the house of Bond and Proctor, at Lancaster, at six months' date, for two hundred and eighteen pounds, sixteen shillings. This bill he (the prisoner) consented to take as payment of the produce sold; and, coming to England upon business, he brought it with him. On being presented to the house of Bond and Proctor, acceptance was refused, and it was therefore noted, and returned to his agent in the West Indies, in the year 1804, who, meeting with Mr. Bailey at St. Bartholomew's, received in lieu of the said bill a bond for three hundred pounds, to answer the damage arising from the expense of protesting, &c. as well as the original sum. This bond was transmitted to him by his agent, who advised, at the same time, that Mr. Bailey would be in England in the end of September, 1804, and that the transaction could be settled with himself. On Mr. Bailey's arrival in London, January, 1805, he (Romney) received a letter from him, addressed to him when at Liverpool, informing him of his readiness to settle the business. He (the prisoner) accordingly waited on Mr. Bailey at his lodgings, Craven Street, Strand, when he offered him some other bills of exchange, drawn and accepted by other houses in England, which he (the prisoner) did not object to, provided he knew the ac-

ceptors. Several bills were then produced, and, among others, that one in question for four hundred and twenty pounds, which he consented to take from him, and pay the difference, which amounted to one hundred and thirty-nine pounds, seven shillings. The bill was then indorsed by Mr. Bailey to him, on his assurance that it was a good and valid draft on Messrs. Child and Co. It having then about seven or eight months to run, it became in a manner useless to him, as he could not get it discounted. Happening to be at Bath, he offered it to Mrs. Simeon; she made no objection to take it in payment of an account run up to one hundred and thirty pounds by the young woman who had accompanied him there. Mrs. Simeon agreed to account to him for the proceeds. Having occasion to go to London upon his business, Mrs. Simeon offered him the use of an apartment for his trunks, &c. which he gladly accepted of, leaving the young woman under the care of Mrs. Simeon.

‘He was then lodging at Sidney House; and, as he did not think it safe to leave his effects at a public hotel, he removed them to Mrs. Simeon’s house, in the Grove, Bath, in his own carriage, and by his own servants. As he could not get a large Bank of England note, for one hundred pounds, broke or changed into small notes, he applied to Mrs. Simeon, who accommodated him with the loan of thirty pounds, in small Bank of England notes; and at the same time he indorsed the bill for four hundred and twenty pounds to that lady, in the presence of her brother, who offered him more money in country bank-notes, which he refused, as he only wanted so much as to pay the expenses of his journey to London. After leaving his address with Mrs. Simeon,

he was accompanied by her brother to the mail-coach. The address he left was “Dorant’s Hotel, or at Harman and Co.’s, Old Jewry.” After being a few hours in town, he was arrested at the suit of his jeweller, Mr. Davis, of Sackville Street, for a sum of nearly seven hundred pounds, which he had refused to pay, on account of the greater part of the charge being for diamonds sent to him at Bath, against his positive orders.

‘Mr. Dorant, the hotel-keeper, offered, unsolicited, to become his bail in the action, so that he was released from the lock-up house, and went to Dorant’s, where he found a letter from Mrs. Simeon, apprizing him of the bill being a forgery, and requiring his return to Bath, or to advise her what she was to do in the business. He was then very ill of a fever, created by the agitation of having been arrested; but, notwithstanding his situation, he immediately set out for Bath, after writing her an answer by the mail, two or three hours after he had received her letter. On seeing Mrs. Simeon and her brother, the forgery became the subject of discussion. He avowed that he was then ready to reclaim the endorsement, and he tendered back to Mrs. Simeon the thirty pounds, or thirty-five pounds, which he had borrowed of her. She appeared to expect that he would lend her about four hundred and thirty pounds, which he resisted, as he had not so much money about him. He told her solicitor that he was perfectly ready to account for the bill having come into his possession, and, therefore, had little to apprehend from any criminal prosecution by Messrs. Child and Co. He referred Mrs. Simeon and her brother to Mr. Hope, of Harley Street, and to Messrs. Harman and Co. of the Old

Jewry, for his character: he had also recommended to Mrs. Simeon and her solicitor to make the necessary inquiries respecting the bill; and therefore wished them to go to London, and had readily paid their expenses. He also observed that he might, when in the rules of the Fleet, have made his escape, had he been conscious of any guilt; and concluded his defence by a long detail of circumstances, for the purpose of showing that the prosecution was founded in malice.

The only witness called upon on the part of the prisoner was George Fox. It appeared that Elizabeth Barnet had lodged at his house, in

Henrietta Street, Covent Garden about two months; he was a tailor and draper.

Baron Thompson recapitulated, with great minuteness, the whole of the evidence; after which the jury, having consulted for a few minutes, returned a verdict of—Guilty of forging the acceptance; and of uttering it, knowing it to be forged.

This offender was executed at Ilchester, pursuant to his sentence, September 3, 1806. He said a few words to the populace, declaring that he died in peace with all the world, but to the last persisted in his innocence.



The Death of Mr. Chivers.

WILLIAM DUNCAN,

CONVICTED OF THE MURDER OF HIS MASTER.

This unfortunate man was employed in the service of the deceased, as gardener, at Clapham Com-

mon. On the morning of the 24th January, 1807, after breakfast, the niece of Mr. Chivers, who resided

with him, went in the carriage to take an airing: Mr. Chivers, who was between seventy and eighty years of age, went into his garden to take a walk, as was his daily custom, inspecting the gardener at his work, and conversing with him.—About half past eleven o'clock the gardener ran into the house from the garden, in great agitation and terror, exclaiming to the servants, 'Lord, what have I done? I have struck my master, and he has fell!' and immediately left the house, without giving any explanation, and made for the town of Clapham. The footman went into the garden to discover what had happened, when he found his master on the ground, apparently lifeless, and his face a most shocking spectacle; it appearing that the gardener had struck his master with a spade that he was at work with, the end of which entered the lower part of his nose, broke both his jaw-bones, and penetrated nearly to a line with his ears, so that his head was nearly separated.—The gardener had inflicted two deep wounds, one being about eight inches in length, and three inches and a half in breadth. Duncan was soon after apprehended, and the magistrates committed him to Horsemonger Lane prison. The cause of the shocking act, it is supposed, was a dispute between him and his master, respecting the pruning of a vine.

The witnesses brought home the charge very strongly to the prisoner, who, when called upon for his defence, thus expressed himself:—

'I beg leave to assure your lordship that I never bore Mr. Chivers any malice whatever. On Saturday morning I had been employed in digging some ground, and with my spade in my hand I went to the green-house to give it some air, and there I left my spade. I then

went for some refreshment, at eleven o'clock in the morning, as was usual, and, on going into the kitchen, I saw the footman, of whom I asked how long it was since Mr. Chivers went out. I then went into the garden, and to the green-house, into which I let a little more air. I then went with my spade in my hand, and looked at a vine. I saw Mr. Chivers, told him that I had finished my digging, and said I was very sorry to have left so good a place, and now to be turned off. A few words passed between Mr. Chivers and me; and the last expression he used when I had the spade in my hand was, "You scoundrel, I will break your skull." He shook his cane over me; he made an attempt to strike at me, when I, turning aside, escaped; he again endeavoured to strike, and I avoided the blow. After this he followed me up with his cane, and I then had, as I before said, a spade in my hand. I raised the spade, and to my surprise struck him.

'Immediately afterwards I went into the green-house, with the full intention of taking away my own life, but I had not sufficient courage to do it. I then went into the kitchen, and called Henry, who said "What is the matter?" and I replied, "Good Lord, I have struck my master, and he fell!" I then went out towards Clapham, and the first persons I saw were a butler and a gardener. I went to the garden of Mr. Robert Thornton, and asked for Mr. Dixon, who is one of the gardeners. They said he was cutting a vine; but they went to him, and Mr. Dixon sent me word that I might come to him. I asked if any body was with him, and they said "Yes." I then desired to speak to him alone; and Mr. Dixon inquired if I had any thing particular to mention, and I told him "Yes." The first

words I said were, "I have ruined myself." He inquired "What is the matter?" I said, "I am afraid I have killed my master." He then said it was a dreadful thing, and that I had better go back, and resign myself into the hands of justice. Upon this I observed to him, that, if I should be executed, I should be glad if he would write to Scotland, and inform my friends there that I had died suddenly. He said that he would, and I then came back towards Mr. Chivers's house, and my heart failed me. I turned again, but had not gone far before I met a man who said to me, "Are you Mr. Chivers's gardener?" He then told me I must go with him; and I replied, "With all my heart." He said that this was a very dreadful thing; and added, that he was very sorry for me; to which I answered, "I am sorry also, but I am afraid that it is too late." After this I was taken to Wandsworth, where I underwent an examination. I was then committed to Horse-monger Lane, and from thence I have been brought here to take my trial.'

The witnesses for the prisoner were then called to his character.

The chief baron, after stating the nature of the indictment, said that the prisoner was accused of having murdered his master. He had given a detailed account of the transactions referred to in the evidence; and the jury would recollect, that, in considering his narrative, it was fair to allow what he said in his own favour, as well as what he said against himself. The question was this:—If there was a previous design in the breast of the prisoner to perpetrate the crime of murder; or if, being threatened, provoked, or assaulted, he did this act

from the passion of the moment? In the latter case, the crime in law was extremely different from that of wilful murder. It was not easy to suppose that there should be such a diabolical design formed in a short space of time.

His lordship here entered into a general review of the facts in evidence, and then concluded:—"By the witnesses, who have appeared on the part of the defendant, he seems to be, in their judgment, a very moral young man. You are to judge if you think it was a deliberate intention; or if it were the ebullition of anger at the instant, under the circumstances of provocation stated. If the design sprung up on Wednesday, which was executed on Saturday, the offence will be murder; but, if it were not previously formed, then there was no execution of such a deliberate intention; and he will be acquitted of the capital part of the charge.'

The jury, after having conferred for a considerable time, found the prisoner Guilty of murder; and he was accordingly sentenced to be executed on the Monday following, and to be anatomized.

The prisoner, during the whole of the time, conducted himself with great composure. He was a man of respectable appearance.

The Privy Council, however, did not, it appears, conceive that he was guilty of wilful and premeditated murder, but, on the contrary, admitted an immediate provocation on the part of the unfortunate gentleman. They therefore represented him as a subject for royal clemency, in consequence whereof he was twice respited, and then ordered to be transported for the term of his natural life.

JOHN HOLLOWAY AND OWEN HAGGERTY,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE fatal accident which happened on the spot and at the moment of the execution of these men, by which more than forty people lost their lives, and many more were terribly bruised, will cause their memory, more than their crimes, to remain a dreadful warning unto many generations. Their whole case, indeed, was attended with singular and awful circumstances. Even of their guilt many entertained doubts, and which are not entirely removed, though no further discovery has been made respecting the horrid deed.* Their conviction rested, certainly, upon the evidence of a wretch as base as themselves, who stated himself to have been their accomplice; but the public indignation against them was excited to such a pitch, it is not to be wondered at that a jury pronounced them guilty.

On the 6th of November, 1802, Mr. John Cole Steele, who kept the Lavender Warehouse in Catharine Street, Strand, was murdered, with much barbarity, on Hounslow Heath, and his pockets rifled of their contents. The murderers escaped; and, though rewards were offered for their apprehension, no discovery was made. Every search had been made by the officers of the police after them; several loose characters were apprehended on suspicion, but discharged on examination; and all hopes had been given up of tracing the murderers, when a circumstance occurred, about four years after-

wards, which led to the apprehension of John Holloway and Owen Haggerty.—A man of the name of Benjamin Hanfield, who had been convicted, at the Old Bailey, of grand larceny, was sentenced to seven years' transportation,† and was conveyed on board a hulk at Portsmouth, to await his departure for New South Wales; but having been taken with a severe illness, and tortured in his mind by the recollection of the murder, about which he constantly raved, he said he wished to make a discovery before he died. A messenger was immediately dispatched to the police magistrates at Bow Street, to communicate the circumstance, and an officer was sent to bring him before them. When he was brought on shore, they were obliged to wait several days, his illness not permitting his immediate removal. On his arrival in town, the magistrates sent him, in custody of an officer, to Hounslow Heath. He there pointed out the fatal spot where the murder was perpetrated, and related all the circumstances which he alleged to have attended it; and, as his evidence implicated Haggerty and Holloway, measures were taken to apprehend them. Several private examinations of all the parties took place. Hanfield was admitted king's evidence, and the public once more cherished a hope that the murderers would meet the punishment they deserved.

Monday, February 9, being the

* In September sessions, 1813, a man named John Ward, *alias* Simon Winter, aged sixty, was indicted for the murder for which Holloway and Haggerty suffered; but, though suspicion was strong against him, the case was not sufficiently made out, and he was consequently acquitted.

† He was found guilty of stealing, on the 5th of July, 1806, a pair of children's shoes, value two shillings, the property of John Smith, shoemaker, Whitecross Street.

day appointed for the final and public examination of the reputed perpetrators of this atrocious murder, Holloway and Haggerty were brought up before Joseph Moser, Esq. the sitting magistrate at the police office, Worship Street, charged with wilfully murdering Mr. J. C. Steele, on Saturday night, the 6th of November, 1802, on Hounslow Heath.

There was a great body of evidence adduced, none of which tended materially to criminate the prisoners, except that of Hanfield, the accomplice, who, under the promise of pardon, had turned king's evidence.

The prisoners denied having any knowledge whatever of the crime laid to their charge, but heartily hoped that punishment would come to the guilty. The magistrates, however, after maturely considering the whole of the evidence adduced, thought proper to commit them fully for trial at the next quarter sessions at the Old Bailey, and bound over no less than twenty-four persons to appear and give evidence thereon.

Such was the eager curiosity of the public to know the issue of this trial, which came on February 20, 1807, before Sir Simon Le Blanc, Knight, that the whole court and area of the Old Bailey was greatly crowded.—When put to the bar, Holloway appeared to be about forty years of age, of great muscular strength, tall, and of savage, brutal, and ferocious countenance, with large thick lips, depressed nose, and high cheek bones. Haggerty was a small man, twenty-four years of age.

The first witness called was Mr. Meyer, the brother-in-law to the murdered Mr. Steele, who deposed that the deceased left his house in London on the 5th of November, 1802, giving his family to understand that he should return on the

next day. He proceeded to Feltham that night, where he had a house and garden, to grow and distil lavender, which he left on Saturday evening, for the purpose of returning to London, which he never reached. His long absence caused alarm in his family, and a number of persons were dispatched in different directions in search of him. At length his body was found in a ditch, shockingly disfigured by wounds, and a leathern strap tied very tight round the neck; by the side of the body was found a large bludgeon, a pair of old shoes, an old hat, trimmed with worsted binding. On the other side of the road were discovered several marks of blood; and the body seemed to have been dragged some distance from the spot where the murder had been committed.

Mr. H. Manny was next called. He said he was inspector to the works of the late Mr. Steele, at Feltham, at the time this transaction took place. He well recollected that Mr. Steele, the deceased, was there on Saturday, the 6th of November, and that he left Feltham about seven o'clock in the evening, with the intention of returning to town. This witness now entered into a description of his dress, which corresponded with the account given before the coroner.

William Pugh, who was next called, said that in the month of November, 1802, he was, in consequence of a report that the deceased was missing, employed to search for the body; that accordingly himself, with several others, entered upon a strict search, in which they were ultimately successful. That the body was found lying at the bottom of a ditch near a clump of trees, a short distance from the barracks. The witness described very minutely the position of the body, and the

wounds that were at first perceptible.

Mr. H. Frogley, a surgeon of Hounslow, was employed to examine the body at the time it lay at the Ship public house for the coroner's jury; and he gave it as his decided opinion that Mr. Steele certainly died in consequence of the violent bruises he received. The witness examined the body of the deceased, and found not only an extensive fracture on the forehead, sufficient to occasion death, with laceration of the ligaments, but also a great laceration on the back part of the head, and some severe bruises on the upper part of the right arm. Indeed the horrid and inhuman perpetrators of this atrocious deed seemed to have exercised their utmost cruelty on the unfortunate victim, who must, for some considerable time after they left him, have remained in a state of miserable suffering. For the better illustration of the testimony adduced, a sketch of Hounslow Heath was produced in court.

The king's pardon, under the great seal, to Hanfield, *alias* Enfield, remitting his sentence of transportation for seven years, for a larceny which he had been convicted of, and restoring him to his competency as a witness, was read.

Benjamin Hanfield then deposed nearly as follows:—‘I have known Haggerty eight or nine years, and Holloway six or seven. We were accustomed to meet at the Black Horse, and Turk's Head, public houses, in Dyot Street. I was in their company in the month of November, 1802. Holloway, just before the murder, called me out from the Turk's Head, and asked me if I had any objection to be in a good thing? I replied I had not. He said it was a ‘*Low Toby*,’ meaning it was a footpad robbery. I

asked when and where. He said he would let me know. We parted, and two days after we met again, and Saturday, the 6th of November, was appointed. I asked who was to go with us? He replied that Haggerty had agreed to make one. We all three met on the Saturday, at the Black Horse, when Holloway said, ‘Our business is to *sarve* a gentleman on Hounslow Heath, who, I understand, travels that road with property. We then drank for about three or four hours, and about the middle of the day we set off for Hounslow. We stopped at the Bell public house, and took some porter. We proceeded from thence upon the road towards Belfont, and expressed our hope that we should get a good booty. We stopped near the eleventh mile-stone, and secreted ourselves in a clump of trees. While there, the moon got up, and Holloway said we had come too soon. After loitering about a considerable time, Holloway said he heard a footstep, and we proceeded towards Belfont. We presently saw a man coming towards us, and, on approaching him, we ordered him to stop, which he immediately did. Holloway went round him, and told him to deliver. He said we should have his money, and hoped we would not ill use him. The deceased put his hand in his pocket, and gave Haggerty his money. I demanded his pocket-book. He replied that he had none.—Holloway insisted that he had a book, and if he did not deliver it he would knock him down. I then laid hold of his legs. Holloway stood at his head, and said if he cried out he would knock out his brains. The deceased again said he hoped we would not ill use him. Haggerty proceeded to search him, when the deceased made some resistance, and struggled so much, that we got

across the road. He cried out severely; and, as a carriage was coming up, Holloway said, with a terrible oath, 'Take care, I will silence him;' and immediately struck him several violent blows on the head and body. The deceased heaved a heavy groan, and stretched himself out lifeless. I felt alarmed, and said, 'John, you have killed the man.' Holloway replied that it was a lie, for he was only stunned. I said I would stay no longer, and immediately set off towards London, leaving Holloway and Haggerty with the body. I came to Hounslow, and stopped at the end of the town for near an hour. Holloway and Haggerty then came up, and said they had done the trick, and, as a token, put the deceased's hat into my hand.—The hat Holloway went down in was like a soldier's hat. I told Holloway it was a cruel piece of business, and that I was sorry I had any hand in it. We all turned down a lane, and returned to London. As we came along I asked Holloway if he had got the pocket-book. He replied it was no matter, for, as I had refused to share the danger, I should not share the booty. We came to the Black Horse in Dyot Street, had half a pint of gin, and parted. Haggerty went down in shoes, but I don't know if he came back in them. The next day I observed Holloway had a hat upon his head which was too small for him. I asked him if it was the same he got the preceding night. He said it was. We met again on the Monday, when I told Holloway that he acted imprudently in wearing the hat, as it might lead to a discovery. He put the hat into my hand, and I observed the name of Steele in it. I repeated my fears.—At night Holloway brought the hat in a handkerchief, and we went to Westminster Bridge, filled the hat with

stones, and, having tied the lining over it, threw it into the Thames.

The witness, being cross-examined by the counsel for the prisoners, said he had made no other minutes of the transactions he had been detailing than what his conscience took cognizance of. It was accident that led to this disclosure. He was talking with other prisoners in Newgate of particular robberies that had taken place; and, the Hounslow robbery and murder being stated amongst others, he inadvertently said that there were only three persons who knew of that transaction. The remark was circulated and observed upon, and a rumour ran through the prison that he was about to turn '*nose*,' and he was obliged to hold his tongue, lest he should be ill used.—When at Portsmouth, on board the hulks, the compunctions of conscience came upon him, and he was obliged to dissipate his thoughts by drinking, to prevent him from divulging all he knew. He admitted that he had led a vicious life, that he had been concerned in several robberies, and had entered and deserted from several regiments. He had served in the East and West London militias, had enlisted into the 9th and 14th light dragoons, and had been in the army of reserve. He added that he was ashamed and sorry at what he had been, and would endeavour to mend his life in future.

John Vickery stated that he had been sent to Portsmouth to bring up Hanfield, who was then confined on board the hulks, waiting to be transported with others, pursuant to his sentence. He was immediately delivered into his custody, and they returned to London. As they passed across the heath of Hounslow, on the top of the coach, Hanfield pointed to a spot near a clump of trees, just at the eleven-mile stone,

which he said was the place where the murder had been committed; but they had then no further conversation on the subject, as they were surrounded by people on the top of the coach. Hanfield, on his arrival in town, underwent an examination; in consequence of which he and the witness went together to Hounslow. They stopped at the Bell Inn, whence they proceeded to the heath; when Hanfield again pointed out the place where the crime was perpetrated, which the witness thought exactly the same as that pointed out by the former witnesses, detailing the circumstances of the murder, previous to his escape from his companions, in almost the same words as he had described them to the Court. The witness and he returned to town. Soon after the witness apprehended Holloway at Brentford, during the late election, and brought him to town. When he was examined before the presiding magistrate of Worship Street Office, he declared he was perfectly innocent; but added, 'if they would let him go, he would down on his knees to both the magistrates and the witness.'—He was remanded for further examination.

The witness went down to Deal, where he apprehended the prisoner Haggerty on board the Shannon frigate, as a marine.

Several witnesses were called, who proved that they had frequently seen Holloway and Haggerty in company with each other.

John Nares, Esq. the magistrate, said that the prisoners were examined by him apart, when Hanfield was produced in evidence against them. He then read from a paper the examination of Haggerty, in which he denied knowing any thing of either Hanfield or Holloway, or being at the Turk's Head, or Black

Horse, porter-houses.—Haggerty acknowledged he had been in confinement in July, 1802, in Tothill-fields. After his liberation he said he worked for some time with Mr. Smith, of Castle Street, as a plasterer; that his working dress was usually a green velveteen jacket and small-clothes. Being confronted afterwards with Mr. Smith, he denied his having ever been employed by him. The same paper stated that Holloway had acknowledged he knew Hanfield and Haggerty; but had never drank in their company; had never been at Hounslow in his life. He alleged he had worked for a Mr. Rose, and others, in November, 1802, which, on application, was found to be inaccurate, as he had not worked for them till March, 1803.

James Bishop, a police officer, stated that in the rear of the police office in Worship Street are some strong rooms for the safe keeping of prisoners, pending their successive examinations. In two of these rooms, adjacent to each other, and separated by a strong partition, the prisoners were separately confined, and immediately behind these rooms is a privy. In this privy he took post regularly, after each successive day's examination; and, as the privy went behind both rooms, he could distinctly overhear the conversation of the prisoners, as they spoke pretty audibly to each other from either side of the partition. Of this conversation he took notes, which were afterwards copied out fairly, and proved before the magistrates; and which he, on this occasion, read as his evidence in court.

Mr. Andrews, counsel for the prisoners, objected to this sort of evidence, it being impossible, he said, that the officers could overhear all that was said, and that the conversations thus mutilated might be

misconstrued:—besides, the minds of officers, for the sake of reward, were always prejudiced against the prisoners. His objections, however, were overruled by the Court.

These conversations run to a very considerable length; but the material points were few. They showed, however, from the words of the prisoners' own conversation, that all they had said before the magistrates, in the denial of any acquaintance with each other, or with Hanfield, was totally false, and a mere stratagem to baffle the testimony of the latter, who, they hoped, had secured his own execution by confessing his guilt, without being able to prove theirs; for they were confident the magistrates would not believe his testimony; and that there was no other witness to prove any clue to the fact, or that saw them together near Hounslow, where, from the whole connected tenour of their conversation, it was clear they had been on the night of the murder. Haggerty asked Holloway, after one of the latter examinations, 'Where did Hanfield say we had the gin that night, after we came to town?' To which Holloway answered, 'At the Black Horse, in Dyot Street.' Haggerty then replied, 'It must be at the Black Horse we had the gin, sure enough.'

John Smith, a coachman to the Gosport coach, in the month of November, 1802, near eight o'clock in the evening of the above-mentioned day, heard, as he passed across Hounslow Heath, on the right hand side of the road, near the eleven-mile stone, two groans, the last more faint than the other: on which he remarked to some one on the outside of the coach, that 'there was something desperate carrying on there.'

Isaac Clayton, beadle of Hounslow, said he received a pair of shoes

and a stick from some person he does not recollect, just after the murder of Mr. Steele: he recollected, near six years ago, seeing Holloway in company with a man of the same name, who had a wooden leg, about the town of Hounslow; and had seen him also at Brentford election, and other places. The prisoner himself acknowledged he knew him, when examined in Worship Street.

Joseph Townsend, police officer of Worship Street, produced a large knotty bludgeon, a pair of shoes, and a hat, which had been given several years ago to Clayton, by Hughes, and was delivered to him by Clayton.

J. Blackman, an officer, knew Haggerty seven years, Hanfield five years, and Holloway a year and a half.—About four years ago he had often seen them together at the Turk's Head, when he conversed with Haggerty, and observed to him he had been lately in a good thing, as his dress was much improved; the prisoner said he had left it all off now, as he was serving a plasterer, near Hounslow. He was dressed in a green velvet jacket and small-clothes.

A hat was then produced in court, which had been the property of the deceased, by whom it was given to a servant man, who had since worn it almost to rags.—The hat had been very much widened in the wearing, and, when placed on Holloway's head, appeared rather too large for him.

William Robinson, hatter to the deceased, stated that the hat must have been enlarged by wearing, as he had Mr. Steele's measure in 1802, and could answer for it that the deceased's hat must nearly fit the prisoner Holloway, as their heads were nearly the same size.

William Britten, shoemaker, knew

well the deceased's measure, and thought his boots would fit the prisoner Haggerty. The shoes produced in court, he said, he had tried on the prisoner, and found them rather too large; but added, that it was plain, from the manner the hind quarter of the shoe had fallen inwards, that they were too large for their original wearer.

The prosecution being closed, the prisoners were called to make their defence.

Haggerty protested he was completely innocent of the charge, was totally ignorant of the witness, Hanfield, denied ever having been at Hounslow, and endeavoured to point out some inconsistencies in the evidence which had been adduced by Hanfield.

Holloway declared he was equally innocent of the charge; but admitted he had been at Hounslow more than once; might have been in the company of the prisoner Haggerty and Hanfield, but was not acquainted with either of them.

The prisoners' counsel then produced, as a witness for the prisoners, John Shuter, one of the head turnkeys of the gaol, in whose custody Hanfield had been for some time. He then proceeded to ask some questions, tending to invalidate Hanfield's evidence; but, as the witness could state nothing from his own knowledge, he was not permitted to be further examined.

Mr. Justice Le Blanc summed up the evidence in a very clear and perspicuous manner, making some very humane observations upon the nature of the testimony given by accomplices; recommending the jury to divest themselves of every feeling but that of strict justice; and to compare with precision the circumstantial evidence (which was the only evidence we could arrive at in most cases of murder, on account of

its usual secrecy) with the direct and positive testimony of the approver, Hanfield. He admitted that such testimony should be received with caution; yet such strong collateral evidence must have its due weight and influence on their verdict.

The jury retired for about a quarter of an hour, and returned with a verdict of Guilty against both the prisoners.

The recorder immediately passed sentence in the most solemn and impressive manner, and the unhappy men were ordered for execution on the following Monday morning, February the 23d, 1897.

They went from the bar protesting their innocence, and apparently careless of the miserable and ignominious fate that awaited them.

After conviction Haggerty and Holloway conducted themselves with the most decided indifference. On Saturday, February 21, the cell-door, No. 1, in which they were both confined, was opened about half past two.

They were reading in two prayer-books by candle-light, as the cell is very dark. On Sunday, neither of them attended the condemned sermon, as in cases of murder the offenders are deprived of benefit of clergy; neither does the bell of St. Sepulchre toll during the solemnity of their execution.

On Sunday several magistrates interrogated them; but they still persisted in their innocence.

During the whole of Sunday night the convicts were engaged in prayer, never slept, but broke the awful stillness of midnight by frequent protestations of reciprocal innocence. At five they were called, dressed, and shaved, and about seven were brought into the press-yard. There was some difficulty in knocking off the irons of Haggerty; he volun-

tarily assisted, though he seemed much dejected, but by no means pusillanimous. A message was then delivered to the sheriffs, purporting that Holloway wanted to speak with them in private. This excited very sanguine expectations of confession; but the sheriffs, on their return, intimated to the gentlemen in the press-yard that Holloway wanted to address them publicly; and therefore requested they would form themselves into a circle, from the centre of which Holloway delivered, in the most solemn manner, the following energetic address:—‘Gentlemen, I am quite innocent of this affair. I never was with Hanfield, nor do I know the spot. I will kneel and swear it.’ He then knelt down, and imprecated curses on his head if he were not innocent, and expressed, ‘By God, I am innocent!’

Owen Haggerty then ascended the scaffold. His arms were pinioned, and the halter round his neck; he wore a white cap, and a light olive shag great coat; he looked downwards, and was silent. He was attended by a Roman Catholic clergyman, who read to him, and to whom the unfortunate culprit seemed to pay great attention: he made no public acknowledgment of either guilt or innocence. After the executioner tied the fatal noose, he brought up John Holloway, who wore a smock-frock and jacket, as it had been stated by the approver that he did at the time of the mur-

der: he had also a white cap on; was pinioned, and had a halter round his neck; he had his hat in his hand; and, mounting the scaffold, he jumped and made an awkward bow, and said, ‘I am innocent! innocent, by God!’ He then turned round, and, bowing, made use of the same expressions, ‘Innocent, innocent, innocent, gentlemen!—No verdict! No verdict! No verdict! gentlemen!—Innocent! innocent!’ At this moment, and while in the act of saying something more, the executioner proceeded to do his office, by placing the cap over the face of Holloway; to which he, with apparent reluctance, complied; at the same time uttering some words. As soon as the rope was fixed round his neck, he continued quiet. He was attended in his devotions by an assistant at the Rev. Rowland Hill’s Chapel.*

The crowd which assembled to witness this execution was unparalleled, being, according to the best calculation, near forty thousand; and the fatal catastrophe, which happened in consequence, will cause the day to be long remembered. By eight o’clock not an inch of ground was unoccupied in front of the platform. The pressure of the crowd was such, that, before the malefactors appeared, numbers of persons were crying out in vain to escape from it: the attempt only tended to increase the confusion. Several females of low stature, who had been so imprudent as to venture

* At the same time was executed Elizabeth Godfrey. She had been a woman of the town, aged thirty-four, who had been capitally convicted of the wilful murder of Richard Prince, in Marylebone parish, on the 25th of December, 1806, by giving him a mortal wound with a pocket-knife in the left eye, of which wound he languished and died. Immediately on receiving sentence this woman’s firmness and recollection seemed to fail her, and she appeared bordering upon a state of frenzy. At the place of execution she was dressed in white, with a close cap, and long sleeves, and was attended by the Rev. Mr. Ford, the Ordinary of Newgate; but her feelings seemed to be so much overpowered, that, notwithstanding she bore the appearance of resignation in her countenance, her whole frame was so shaken by the terror of her situation, that she was incapable of any active devotion.

amongst the mob, were in a dismal situation: their cries were dreadful. Some, who could be no longer supported by the men, were suffered to fall, and were trampled to death. This also was the case with several men and boys. In all parts there were continued cries of 'Murder! murder!' particularly from the female part of the spectators and children, some of whom were seen expiring without the possibility of obtaining the least assistance, every one being employed in endeavours to preserve his own life. The most affecting scene of distress was seen at Green Arbour Lane, nearly opposite the debtors' door. The terrible occurrence which took place near this spot was attributed to the circumstance of two pie-men attending there to dispose of their pies, and one of them having his basket overthrown, which stood upon a sort of stool upon four legs, some of the mob, not being aware of what had happened, and at the same time severely pressed, fell over the basket and the man at the moment he was picking it up, together with its contents. Those who fell were never more suffered to rise, such was the violence of the mob. At this fatal place a man of the name of Herrington was thrown down, who had in his hand his youngest son, a fine boy, about twelve years of age. The youth was soon trampled to death; the father recovered, though much bruised, and was amongst the wounded in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. A woman, who was so imprudent as to bring with her a child at the breast, was one of the number killed: whilst in the act of falling, she forced the child into the arms of the man nearest to her, requesting him, for God's sake, to save its life: the man, finding it required all his exertion to preserve himself, threw the infant from him;

but it was fortunately caught at a distance by another man, who, finding it difficult to ensure its safety or his own, got rid of it in a similar way. The child was again caught by a person who contrived to struggle with it to a cart, under which he deposited it until the danger was over, and the mob had dispersed.—In other parts the pressure was so great, that a horrible scene of confusion ensued, and seven persons lost their lives by suffocation alone. It was shocking to behold a large body of the crowd, as one convulsive struggle for life, fight with the most savage fury with each other; the consequence was that the weakest, particularly the women, fell a sacrifice. A cart, which was overloaded with spectators, broke down, and some of the persons, falling from the vehicle, were trampled under foot, and never recovered. During the hour the malefactors hung, little assistance could be afforded to the unhappy sufferers; but after the bolies were cut down, and the gallows removed to the Old Bailey yard, the marshals and constables cleared the street where the catastrophe occurred, and, shocking to relate, there lay near one hundred persons dead, or in a state of insensibility, strewed round the street. Twenty-seven dead bodies were taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; four to St. Sepulchre's Church; one to the Swan, on Snow Hill; one to a public house opposite St. Andrew's Church, Holborn; one, an apprentice, to his master's, Mr. Broadwood, piano-forte maker, Golden Square; a mother was seen carrying away the body of her dead boy; Mr. Harrison, a respectable gentleman, was taken to his house at Holloway. There was a sailor-boy killed opposite Newgate, by suffocation: he carried a small bag, in which he had some bread and

cheese, as it is supposed he came some distance to behold the execution. After the dead, dying, and wounded, were carried away, there was a cart-load of shoes, hats, pretty coats, and other articles of wearing apparel, picked up. Until four o'clock in the afternoon, most of the surrounding houses had some person in a wounded state: they were afterwards taken away by their friends on shutters, or in hackney coaches. The doors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital were closed against the populace. After the bodies of the dead were stripped and washed, they were ranged round a ward on the first floor, on the women's side: they were placed on the floor with sheets over them, and their clothes put as pillows under their heads: their faces were uncovered: there was a rail along the centre of the room: the persons who were admitted to see the shocking spectacle went up on one side, and returned out on the other. Until two o'clock, the entrances to the hospital were beset with mothers weeping for

sons! wives for their husbands! and sisters for their brothers! various individuals for their relatives and friends!

Seldom has such a scene of distress and misery presented itself in this metropolis. — When the gates were opened, a great concourse were admitted; and, when the yard was full, the gates were again closed, until the first visitors retired from this scene of woe: as soon as any of the deceased were recognised, the body was either put into a shell, or the face covered over, with the name of the party written on a paper, and pinned over the body.

The next day (Tuesday) a coroner's inquest sat in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and other places where the bodies were, on the remains of the sufferers. Several witnesses were examined with respect to the circumstances of the accident, which examination continued till Friday, when the verdict was, 'That the several persons came by their death from compression and suffocation.'

GEORGE ALLEN,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS THREE CHILDREN.

WE would fain believe that insanity caused the horrid deed to be committed which we have now to name. It appeared, on the trial, that this most unfortunate man had previous thereto been subject to epileptic fits, but that on Sunday preceding the day whereon he committed the murder he was considerably better. Though a jury found him guilty of premeditated murder, we must, in charity to the failings of human nature, suppose that mental derangement again seized him at the time he committed this strange, cruel, and most unnatural deed.—His examination before the coroner also seems to fa-

vour this opinion. At eight o'clock in the evening of the 12th of January, 1807, he retired to rest, and when his wife followed him, in the course of an hour, she found him sitting upright in bed, smoking his pipe, which was his usual custom. In another bed, in the same room, lay three of his infant children asleep, the eldest about ten years old, the second a girl about six, and another a boy about three. The wife having got into bed, with an infant at her breast, Allen asked her, 'What other man she had in the house with her?' to which she replied, 'That no man had been there but himself.' He insisted to

the contrary, and his wife continued to assert her innocence. He then jumped out of bed, and went down stairs; and she, from an impulse of fear, followed him: met him on the stairs, and asked what he had been doing in such a hurry; in answer to which he ordered her to get up stairs again. He then went to the bed where his children were, and turned down the clothes. On her endeavouring to hold him, he told her 'to let him alone, or he would serve her the same sauce,' and immediately attempted to cut her throat, in which he partly succeeded, and also wounded her right breast; but a handkerchief she wore about her head and neck prevented the wound from being fatal. —She then extricated herself (having the babe in her arms all the time, which she preserved unhurt), and jumped, or rather fell, down stairs. Before she could well get up, one of the children (the girl) fell at her feet, with its head nearly cut off, and which he had murdered and thrown after her. The woman opened the door, and screamed out 'that her husband was cutting off their children's heads.' A neighbour shortly came to her assistance; and, a light having been procured, the monster was found standing in the middle of the house-place, with a razor in his hand. He was asked what he had been doing; when he replied coolly, 'Nothing yet; I have only killed three of them.' On their going up stairs, a most dreadful spectacle presented itself: the head of one of

the boys was very nearly severed from his body, and the bellies of both were partly cut, and partly ripped open, and the bowels torn completely out, and thrown on the floor. Allen made no attempt to escape, and was taken without resistance. He said that it was his intention to murder his wife and all her children, and then to have put an end to himself. An old woman, who lay bed-ridden in the same house, he professed his intention also to have murdered. An inquest was held on the bodies of the three children, before Mr. Hand, coroner, of Utttoxeter, when he confessed his guilt, but without expressing any contrition. In answer to other interrogations, he promised to confess something that had lain heavily on his mind; and Mr. Hand, supposing it might relate to a crime he had heretofore committed, caused him to be examined in the presence of other gentlemen, when he told an incoherent story of a ghost, in the shape of a horse, having, about four years ago, enticed him into a stable, where it drew blood from him, and then flew into the sky. With respect to the murder of his children, he observed to the coroner, with apparent unconcern, that he supposed 'it was as bad a case as ever he heard of.'

The horrid circumstances of these unparalleled murders having been fully proved, he was convicted, and suffered the final sentence of the law at Stafford, March 30th, 1807, without evincing a just sense of his crimes.

MARTHA ALDEN,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF SAMUEL ALDEN.

OF the many instances which we have already adduced, wherein women have committed that very worst of all crimes, the murder of their

husbands, perhaps no case has been attended with more malice aforethought, art, and cruelty, than that perpetrated by Martha Alden.

Her trial for this offence came on at the summer assizes for the county of Norfolk in the year 1807.

Samuel Alden, the victim of her brutality, was a husbandman, occupying a small cottage near Attleburgh in that county; and was accounted a quiet industrious character.

The first witness, Edmund Draper, stated that he had known the deceased Samuel Alden, the husband of the prisoner at the bar; that on Saturday, the 18th of July, he was in company with the deceased at the White Horse public house at Attleburgh; that the prisoner, who was present when witness and the deceased met, said to them she was going home with her child, and went away; witness sat drinking with Alden till near twelve o'clock, chatting with the wife of the publican; he then accompanied the deceased to his house, which lay in the way to his own home: witness stated that he himself was perfectly sober at the time; that Alden, however, was rather fresh, but sober enough to walk staggering a little: he staid at Alden's house about three minutes, during which time he noticed that there was a larger fire burning on the hearth in the kitchen than was usual at that time of the year: he said Alden appeared in good health, and that no ill words passed between the deceased and the prisoner in his presence: he proceeded home in the direction of Thetford, and saw no one on the road. This witness described Alden's house to consist of a kitchen and bed-room both on the same floor, and separated from each other by a small narrow passage; he saw no one in the house except the prisoner and the deceased, and a little boy about seven years old.

Charles Hill, of Attleburgh,

stated that on the morning of Sunday, the 19th, he rose between two and three to go on a journey to Shelf-Anger Hall, about ten miles from Attleburgh, to see a daughter. The morning being wet, he took the turnpike road, in the direction to Thetford, and passed by Alden's house, from which his own is only two furlongs distant. When he approached the deceased's house, he saw the door open, and the prisoner standing within a few yards of the door; this was nearly at three o'clock in the morning. The prisoner accosted the witness, saying, 'she could not think what smart young man it was coming down the common.' The witness replied, 'Martha, what the devil are you up to at this time of the morning?' She said, she had been down to the pit in her garden for some water: this garden was on the opposite side of the road to the house: she also said, 'she had not returned long from the town (meaning Attleburgh town), where she had been at the White Horse: her husband and Draper, and herself, all came home together, and her husband was gone back again, she did not know where.' The witness did not go into the house; but, looking in, saw some old clothes lying in a heap next the hearth, which, on his inquiring, she said covered her little boy, who was asleep there. The prisoner said, that he (by which the witness understood her to mean her husband) had a brother going into Essex, and had sworn he would go with him; the witness observed, that he knew Alden had let himself to harvest to Mr. Parson; which the prisoner assenting to, the witness farther said, 'If he go into Essex, he won't come back to harvest.' The prisoner replied, 'I know he will never come back; and, if he has got a job, he never will

settle to it.' The witness saw no person besides in the road.

Sarah Leeder, widow, of Attleburgh, knew the prisoner at the bar: she stated that on Monday night, the 20th of July, the prisoner came to her house to borrow a spade, for that a neighbour's sow had broken into her garden, and rooted up her potatoes; the witness lent her one, which was marked J. H. and she went away with it. On the following evening, about eleven o'clock, she went out of her house upon the common to look for some ducks she had missed, and found them in a small pit: near this pit there was another of a larger size, beside a place called Wright's Plantation: in this greater pit, or pond, she saw something lying, which attracted her attention; she went to the edge of the pond, and touched it with a stick, upon which it sunk and rose again; but the place, though the moon shone, being shaded, she could not discover what it was, and went home for the night. The next morning, however, the witness returned to the spot, and again touched with a stick the substance, which still lay almost covered with water; she then, to her great terror, saw the two hands of a man appear, with the arms of a shirt stained with blood. She instantly concluded that a man had been thrown in there murdered, and, calling to a lad to go and acquaint the neighbourhood with the circumstance, went back in great alarm to her own house. In a quarter of an hour she returned again to the pond, and found that in her absence the body had been taken out: she then knew it to be the body of Samuel Alden: his face was dreadfully chopped, and his head cut very nearly off: the body was put into a cart, and carried to the house of the deceased.

The witness afterwards went to look for her spade, and found it standing by the side of a hole, which she described to look like a grave, dug in the ditch which surrounds Alden's garden: she further stated that this hole was open, not very deep, and that she saw blood ying near it. The witness then went into the house, and, entering the bed-room, saw the marks of blood on the bed's feet, and on the bed-tick: the wall, close against which the bed stood, was also stained with blood. Being interrogated as to what clothes were on the body when taken out of the pond, she said it had on an old coat, with a slop or shirt over it, but neither shoes, stockings, nor breeches on: the shirt was turned over the head.

Mary Parker, a young woman who lived in Attleburgh, was passing over the common on her way to Attleburgh, on Tuesday (21st of July), and saw the prisoner digging in her garden. The witness went up to her, and said 'You are stopping gaps;' the prisoner answered, 'Yes, where Mrs. Leeder's cow had got in and spoiled her potatoes.' When the witness first saw her, she was digging in the ditch separating the garden from Mr. Parson's field, at the bottom, as if to deepen it; but, before the witness got close to her, she had gone to another part of the garden, three or four yards distant; and then got over the fence into the common. The witness saw no breaches in the fence, only a little mould thrown down where the prisoner had got over. The witness also saw the body taken out of the pit, and corroborated the testimony of the former witness as to its appearance and dress.

Edward Rush stated that on Wednesday morning (the 22d of July), by order of the constable of Attleburgh parish, he searched the

prisoner's residence: in a dark chamber he found a bill-hook, which on examination appeared to have blood on its handle, and also on the blade; but looked as if it had been washed. He also confirmed the statement of a preceding witness as to the state of the bed-room in the house of the deceased, and described its dimensions to be about seven feet by ten.

William Parson, jun. of Attleburgh, stated that he had known the deceased Samuel Alden and the prisoner at the bar, as reputed man and wife, for the last six or seven years, and that they lived in a cottage in Attleburgh: he further deposed that on Sunday, the 19th of July, between six and seven in the morning, he met the prisoner in company with a young woman, named Mary Orvice, on the turnpike road, not far from Alden's house: the prisoner told him she had lost her husband; that two men in sailors' habits went past her house about two o'clock in the morning, and she had told them, if they overtook a man upon the road, to send him back; but that they only gave her a dirty answer, and passed on. She expressed herself very unhappy about her husband, and feared that he was either murdered or drowned. On the following morning he saw her again; she then said she had lost her husband, and that she had been walking about thirty miles that very day to look for him. This witness further stated that he was one of the persons who examined Alden's house and premises, on Wednesday (the 22d), and the two following days; his evidence on this point agreed with that of former witnesses, and also went to substantiate some additional particulars, namely, that the chimney-board, on the opposite side of the room to the bed, was also

marked with blood-stains, which bore the appearance of an attempt having been made to scrape them off with a knife; that the wall of a narrow passage leading from the bed-room to the kitchen was in places discoloured with blood; he also described one of the bed's feet to have had similar stains upon it: this the witness had knocked off, and taken away with him; and, being produced in Court, it was but too correctly found to answer the witness's description: he also found a sack upon the bed, with some spots of blood upon it, and a piece of another sack, which seemed to have been partly washed. In a shed adjoining the house, he likewise discovered another sack, concealed underneath nearly a hundred flags of turf: this sack was also produced for the satisfaction of the jury; and exhibited an appearance which struck the Court with horror and disgust. Being interrogated as to the distance which Alden's house stood from the pit in which the body was found, Mr. Parson stated he had measured, and found it to be exactly three hundred and ninety yards. He also observed the place mentioned by a former witness, which had been dug in the ditch of the garden; it looked like a grave; was about six feet in length, nineteen inches in depth, and of width sufficient to admit a human body; the soil was of hard clay; it was situated thirty-eight yards from the cottage.

Mr. Marner, surgeon, of Attleburgh, on Wednesday, at the request of the parish officers, examined the body of Samuel Alden: he found a deep and mortal wound round the neck, reaching from ear to ear, and an extensive and deep cut across the forehead, and another cut down the left cheek, by which the jaw was broken. These

wounds, Mr. Marner added, were such as a man could not possibly inflict upon himself.

Mary Orvice stated that she had been acquainted with the prisoner a good while, and had frequently been at her house. The witness lives at her father's house, a little distance from the prisoner's dwelling. On Sunday (the 19th) the prisoner asked her to go with her to her house: when she got there, the prisoner said to her, 'I have killed my husband;' and, taking her into the bed-room, showed her the body lying on the bed, quite dead, with the wounds as before described: her account of the state and appearance of the room perfectly coincided with the descriptions of the former witnesses; she also said she saw a hook lying on the floor all bloody: when the hook was shown to her in Court, she said it was the very same she had then seen. The prisoner then produced a common corn-sack; and, at her request, the witness held it whilst the prisoner put the body into it; the prisoner then carried the body from the bed-room, through the passage and kitchen, out of the house, across the road to the ditch surrounding the garden, and left it there, after throwing some mould over it. The witness then left the prisoner, and went to Larling; the prisoner slept that night at the witness's father's house. On the following night, between nine and ten o'clock, the witness was again in company with the prisoner, and saw her remove the body of her husband (who was a small man) from the ditch of the garden to the pit on the common, dragging it herself along the ground in the sack; and, when arrived at the pit, the prisoner shot the body into it out of the sack, which she afterwards carried away with her: the

deceased had a shirt and slop on. In answer to a question from the judge, the witness said the weather was dry. The prisoner said nothing to her at the time, and she went home. The next morning (Tuesday) the witness went to the prisoner's house, and assisted in cleaning it up, taking some warm water, and washing and scraping the wall next the bed. This witness's evidence respecting the marks of blood about the room agreed precisely with the description given by Mr. William Parson, jun. The prisoner took up some loose straw, and told the witness she would carry and throw it into Mr. Parson's ditch, because it was bloody. The prisoner bade the witness to be sure not to say a word about the matter; for, if she did, she (the witness) would certainly be hanged. Upon being questioned to that effect by the judge, this witness further stated that she had told the story to her father on the Tuesday night, and to nobody else.

On his lordship asking the prisoner what she had to say in her defence, she told, an incoherent sort of story, which, however, as far as it was at all intelligible, seemed rather to aim at making the testimony of the last witness appear contradictory and suspicious, and to implicate her in the guilt of the transaction, than to deny the general charges which had been adduced against herself.

The learned judge then summed up the evidence in a very full and able manner. On the subject of Mary Orvice's testimony, his lordship remarked, that it 'certainly came under great suspicion, as being that of an accessory to the attempted concealment of the murder. Viewing it in that light, therefore, and taking it separately, it was to be received with extreme

cation; but, if it should be found, in most material facts, to agree with and corroborate the successive statements of the other witnesses, whose declarations did not labour under those disadvantages, the jury were then to give its due weight, and avail themselves of the information which it threw on the transaction.'

The jury consulted together for a short time, and found the prisoner Guilty, when the learned judge, after a short, but very solemn, address to the prisoner, in which he observed that he had never before met with a case so horrid and atrocious, proceeded to pass upon her the awful sentence of the law; which was, that on Friday she should be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution, there to be hanged by the neck till she was dead, and her body afterwards to be dissected.

The trial lasted upwards of three hours, and the court, during the whole time, was excessively crowded.

The behaviour of the wretched woman during her trial, as well as before it, appeared in a lamentable degree to be influenced by that hardened and remorseless spirit, which

but too surely characterizes the human mind sunk to the lowest state of depravity. Afterwards, however, she confessed the crime for which she was to suffer. The account she gave of the fatal transaction was, that on Saturday night, the 18th of July, she and her husband (who was a good deal in liquor) quarrelled, and he threatened to beat her. Alden soon after threw himself on the bed, and at that instant she formed the resolution of destroying him: accordingly she ran into the adjoining room, returned with a bill-hook, which she held in both her hands, and, striking him on the forehead, instantly killed him. She further acknowledged that the girl (Orvice) had no concern whatever in the murder, and only assisted, at her request, in putting the body of her husband into the sack.

On Friday, July 31, 1807, this unhappy woman was drawn on a hurdle, and executed on the Castle hill, pursuant to her sentence, in the presence of an immense concourse of spectators. She behaved at the fatal tree with the decency becoming her awful situation.

THOMAS SIMMONS,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MRS. HUMMERSTONE.

HORRID as our pages have necessarily been, in depicting such as have suffered for this most foul of all crimes, this hardened young villain may, with the greatest propriety, be most fitly called 'The Man of Blood;' for such depravity, malignant ferocity, and desperate vindictiveness, surely never before, at his years, entered in one single mind. He was not more than nineteen years of age, and of a clownish appearance. His father was a shoemaker by trade, but followed the plough some years before his death.

His mother was also said to be dead.

This malefactor was taken at an early age into Mr. Boreham's family, where he lived some years, till by his brutal behaviour in several instances, they were under the necessity of discharging him; after which he worked at Messrs. Christie and Co.'s, brewers.

Mr. Boreham, a very old gentleman, afflicted by the palsy, had been many years a resident at Hoddeston; his house stood on the declivity of the hill, beyond that town, about

two hundred yards from the market-house. He had four daughters: one of them was the wife of Mr. Warner, brass-bounder, of the Crescent, Kingsland Road, and also of the Crescent, Jewin Street. Mrs. Warner had been on a visit to her parents for several days; and on Tuesday evening, October 20, 1807, a Mrs. Hummerstone, who superintended, as housekeeper, the business of the Black Lion Inn, at Hoddesdon, for Mr. Batty, the proprietor, who was at Mr. Boreham's house, in consequence of an invitation to spend the evening with the family. The company assembled in the parlour, were Mr. Boreham, his wife, his four daughters, Anne, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Mrs. Warner. About a quarter past nine this party were alarmed by a very loud voice at the back of the house. It proceeded from some person in dispute with the servant, Elizabeth Harris, and who was insisting to get into the house. He proved to be Thomas Simmons, who, it seems, had, while in the family, paid his addresses to her, though she was many years older than himself; but the symptoms of a ferocious and ungovernable temper, which he had frequently displayed, had induced his mistress to dissuade the woman from any connexion with him. He had been heard to vow vengeance against Elizabeth Harris and the eldest Miss Boreham; and on Tuesday night, at the hour already mentioned, he made his way to the farm-yard, and from thence into an interior court, called the stone-yard. Elizabeth Harris, on seeing his approach, retired within a scullery, and shut the door against him. He demanded admittance, which she refused; high words accordingly arose; and he plunged his hand, armed with a knife, through a window-lattice at her, but missed his

aim. This noise alarmed the company in the parlour, or keeping-room, as it is called. Mrs. Hummerstone was the first to come forth, in hope of being able to intimidate and send away the disturber; but just as she reached the back door, leading from the parlour to the stone-yard, Simmons, who was proceeding to enter the house that way, met her, and with his knife stabbed her in the jugular artery, and, pulling the knife forward, laid open her throat on the left side. She ran forward, as is supposed for the purpose of alarming the neighbourhood, but fell, and rose no more.

The murderer pursued his sanguinary purpose, and rushed into the parlour, raised and brandished his bloody knife, swearing a dreadful oath that 'he would give it them all.' Mrs. Warner was the person next him; and, without giving her time to rise from her chair, he gave her so many stabs in the jugular vein, and about her neck and breast, that she fell from her chair, covered with streams of blood, and expired. Fortunately Miss Anne Boreham had been up stairs, immediately previous to the commencement of this horrid business; and her sisters, Elizabeth and Sarah, terrified at the horrors they saw, ran up stairs too, for safety.

The villain next attacked the aged Mrs. Boreham, by a similar aim at her jugular artery, but missed the point, and wounded her deep in the neck, though not mortally. The poor old gentleman was making his way towards the kitchen, where the servant-maid was; and the miscreant, in endeavouring to reach the same place, overset him, and then endeavoured to stab the servant in the throat; she struggled with him, caught at the knife, and was wounded severely in the hand and arm. The knife fell in the struggle. She,

however, got out at the back door, and made her way into the street, where, by her screams of 'Murder!' she alarmed the neighbourhood. The poor people residing near the house were all in their beds; but the whole town was soon in alarm.

The murderer sought to conceal himself, and, after some search, he was discovered in a cow-crib; he was immediately made prisoner, and brought to the Bell alehouse, where he was bound and handcuffed until morning, and was actually on the point of death, from the tightness of his ligatures, which had nearly stopped the circulation, when Mr. Fairfax, of the Black Bull Inn, in the town, interfered, cut the ligatures, and thereby prevented a death too summary for the cause of public justice.

Two professional gentlemen in the town, Mr. James and Mr. Worthington, almost instantly attended Mr. Boreham's family, but could render no manner of aid to Mrs. Warner or Mrs. Hummerstone, who were already dead. They dressed, however, Mrs. Boreham's wound; and the old gentleman was found prostrate where he fell, with a poker by his side, which his full strength would not allow him to use.

An inquest was held at the Black Bull Inn on the Wednesday following, which continued from eleven in the morning until eight in the evening; and 'Wilful Murder' having been brought in against Thomas Simmons, he was committed to Hertford gaol, to abide his trial, which took place on Friday, the 4th of March.

As Mr. Boreham's family, who were all Quakers, refused to prosecute in behalf of Mrs. Warner, the prisoner was only tried on one indictment, viz. for the murder of Mrs. Hummerstone, at the instance of Mr. W. White, and Mr. B. Fair-

fax, of the Bull Inn, Hoddesdon, and Mr. J. Brown, churchwarden of that place.

Mr. Pooley, as counsel for the prosecution, addressed the jury with great propriety, on the notoriety of the cause before them, which had been so much the subject of astonishment and conversation, that he must consider them as already acquainted with most of the circumstances which would be laid before them. But, to give the prisoner every fair chance for his deliverance, consistent with public justice, he entreated them to dismiss from their minds all information or knowledge of whatever description, which might, in any respect, affect the prisoner, and restrain themselves entirely within the line of that evidence which, painful as the duty was, it was then his instruction to lay before them. In stating the case, to direct the jury to the nature of the charge, and the evidence he should have to produce in support of it, he presented them with a summary of facts, which had occurred prior to the commission of the fatal act, for which the prisoner was now to answer to them. He mentioned the circumstance of his having lived a fellow-servant at Mr. Boreham's, at Hoddesdon, with Elizabeth Harris, to whom he had paid his addresses, and wished to marry her; with other particulars which would appear in evidence, and would appear to be necessary to connect the facts, and to ascertain the motives upon which the murder had been perpetrated. He then adverted to the various particulars of the murder, to determine in what mind and disposition it had been effected, which was a matter of the greatest importance for their consideration; the nature of his concealment after the horrid deed had been committed, and the manner of his

being found; with such other circumstances as it was his duty to describe to them, to enable them to decide conscientiously as honest men, and as they could answer to God upon their oaths; all which he was satisfied they would faithfully attend to, in discharging the trust which their country had now reposed in them. To ascertain, in the first place, the cause of the premature death of Mrs. Hummerstone, it was necessary to call Mr. Sannel James, who was sent for in his professional capacity, as a surgeon, and residing in Hoddesdon, to her assistance, not being then entirely dead. This was on the 20th of October, 1807. He found her leaning against the paling near the door, and that she had received a severe wound in the neck. She died in about three minutes after; and there cannot be a doubt that the wound, by whatsoever means it had been given, was the cause of her death.

Elizabeth Harris being sworn, and asked in whose service she was at the time of this unfortunate accident, answered that she then lived with Mr. Boreham's family, and for four years preceding; that the prisoner had lived there three years, but quitted his service at Michaelmas. On being asked if the prisoner had not expressed some strong inclination to marry her, she answered that he had, but that her mistress disapproved of it; and that he had quarrelled with the witness on that account, before he left the service, and was so enraged as to beat her; and, not contented with this, declared that he did not care if he had killed her; further adding, that he had often said he would make away with her, because she said she would not marry him. She then added that the murder was effected about half past eight in the

evening; that she first heard him coming along the yard towards the house, at which time she was in the kitchen; that she heard him swearing violently, and she requested him not to make a noise or disturbance, as there was company in the house; but he said he did not care for the company, as he would do for them all. The witness then ran into the wash-house, and shut the door, when he struck at her through the lattice. At this time, the noise being very considerable, Mrs. Hummerstone opened the door, and came into the yard, telling him to go away; when he struck her on the head, and knocked off her bonnet; on which she ran back into the house, and he followed her immediately. The witness heard the shrieks of 'Murder!' though she could not tell from whence they came, as all the family were in the room, consisting of Mr. Boreham's three daughters, with Mrs. Warner, a married daughter, their father and mother, and Mrs. Hummerstone. The witness then added that the prisoner very soon came towards the wash-house, when she again shut the door, and cried out 'Murder!' and immediately ran into the sitting-room. She saw some person lying under the window, but, from her fright, could not say who it was; she ran away down the passage, followed by the prisoner, where she met her master, a very feeble old man, with a poker in his hand, who was knocked down in running hastily. Being seized by the prisoner, the witness was thrown down, when he drew a knife across her throat, by which her hand, in guarding it, was much cut; and in his second attempt she wrested it from him, on which he ran away immediately, and she saw no more of him. In his attempts to murder the witness, he threw her across Mrs. Warner, who was then,

as she believed, lying dead. [Whilst this witness was giving her evidence, her agitation was so great, that she was obliged to be supported during the whole time she was in court.]

Sarah Cakebury deposed that she lived near Boreham's, at the time of this misfortune, on the 20th of October, and was alarmed on that evening with the cry of 'Murder!' on which she went into the house, when she passed Mrs. Hummerstone, and saw Mrs. Warner lying dead under the window.

George Britton stated that on the fatal evening of the 20th of October, in consequence of hearing of this melancholy event, he went to Mr. Boreham's house at Hoddesdon; and, after he had been informed more particularly respecting it, proceeded, without delay, in search of the murderer. On finding the hat of Tom Simmons, the prisoner at the bar, in the cow-house, he went in further search of him, but did not find him.

Thomas Copperthwaite deposed that he also went in search of the murderer, and discovered Simmons, the prisoner, concealed under some straw in a crib in the farm-yard; and, on being interrogated as to his dress, he stated that he had on him a smock-frock, which was very bloody, and that the place where he was found was above a hundred yards from the house.

The coroner, Benjamin Rook, Esq. deposed that when the testimony of Elizabeth Harris, at the time of his inquest, was read to the prisoner at the bar, he said it was very true; that he had murdered

them, and no one else; but it was not his intention to have murdered Mrs. Hummerstone, but that he went to the house with a full design to murder Mrs. Boreham, Mrs. Warner, and Elizabeth Harris, the servant.

The constable, under whose custody the prisoner was conveyed to Hertford gaol, deposed to the same effect; with this additional circumstance, acknowledged to him by Simmons, that, after he had thrown the servant down, he heard something fluttering over his shoulders, which made him get up and run away.

The prisoner, as usual, was called upon to know if he had any thing to say in his defence, when he very carelessly, and with much apparent indifference, answered 'No.' The evidence was then summed up by Mr. Justice Heath; the case, he said, was so very clear, that observations were rendered unnecessary; because, if any doubt could possibly have existed of the prisoner's guilt, he had, more than once, voluntarily acknowledged it.

The jury almost instantly gave the verdict of 'Guilty;' and the learned judge pronounced the dreadful sentence of the law, in the accustomed manner; to be hanged on the following Monday, and his body to be afterwards committed to the surgeons to be anatomized.

The sentence seemed to affect him very little; he walked from the bar with great coolness and indifference; and suffered the punishment denounced for his crime accordingly, on the 7th day of March, 1808.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR MURDER, COMMITTED IN A DUEL.

This is another instance of the fatal effects of adjusting quarrels by duel. In vain have the laws endeavoured to abolish this custom

by punishing the offenders with death.

A man of honour, deprived of the esteem of others, foresees that he must be reduced either to a solitary existence, insupportable to a social creature, or become the object of perpetual insult—considerations sufficient to overcome the fear of death. It may not be without its use to repeat here, what has been mentioned by other writers, that the best method of preventing this crime is to punish the aggressor, that is, the person who gave occasion for the duel; and to acquit him, who, without any fault on his side, is obliged to defend that which is not sufficiently secured to him by the laws. Strict justice was done in the present case; the aggressor, the challenger, the murderer, was hanged like the meanest felon.

Alexander Campbell was tried at the Armagh assizes, in Ireland, August 13, 1808, for the wilful and felonious murder of Alexander Boyd, captain in the 21st regiment, by shooting him with a pistol bullet, on the 23d day of June, 1807. This murder was committed in a duel, and it is to be hoped that Campbell's conviction will operate in a great measure to deter others from this evil practice; a practice which, though it bears the fine name of an affair of honour, is, in truth, a foul deed.

The first witness called was George Adams, who deposed that, about nine in the evening of the 23d of June, he was sent for in great haste to the deceased, Captain Boyd, who since died of a wound he received by a pistol bullet, which had penetrated the extremity of the four false ribs, and lodged in the cavity of the belly. This wound, he could take upon him to say, was the cause of his death. He was sitting on a chair,

vomiting blood, when witness was sent for; he lived about eighteen hours afterwards. Witness stayed with him till he died. He was in great pain, tumbled and tossed about in the most extreme agitation. Witness conceived his wound to be mortal from the first moment he examined it.

John Hoey, mess-waiter to the 21st regiment, swore that he went with a message from Major Campbell to Captain Boyd, by means of which they met.

Lieutenant Macpherson, Surgeon Nice, and others, proved the dying words of Captain Boyd.

John Greenhill was produced to prove that Major Campbell had time to cool after the altercation took place; inasmuch as he went home, drank tea with his family, and gave him a box to leave with Lieutenant Hall, before the affair took place.

The defence set up was merely as to the character of the prisoner for humanity, peaceable conduct, and proper behaviour: to this several officers of the highest rank were produced, who vouched for it to the fullest extent; namely, Colonel Patterson, of the 21st regiment, General Campbell, General Graham Stirling, Captain Macpherson, Captain Menzies, Colonel Gray, and many others, whom it was unnecessary to produce, the depositions of all being the same, and as nearly as possible in the same words.

The learned judge, in his charge, briefly summed up the main points, and thus concluded:—‘It has been very accurately stated to you, by the counsel for the prosecution, that the illegal killing a man, by the law of England, must fall within one of the three species—homicide, manslaughter, or murder; and that with homicide you had nothing to do, as the case before you was

clearly neither chance-medley, self-defence, or any kind of justifiable homicide. The case, then, must either be manslaughter or murder. Manslaughter is the illegal killing of a man under the strong impulse of natural passion. Three qualities are necessary to constitute it. In the first place, the passion must be natural; that is to say, such as is natural to human infirmity under the provocation given;—secondly, the act must be such as the passion naturally, and according to the ordinary course of human actions, would impel;—and thirdly, and indeed mainly, the criminal act must be committed in the actual moment of the passion, *flagrant animo*, as it is termed, and before the mind has time to cool. The act of killing, under such circumstances, is manslaughter. But if any of these circumstances are wanting; if the passion be beyond the provocation—beyond what the provocation should naturally and ordinarily produce; if the act be beyond the passion—beyond what the passion would naturally and ordinarily impel; or if it be not committed in the very moment of the passion, and before the passion either has or should have passed away;—in all of these cases, the act of criminal killing is not manslaughter, but murder. Now to apply this to the present case.—The provocation, as stated by the evidence, consisted in the words, “Do you say I am wrong?”—“Yes, I do;” and the manner in which those words were said. It remains for you, therefore, gentlemen of the jury, whether such a provocation was sufficient to constitute that passion, which, under the interpretation of the law, would render the prisoner at the bar guilty of manslaughter only; or whether the consequent passion was not above the provocation, and therefore that the

prisoner is guilty of murder. You will consider this coolly in your own judgments, and will remember upon this point the evidence that has been given; that the words were certainly offensively spoken, but that it was in the heat of argument; and that by a candid explanation, as the evidence expressed it, the affair might not have occurred. You will next have to consider, whether the criminal act was committed in the moment, the actual moment, of the passion—or whether the prisoner had time to cool, and to return to the use of his reason. Upon this point, you must keep your attention more particularly fixed on that part of the evidence which goes to state, that Major Campbell returned home, took his tea, and executed some domestic arrangements, after the words, and before the meeting. If you are of opinion, either that the provocation, which I have mentioned to you, and which you collect from the evidence, was too slight to excite that violence of passion which the law requires for manslaughter; or that, be the passion and the provocation what it might, still that the prisoner had time to cool, and return to his reason;—in either of these cases, you are bound upon your oaths to find the prisoner guilty of murder. There is still another point for your serious consideration. It has been correctly stated to you, by the counsel, that there is such a thing which is called the point of honour—a principle totally false in itself, and unrecognised both by law and morality; but which, from its practical importance, and the mischief attending and disregard of it to the individual concerned, and particularly to a military individual, has usually been taken into consideration by juries, and admitted as a

kind of extenuation. But in all such cases, gentlemen of the jury, there have been, and there must be, certain grounds for such indulgent consideration—such departure from the letter and spirit of the law. In the first place, the provocation must be great; in the second place, there must be a perfect fair dealing—the contract, to oppose life to life, must be perfect on both sides; the consent of both must be full; neither of them must be forced into the field;—and, thirdly, there must be something of a necessity, a compulsion, to give and take the meeting; the consequence of refusing it being the loss of reputation, and there being no means of honourable reconciliation left. Let me not be mistaken on this serious point. I am not justifying duelling; I am only stating those circumstances of extenuation, which are the only grounds that can justify a jury in dispensing with the letter of the law. You have to consider, therefore, gentlemen of the jury, whether this case has these circumstances of extenuation. You must here recall to your minds the words of the deceased Captain Boyd—“You have hurried me—I wanted you to wait and have friends—Campbell, you are a bad man.” These words are very important; and, if you deem them sufficiently proved, they certainly do away all extenuation. If you think them proved, the prisoner is most clearly guilty of murder; the deceased will then have been hurried into the field; the contract of opposing life to life could not have been perfect. It is important likewise, in this part of your consideration, that you should revert to the provocation, and to the evidence which stated that the words were offensively spoken, so as not to be passed over: but that the affair would not have hap-

pened, if there had been a candid explanation. Gentlemen of the jury, you will consider these points, and make up your verdict accordingly.’

The jury then retired, and, after remaining about half an hour out of court, returned with their verdict—Guilty of Murder; but recommended him to mercy on the score of character only. Sentence of death was immediately passed on the unfortunate gentleman, and he was ordered for execution on the Monday; but, in consequence of the recommendation of the jury, was respited till the Wednesday se’nnight. In the mean time every effort was made by the friends of the unfortunate man to procure the royal mercy. Mrs. Campbell, his lady, departed immediately for England, to solicit in person the royal clemency; and the grand jury of the county, and the jury who had found him guilty, presented petitions to the lord lieutenant of Dublin. In the mean time, Mrs. Campbell, after the most incredible fatigue and exertion, had reached England, and procured her petition to be delivered into the hands of his majesty. The respite expired on the 23d of August, and an order was sent from Dublin Castle to Armagh, for the execution of the unfortunate gentleman on the 24th. His deportment, during the whole of the melancholy interval between his condemnation and the day of his execution, was manly, but penitent; such as became a Christian towards his approaching dissolution. When he was informed that all efforts to procure a pardon had failed, he was only anxious for the immediate execution of the sentence. He had repeatedly implored that he might be shot; but, as this was not suitable to the forms of the common law, his entreaties were of course without success.

He was led out for execution on Wednesday, the 24th of August, 1808, just as the clock struck twelve. He was attended by Dr. Bowic, and in the whole of his deportment was manifest a pious resignation, and a penitent habit of mind. A vast crowd had collected around the scene of the catastrophe: he surveyed them a moment, then turned his head towards Heaven with a look of prayer. As soon as he appeared the whole of the attending guards, and such of the soldiery as were spectators, took off their caps; upon which the major saluted them in turn. This spectacle was truly distressing, and tears and shrieks burst from several parts of the crowd. When the executioner approached to fix the cord, Major Campbell again looked up to Heaven. There was now the most profound silence. The executioner seemed paralyzed whilst performing this last act of his duty. There was scarcely a dry eye out of so

many thousands assembled. The crowd seemed thunderstruck when the unfortunate gentleman was at length turned off. Every aspect wore the trace of grief. Perhaps no case has ever occurred, in which the sympathy of the people was more strong. The soldiery, in particular, were most strongly affected. Many a hard visage was softened by the descending tear.

After hanging the usual time, the body was put into a hearse in waiting. This melancholy vehicle left the town immediately, to convey the last remains of the unfortunate gentleman to the family depository at Ayr, in Scotland. This catastrophe is rendered still more piteous by the unhappy circumstance that Mrs. Campbell had indulged her hopes to the last, and left London exactly at such a period of time as to arrive at Ayr on that day on which her husband's corpse would necessarily have reached that place.

ALEXANDER DAVISON, Esq.

IMPRISONED FOR A FRAUD UPON GOVERNMENT.

THE following case of fraud will again show that as well as the crimes of petty thieves, whom death awaits for stealing forty shillings, the greatest peculations, in their turn, become subject matter for our pages.

The trial of this offender, a man of wealth and consequence, came on in the Court of King's Bench, before Lord Ellenborough and a special jury, in 1808. We shall give the attorney-general's opening speech, as it completely details the whole case, which was subsequently supported in evidence.

The defendant, in the year 1795, became agent for the barrack-stores, and an agreement was entered into with General Delancy,

the barrack-master-general. His duty was to purchase all the articles which might be required for that department, for which he himself, in his letter of the 10th of January—to the barrack-master-general, thought that two and a half per cent. was fully sufficient as a commission for devoting his whole attention to the business. He continued in this situation, performing the duties of his station; and certainly no fault could be alleged against him till the year 1798, when he began to manufacture the articles in demand, in large quantities, and charge them to government in the name of George Watson, who, it will appear, was his apprentice, and a young man about

twenty years, in his own employ; on these goods, which he so sold, he directed Bowring, his principal clerk, to manufacture false vouchers, with a view to defraud the barrack department; he also influenced John Allen, another clerk in his employ, to give receipts for large sums of money, pretended to be paid to Watson, so as to give the whole the appearance of a fair and *bona-fide* transaction. This practice he continued till the change of the administration, in 1801 or 1802, when it was likely an investigation would take place, and it struck him that it would be advisable to change the mode of rendering his accounts, and soon after that he sent them in without charging the commission of two and a half per cent. on the goods he himself manufactured and sold. The jury would observe, however, that the charge of commission now alluded to was made in nine different half-yearly accounts, in each of which the defendant takes credit for commission on the whole of the purchase made by him. The same charge was also made in his general accounts, which contained the whole sums specified in all his particular accounts; in all of which, of course, this full commission was charged; and it was not till the year 1800, when the defendant had been questioned on these transactions, and when he found these fraudulent practices pressing hard on him, that he thought of restoring these sums of commission. He (the attorney-general) should not have thought of judging so harshly of the defendant if he had not what he conceived a picture of the defendant's own thoughts in his conduct, and in written evidence under his own hand. The defendant, when he underwent an examination before the commissioners of military in-

quiry, in December, 1805, stated that he had furnished some goods to government himself, but that for these he had charged no commission. This declaration, however, could not apply to the goods here alluded to. Subsequently to the year 1802, the defendant furnished goods to government professedly from his Bedford Street warehouse, and charged no commission on them, because the goods were known to have been furnished by him, were so furnished publicly, and the receipts of Mungo Sheddon, his managing clerk, were given for the price. But should it be said to-day that he meant this to apply to goods furnished in the name of another person, who, though his own servant, had rendered invoices and receipts in another name? And, after charging commission on these purchases, now say that it was his intention again to credit government with the sums of commission so charged. He should be sorry to hear such a defence set up this day, because it must call from him some observations which he could wish might be spared. But it was said the defendant intended to debit himself with these sums in another account. The attorney-general had stated that the defendant was examined by the commissioners of military inquiry, and was questioned whether he had not made some overcharges against government, and had also omitted to give items which he had received. On this occasion, finding that these accounts were to be strictly gone into, the defendant had himself made a strict investigation into the state of his accounts, with the object of correcting any mistakes or omissions which might have crept into them, and accordingly, on the 15th of May, 1806, gave in a supplemental account, as

between himself and General Delancy, which begins with stating, on the credit side of the account, a former balance due to the defendant of upwards of nine thousand pounds, and then, by giving, on the other side, a variety of sums with which he should formerly have debited himself, but which should have been omitted, besides wiping away the balance formerly standing in the defendant's favour, of upwards of nine thousand pounds, produces a balance against him of upwards of six thousand pounds, thereby creating a difference in favour of government of upwards of fifteen thousand pounds. Here was a sum produced to government by the defendant, in consequence of his looking into his accounts with a scrutinizing eye, thinking that he could do so with a better grace himself than by suffering them to be examined by the commissioners. If any person thought, however, that he (the attorney-general) stated this with a view to create a prejudice against the defendant, he erred. He only stated it for the purpose of showing that, if the defendant had entertained any idea of restoring the sums of commission alluded to, a fairer opportunity than that he had now mentioned could hardly have occurred; and, therefore, that to say it was the intention of the defendant to return these sums of commission, which had been unjustly detained, was an after-thought. He was satisfied the defendant had no such

intention till after the discovery, in consequence of which the present action was brought, had been made. And why? because he thought the fraud could not be detected, and that he was fortified by the bill of parcels and receipts which he had produced.—Did the Court and jury require any further evidence that the defendant did not intend to restore this commission? If they did, he should give it them. If he had intended to do so, he would have done it immediately. The commissioners of barrack accounts had asked of the defendant to produce his cash account, which referred to these matters. He refused to do so; but, at the same time, he thought it necessary to state an excuse for this refusal. And what was his reason? Because his accounts had all been tendered, settled, and the balance paid! If he had wished to return the sums in question, here was an opportunity. But such was not in his contemplation. On the contrary, when asked to produce his cash account, he says, 'You have no right to look into my accounts. They are all tendered, examined, and the balance paid!' Yet he was to be told to-day that it was in the mind of the defendant to give credit to government in another account.

The trial lasted from nine in the morning until eight at night, when Mr. Davison was found Guilty, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

JOHN RYAN AND MATTHEW KEARINGE,

EXECUTED FOR ARSON AND MURDER.

WHATEVER dangers we are liable to in England from the midnight robber or from burglary, we may, on this score, thank our better stars, that wink not on the nocturnal horrors committed in Ireland. If our

houses are sometimes broken into, it is always done with the least possible noise; and seldom, indeed, unless under the fear of detection, do they add the more horrible deed of murder to their crimes.

In Ireland, for plunder, nay, frequently actuated alone by that hellish passion, revenge, houses, in the dead hour of night, have been surrounded by armed bands of villains, burned to the ground, and the innocent inhabitants murdered. Ireland, which hath produced so many heroes in the field, and able politicians in the British cabinet, is torn by intestine broils, and degraded by religious animosities.

A sad instance of the truth of these observations will be found in the following case:—

At the Lent Clonmel assizes for the year 1808, John Ryan and Matthew Kearinge were indicted for the murder of David Bourke; in a second count with the murder of John Dougherty; in a third, with setting fire to the house of Laurence Bourke; and, in a fourth, with maliciously firing at Laurence Bourke, with intent to kill him. They pleaded the general issue.

After the solicitor-general had opened the case, he called Laurence Bourke, the prosecutor, who stated that, on the night of the 11th of October, between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock, he was informed by his servant that there were a number of men in arms advancing towards the house. In consequence of this information he went to the window, and saw the prisoners, with several others, all armed, surrounding his house: they desired him to open the door, but he refused; and they then fired several shots in through the different windows. There was in the house Dougherty, the deceased, a man who was servant to the witness, and witness's wife and child; they were armed, but had no ammunition but what the guns were loaded with. The prisoners and the party, finding they could not get into the house, set it on fire; and the witness heard the prisoner, Ryan, say, 'Take it

easy, boys; you will see what boltings we shall have by-and-by.'—The witness's wife and child then went to the window, and called out to Ryan (who was her relation) not to burn the house; but he replied, with an oath, that he would; and a shot was fired at her, which, though it did not take effect, frightened her so much, that she and her child fell out of the window, and were seized by the prisoner Kearinge; but they afterwards fortunately made their escape. The house was now falling in flames about the witness's head; and he therefore opened the door, and ran out: several shots were fired at him, but he escaped them, and made his way to David Bourke's, his father's house. In his flight he fired his piece, and killed one of Ryan's party. When witness arrived at his father's house, he found he had gone to the assistance of the witness; and on returning to the place where his house stood, in search of his father, he found that Ryan and his party were gone, and his father's corpse was lying about twelve yards from the smoking ruins of his dwelling.

Winnifred Kennedy, and other witnesses, were examined, who corroborated the testimony of Bourke, and proved that the deceased, John Dougherty, was burned in Bourke's house. It was also proved that the whole of Ryan's party were entertained by him at dinner that day, and they all left his house armed, for the purpose of attacking Bourke.

On the part of the prisoner Ryan, an *alibi* was attempted to be proved by a woman who lived with him, which entirely failed; and, after a very minute charge from the learned judge, the jury brought in a verdict of Guilty against both the prisoners. They were executed accordingly.

About this time Ireland was in a disturbed state in many counties

particularly Tipperary, where there were nightly meetings and associations of White Boys. A most flagrant and audacious instance of the truth of this statement occurred at the house of Mr. T. Halloran, at Palace, which was attacked by a number of those ruffians, who knocked at his door, and demanded his arms, which Mr. Halloran refused to deliver, and told them that, unless they immediately withdrew, he and his sons, who were well prepared for defence, would instantly fire upon them. On hearing this the fellows went for a reinforcement (not thinking themselves strong enough to force the house), threatening Mr. Halloran with the most dreadful punishment on their return. In about two hours after they again made their appearance, greatly increased in number, the whole amounting, as well as could be ascertained, to nearly three hundred; but Mr. Halloran, foreseeing

their intent, during their absence prudently retired with his sons, well armed, into an orchard near the house, where he waited their arrival. The villains, on coming to the house a second time, fired several shots through the windows, which they pelted with stones, demolishing the glass, sashes, &c. after which they placed fire in the thatch, in order to consume the house. In the mean time Mr. Halloran and his sons, who were waiting for an opportunity, suddenly discharged the contents of their pieces, and immediately a second discharge; when the villains, alarmed by the firing, and not expecting so warm a reception, ran off in the greatest confusion, leaving behind them five horses, two of whom were killed, which belonged to people in that neighbourhood; they left behind them a number of muskets, pistols, swords, great coats, hats, shoes, &c. Three of the ruffians were shot.

ELIZABETH MIDDLETON,

IMPRISONED FOR CRUELTY TO HER ORPHAN APPRENTICE.

WE find in this case so near an analogy to that of Mrs. Brownrigg, that we naturally looked for, if not a similar, at least as severe a punishment; and this most strongly shows the inequality of punishments.

These two cruel females, Elizabeth Brownrigg, and Elizabeth Middleton, each had a parish apprentice of their own sex.

Brownrigg 'laid Mary Jones (her apprentice) across two chairs in the kitchen, and whipped her with such wanton cruelty, that she was occasionally obliged to desist through mere weariness.' Again—'she frequently tied the girl up naked, and beat her with a hearth-broom, a horsewhip, or a cane, till the child was absolutely speechless:

—she would sometimes seize the poor girl by the cheeks, and, forcing the skin violently down with her fingers, cause the blood to gush from her eyes.' In some of these barbarities Brownrigg's eldest son assisted her; at length the child died of her wounds, and the merciless woman was hanged at Tyburn.

Let us now compare the cases of these two abhorred women, and see whether the punishment of Middleton was commensurate with that of Brownrigg. The only circumstance in favour of the former seems to be, that her victim was rescued from death at her hands, while the other perished.

At the Middlesex sessions, 1808, Elizabeth Middleton was indicted,

by the parish officers of White-chapel, for cruelty to Elizabeth Summerfield, an orphan female, nine years of age, placed under her care by the parish. The defendant resided in Plumber's Row, near the Commercial Road. The child had been with her two years, during which she had continually used her ill: the child's cries frequently alarmed the neighbourhood, many of whom remonstrated with the defendant on the inhumanity of her conduct, but without producing any change in her behaviour. It was customary with her to turn the infant into the yard almost naked, in

cold frosty weather, and keep her in such situation half an hour. On the 27th of July the defendant beat the child, holding her by the head, while a woman who lodged in the same house held her legs. This act of cruelty was seen by two persons who looked over the yard wall, and they immediately gave information to the parish officers. The little girl corroborated the above facts; and, after the defendant had alleged in her defence that her conduct was misrepresented by her neighbours, the jury found her Guilty, and she was sentenced to be imprisoned fourteen days.

JOHN NICHOLLS, EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THIS unfortunate man was a tradesman at Birmingham, in rather a respectable way; but, being dissatisfied with the slow returns of honest industry, resorted to the culpable practice of forging notes, purporting to be of the Bank of England, which he sold in large quantities to bad characters, who passed them off on the public.

For a short time he carried on his criminal traffic with impunity; but guilt, however ingenious, cannot long escape detection.

An Italian, named Vincent Alessi, who lodged at the Lemon Tree, in the Haymarket, affected an air of distinction, which he supported by passing counterfeit notes, the fabrications of Nicholls. He had been several times in England, and, during every visit, passed several of these notes, but was at last detected. Being questioned concerning the means by which he procured them, he acknowledged having had them from Nicholls, who charged him six shillings for one pound, twelve for two pounds, and thirty for five pounds.

The solicitor for the bank thought it advisable to admit Alessi an evidence for the crown, and through his means Nicholls was brought to justice. The Italian wrote to him that he was about to depart for America, and that he should want twenty dozen of *candlesticks* marked No. 5, twenty-four dozen marked No. 1, and four dozen marked No. 2. The word *candlesticks* was understood between the parties to mean *bank notes*, and the figures mark the value of the notes.

Nicholls wrote, in answer, that he should be in town on a certain day, when Alessi could have the needful. The interview being arranged, four officers were placed, so as to hear and see, unobserved, all that should pass. Nicholls made his appearance at the appointed time, and, counting out the forged notes, received the stipulated price, when the Italian put on his hat—the signal for the officers of justice to enter. They did so, and Nicholls was conveyed to Newgate.

He was tried at the Old Bailey in 1809, and, after a patient inves-

tigation, was found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged. From the moment of his apprehension, he made up his mind to the awful fate

which awaited him, and during his confinement, as well as at the fatal moment, conducted himself with Christian piety and fortitude.



Vaux, when a Boy, losing his Master's Money in a Cock-pit.

JAMES HARDY VAUX,

TRANSPORTED FOR PRIVATELY STEALING.

THE adventures of Hardy Vaux are nothing inferior to those of the renowned Spanish rogue, Guzman d'Alfarache; and, like him, he has given the world a narrative of his exploits, wherein philosophers may read the workings of an unprincipled conscience, the legislator discover the operations of laws upon the criminal's mind, and the citizen learn to detect the frauds by which he is so easily and constantly beset. From Vaux's well-written memoir we shall make occasional extracts, and give the reader an abridgment of those parts which are of least interest.

VOL. III.

James Hardy Vaux was born at Guildford, Surrey, in the year 1782. His father was a foreigner, and was in the employ of a Mr. Sumner, as cook and house-steward. His mother was daughter of a Mr. Lowe, a solicitor, and married Vaux much against the wish of her parents and friends, who were not only numerous, but respectable. The issue of this imprudent marriage was one son, James Hardy Vaux, and two daughters.

In 1785 Mr. Lowe retired from business, and on going to live in the country he took with him his little grandson, whom he treated with

parental fondness; sent him to school; and gave him a liberal education, such as to qualify him for his own profession. Mrs. Vaux's first imprudence had partially alienated the affections of her parents, and her subsequent conduct did not tend to restore their good opinion. Young Vaux, therefore, was entirely abandoned to the care of his grandfather and grandmother, and he complains that his natural parents never treated him with any thing like a proper affection. In early life Vaux was addicted to desultory reading, the consequence of which was an instability of conduct through life, unfixed in purpose and undetermined in action.

After six years' residence in the country, Mr. Lowe was prevailed upon to come and live with his daughter and son-in-law, who had commenced the hat business at Great Turnstile, Holborn. Young Vaux, being at this time nine years old, was sent to a respectable boarding-school at Stockwell; and his sisters were sent to one equally genteel, where they learned the rudiments of a polite education.

After spending three years at school, he returned to his grandfather, who had quitted, in consequence of family disagreements, the house of his son-in-law, and then resided in one of the squares. Mrs. Lowe's health declining, the family removed to Wisbeach, Cambridgeshire, where they continued for some time, and again returned to their original residence in S—shire, Young Vaux being then fourteen years of age. Here he became acquainted with the son of John Maultrie, Esq. and, on that youth's removal to college, his father proposed to pay for Vaux to accompany him; but his indecision and

obstinacy rendered the proffered kindness of no avail. The army or navy was his ambition; but, as his grandfather would not consent to his entering either of these professions, the desire was abandoned, and, after much hesitation, he was ultimately bound an apprentice to Parker and Co. linen-drapers, at Liverpool.

As this step may be called his first entrance into life, we will let him speak for himself, as his conduct in his first situation clearly intimates his character, while it forcibly reminds youth of the danger they run in yielding to the first incentives to crime. 'I was now,' says Hardy Vaux, 'turned of fourteen; my health and constitution good, my spirits elevated, and I felt all those pleasing sensations which naturally arise in a youthful mind, happy in conscious innocence, and flattered by the prospect of rising to honorable independence. The gaiety and bustle of this beautiful and improving borough at once charmed and amused me; I spent a week in viewing the public buildings, the environs, &c.; but, above all, my admiration was excited by the numerous and capacious docks, by which ships of large burden are admitted, as it were, into the heart of the town, and discharge their rich and varied cargoes with surprising facility, which are deposited in spacious warehouses, of amazing extent, and from twelve to fourteen stories high, with which these noble docks are nearly surrounded.

'The opportunities I had, during my residence in Liverpool, of viewing the daily arrivals and sailings of merchant ships to and from all parts of the world, particularly the Guineamen, which formed a remarkably fine class of vessels,* revived the latent desire I had for a sea-

* This was prior to the abolition of the slave trade.

far- ing life; and I wanted but little incitement, had the smallest opportunity offered, to take French leave of my masters, and gratify my rambling propensity. However, the bustle in which I was continually involved, and the new scenes of amusement which every succeeding day presented, suppressed the inclination for a time; but that it was not totally subdued will be seen hereafter.

'The establishment and economy of our house were upon the most regular plan; the former consisted of six apprentices, (including myself,) and four assistants, at very liberal stipends, besides a nephew of the elder partner, who superintended the whole, and officiated in the counting-house: there were also several porters, and other subordinates, for all of whom full employment was found. Being the junior apprentice, it was my province to polish the counters, trim the lamps, carry out small parcels, and to perform other inferior duties; when disengaged from which, I assisted in waiting on the retail customers, and making myself otherwise useful behind the counter. We had a plentiful table appropriated for us, to which we retired in turn during the hours of business; commodious and airy chambers; and, in short, enjoyed every comfort we could desire.

'For the first month of my probation I behaved extremely well, and by my quickness and assiduity gained the good opinion of my employers, who wrote of me in the most favorable terms to my friends in S——shire; nor did my expenses exceed my allowance for pocket-money, which was fully adequate to every rational enjoyment.

'Among my fellow-apprentices was a young man named King, some years older than myself with

whom, from a similarity of sentiments, I formed a close intimacy. He was of an excellent disposition, but a great lover of pleasure; and as his servitude was far advanced, and his prospects peculiarly flattering, he was under very little restraint, but gave the rein to his passion for dissipation. His expenses were profuse, but whether he indulged in them at the expense of his probity I could never ascertain. He soon introduced me to several young men of his own stamp, and I became in a short time as great a rake as the best of them: nor was our conversation confined to our own sex, scarcely a night passing without our visiting one or other of those houses consecrated to the Cyprian goddess, with which the town of Liverpool abounds. In such a course of life, it is not likely that I could submit to limited hours; my companion and I seldom returned home before midnight, and sometimes not till the ensuing morning. Though we took measures to keep this from the ears of our employers, it could not fail to be known in time; and the consequence was, a strong but tender remonstrance on my imprudence, which much affected me at the moment; but the impression was transitory, and soon effaced. I plunged deeper and deeper in the vortex of folly and dissipation, until I was obliged to have recourse for advice to the Æsculapius of Gilead House.

'This irregular mode of life had borne hard on my finances, but I had not, as yet, had recourse to fraud or peculation. I was liberally supplied by my relations, on leaving S——shire, and had received my first quarterly allowance; but an event, which soon followed, tempted me to the first breach of confidence and integrity.

'I had in my youth been passionately fond of cocking, a sport for which the county of S—— has been always famed; and, though so young, I had constantly kept several cocks at walk, unknown to my parents; so that I had acquired a considerable share of experience and knowledge on the subject. One day, when I was sent with some muslins to wait on a lady in the environs of Liverpool, near the canal, I accidentally passed a cock-pit, where a great crowd was assembled; and I understood that a grand main was about to commence. Elated at this pleasing intelligence, I hastened to execute my commission; and returning to the house, entered it, and, leaving my wrapper of goods in the care of the landlady, I ascended to the pit, and took my seat. The company was, as usual, of a motley description; but there were many genteel persons. I ventured a few trifling bets at first with various success; but at length an opportunity offering, which I considered as next to a certainty, I laid the odds to a large amount, flattering myself that, by this stroke of judgment, I should be enabled to figure away with increased eclat among my gay companions. After I had so done, greater odds were still vociferated; but in a moment the scene was changed! the fallen cock, in the agonies of death, made a desperate effort, and, rising for a moment, cut the throat of his antagonist, who was standing over him, in the act of crowing with exultation on his victory! The latter immediately fell, choked with the effusion of blood, nor did the victor survive him many moments. The whole pit resounded with acclamation, and the discord which ensued beggars description. I was not the only sufferer by this revolution of fortune; many others had laid higher odds

than myself, and to a much greater amount. I was soon surrounded by my creditors, to whom I disbursed every shilling I had about me, among which were some pounds I had just received from the lady for goods, and for which I had given her a receipt. I was still something deficient, for which I pledged my honour to one of the parties, giving my address, and promising payment on an early day. I now returned home, filled with remorse and shame; but, as the first false step of a young person insensibly leads to another, I added to my guilt by concealing the affair from my employers, and directed them to book the articles the lady had selected. I had a degree of false shame about me, which rendered me incapable of confessing the truth and promising amendment, or all might still have been well. In the evening I had recourse to the bottle to drown my chagrin; and I determined to purloin a certain sum every day, in the course of my attendance on retail customers, until I had liquidated my debt of honour! Then I vowed to stop and reform. Delusive idea! how little did I then know my own weakness, or the futility of such resolutions in a young mind! And who, that once begins a career of vice, can say to himself, "Thus far will I go, and no farther?" After I had discharged my engagement I found a small sum must be raised for pocket-money, and other exigencies, as it would be above two months before I could expect a remittance.

'I therefore continued my persecution, and at length my evil genius suggested to me, that I might, by venturing a small sum, become more fortunate at the cock-pit, and repair the loss I had sustained; as miracles don't happen every day, and the odds must win

in the long run. Thus I argued with myself; and, fatally for me, I tried the experiment.

‘From this moment I never missed a day’s fighting at the cock-pit; and when sent on business which required my speedy return, I could not tear myself from the spot, but frequently staid out several hours, and, afterwards forged a lie to account for my delay. I sometimes came off a winner; but, as I was not then acquainted with the art of hedging, by which the knowing ones commonly save themselves, I was sure to be a loser at every week’s end.

‘I managed matters so well, indeed, that my frequent secretions from the till were not discovered, however they might be suspected. The extensive trade of the shop rendered it next to impossible; and what I abstracted was a trifle compared to the gross receipts of the day.

‘My continued misconduct became now the subject of frequent remonstrances on the part of Mr. Parker, the resident partner; which not having had the desired effect, that gentleman wrote to my friends, informing them in general terms that I had unhappily formed improper connexions, and that my late levity of conduct rendered me unfit to be received into their house; therefore desiring I might be recalled without delay. Mr. Parker concluded with a remark, which I shall never forget, and which was peculiarly gratifying to my grandfather’s (perhaps too partial) feelings: after expatiating on my general incapacity for business, he added “his smartness and activity are really wonderful.” This letter produced a speedy answer, in consequence of which I was directed to hasten my departure, which took place in a few days, Mr. Parker

giving me a great deal of wholesome advice at parting; observing that, although it was not in his power to charge me with any direct criminality, my inconsiderate behaviour, and the continued excesses of my conduct, left but too much room for unfavourable conjectures.

‘Behold me now returned to my grandfather, after an absence of nearly five months; and this excursion may be called my first entrance into life. I could not help blushing at the consciousness of my own unworthiness; but the blind partiality of my dear parents, induced them to believe me less culpable than I really was, and to listen readily to any thing I had to offer in palliation of my errors.’

Having now tasted the vicious eup of pleasure, Vaux found a village too limited a sphere for his ambition; and accordingly resolved to try his fortune in London. His grandfather, having many friends in his own profession, gave his grandson letters of introduction, which, on his arrival in the metropolis, procured him a situation as copying clerk in a solicitor’s office. Being in the actual possession of talents, which he too often perverted, Vaux soon acquired a complete knowledge of criminal law, which was afterwards of great service, or rather disservice, to him. Resolving to be master of his own conduct, he did not visit the house of his father, who by this time had tried many businesses, but was unfortunate in all; but took private lodgings, and for three months conducted himself with great propriety. But, getting acquainted with several young persons of both sexes, he gradually became dissipated, visited the theatres, and became irregular in his attendances at his office, in consequence of which he was formally dismissed.

Finding it still necessary to have

some employment, he procured, through one of his dissipated companions, the son of a wealthy citizen, a situation, as clerk, in the warehouse of Messrs. Key and Sons, wholesale stationers, in Abchurch Lane, Lombard Street, at a guinea a week. Here, however, he continued but for a short time; for he could not endure a confinement in the east end, so far from the resort of his old acquaintances, who chiefly frequented Covent Garden and the purlieus of Drury Lane.

'During an abode,' says he, 'often months in London, as I was frequently pushed for money, I availed myself of a genteel appearance, and pretty good address; and, taking advantage of the credulity of several tradesmen in the neighbourhood, I ordered wearing apparel of various kinds, and sometimes other goods, upon credit, without much concern about the day of payment; however, I always took care to procure a bill of parcels with the articles, which precluded any charge of fraud, and left the matter, at the worst, but a debt contracted; for which, being a minor, I knew I could not be arrested. This was my first deviation from honesty since I left Liverpool. I was also frequently obliged to change my lodgings; and, as payment of my rent would have required ready money, for which I had so many other uses, I commonly decamped under favour of the night, having previously removed my effects by various stratagem. As I was ashamed to let my grandfather know the true state of my affairs, and as I really grieved at the expenses I had already caused him, which I knew had much inconvenienced him, I forbore at last to trouble him for remittances; but falsely assured him that I was doing well, and enabled to live upon the profits of my industry. I desired

he would abandon the idea of articling me to the law, as the expenses attending admission had of late years been so much increased by stamp duties; and as I could, if I continued the study, at a future period, practise under the sanction of another person's name; a custom then very prevalent, though irregular. By these assurances I quieted the good old man, and silenced any inquiries my friends might have instituted respecting me; as I now really wished to continue free from all restraint upon my person or actions, and foolishly flattered myself that I should, by some lucky event, ultimately secure the means of independence. These conjectures were, however, perfectly vague, and proceeding from no fixed idea whatever.

'On quitting my city employment, I returned to the law, for which I still retained a partiality; and obtained a more liberal salary than before in an office equally respectable. Indeed I was now become more useful, and had improved much, both in person and address, since my arrival in town.

'I was still frequently reduced to pecuniary straits, and obliged to have recourse to various expedients, known only to men of the town, for my support: some of them, indeed, were bordering on dishonesty, and none of them very honorable. But to describe them individually is impossible; and a man *who lives by his wits*, as the phrase is, will assure you, if called to account, that he really could not for his life tell by what distinct means he makes out a living.

'As I now wrote uncommonly fast, I quitted the station of a weekly clerk, and obtained writings to copy by the sheet, from the law-stationers, by which I could earn considerably more money; and in

this employment I continued to labour diligently for several hours every day, and sometimes half the night.

'When I had a mind to relax from this occupation, and particularly if my finances were at a low ebb, I frequently resorted to the Blue Lion, in Gray's Inn Lane, a house noted for selling fine ale, and crowded every night by a motley assemblage of visitors, among whom were many thieves, sharpers, and other desperate characters, with their doxies. I was introduced to this house (from which hundreds of young persons may date their ruin) by a fellow clerk, who appeared to have a personal intimacy with most of these obnoxious persons; however, though I listened eagerly to their conversation, (part of which was then unintelligible to me,) and fancied them people of uncommon spirit, I was not yet sufficiently depraved to cultivate their acquaintance; but sat with a pipe in my mouth, enveloped in smoke, ruminating, like a philosopher, on the various characters who tread the great stage of life, and felt a sort of secret presentiment that I was myself born to undergo a more than common share of vicissitudes and disappointments.'

During his nightly resort to the Blue Lion he became acquainted with a young man named D—, who had been steward on board a king's ship, but who had spent all his money, and now resolved to go to Portsmouth, in the hope of procuring a situation similar to the one he had left. Vaux, naturally inconstant, determined on accompanying him; and, having converted most of their clothes into money, they set off on foot; but had not proceeded farther than Kingston when their cash became exhausted,

and they owed a trifle to the mistress of the Eight Bells.

'In this dilemma,' says Vaux, 'a sudden thought struck me. Calling for pen, ink, and paper, I told my companion I had a scheme in my head for raising a supply, but would not impart it until I had tried its success. I then drew up a sort of memorial to the following effect:—
 "To the Ladies and Gentlemen of Kingston.—The writer hereof, a young man of respectable family, and good education, having, by a series of misfortunes, been reduced to the greatest distress, is now on his way to Portsmouth, in hopes of procuring a situation in the navy; but, being destitute of money for his present support, humbly solicits your charitable assistance towards enabling him to pursue his journey. To a noble mind, the pleasure of doing a good action is its own reward. The smallest donations will be gratefully received, and any lady or gentleman inclined to relieve the writer is earnestly requested to subscribe his or her name hereto."—
 Having completed this production, I desired my friend to wait patiently for my return, and assured him I doubted not of bringing speedy relief. I now set out on my expedition, and immediately waited on Mr. Mayor, who was a grocer; but in this first essay I was unsuccessful. His worship declared he never encouraged applications of this sort from strangers; and desired me to go about my business. I, however, took the liberty of subscribing his name to my memorial, by way of sanction, and gave his charity credit for a donation of five shillings. Young as I was at that time, I well knew that example, in matters of this kind, goes a great way; and that many persons, without a grain of Christian benevolence in their

composition, will give liberally from motives of ostentation, when they see that their neighbours have already contributed, and that their own names and donations will also be made public. I experienced the truth of this notion, for I was successful in almost every application I afterwards made. Having visited a number of genteel houses, with various success, I was on the point of returning, to impart my good luck to my companion, when, coming to a very handsome mansion-house in the suburbs of the town, I thought I ought not to omit calling, and a person at that moment passing by, I inquired whose residence it was, and which was the entrance to the premises; for the house was situated in the midst of a spacious pleasure-ground, remote from the high road, and, it being quite dusk, I had not observed any avenue by which I could gain access to it. I was informed that it was the residence of Lady W——; that a little further on I should perceive a door in the brick wall, which extended along the road-side; and that if I entered at that door, and proceeded in a straight direction, I should arrive at the servants' hall; but my informer cautioned me to keep close to another wall on my left hand, which divided this avenue from the lawn in front of the mansion, because there was a very large and fierce dog at the upper end, but which, being chained up, could not reach me, if I followed the above directions. I thanked this obliging person, and immediately proceeded to the door described, which I entered, and walked cautiously, and not without some fear, by the wall-side, till I perceived, by the lights in the kitchen and out-offices, that I was near the premises.

‘It was now very dark, and I

was carefully exploring my way, my mind full of apprehensions at the thought of this terrible dog; when lo! at that instant, to my inexpressible consternation, the ferocious animal made a spring at me, and I gave myself up for dead. However, though he was certainly within a yard of me, he did me no mischief; but my alarm was so great, that, without knowing how or where to fly for refuge, I ran precipitately from the spot; and, when I recovered myself from the fright, found myself in the pleasure-ground in front of the mansion-house. It appeared that I had, without knowing, escaped through a door in the wall, which was open on my left hand at the moment I was alarmed by the dog. I was now more at a loss than ever, for I knew of no way to get out of the pleasure-ground except by the aforesaid door, and fear of the dog prevented my attempting that passage. After wandering about for a few minutes, I approached the mansion, and, going up to one of the parlour windows, which were very large, and on a level with the terrace before the house, I applied my eye to the glass, and discovered, through an aperture in the inside shutters, a numerous and splendid party of ladies and gentlemen at dinner. Having considered a moment, I determined on a very bold step, as I saw no alternative but remaining all night in the open air, exposed to the inclemency of the weather. Taking advantage of a pause in the company's conversation, I tapped with my finger at the window, and immediately the whole party were struck with wonder. In the midst of their surprise I repeated my knock; and then, after several voices exclaiming “Good God! there is certainly somebody at the window,” &c. &

gentleman rose from the table, and, advancing towards me, opened first the shutters, and then the window itself, which might, in fact, be called a pair of folding-doors; and these being thrown back, I walked in with the most respectful air I could assume, and presented myself to the astonished company. Having bowed twice or thrice, and given time for their alarm to subside, I began to make my speech.

'Apologizing for my presumptuous intrusion, I stated, in a concise manner, the fright I had endured from the dog, my embarrassment at not being able to find means of egress from the pleasure-ground, and my having consequently taken the liberty of knocking at the window. I then presented my memorial, which was read in turn by most of the company, each of whom surveyed me with evident surprise. Having answered such queries as they thought proper to put to me, I was desired by the lady of the house to withdraw to the kitchen for a short time; and a servant was ordered to attend me thither. Here I had my story to repeat for the information of the domestics, who laughed heartily at the adventure of the dog, but afterwards seriously assured me that, had the animal not been chained, or had I approached within his reach, he would inevitably have torn me to pieces. The parlour dinner being over, and the dishes brought out, I was desired to fall to; and, being really hungry, I wanted no pressing, but selected from the variety of good things on the table a very fine buttock of beef, on which substantial fare I made a sumptuous meal. There was no scarcity of good malt liquor, and Lady W—— very kindly sent me out a pint of red port, with a particular injunction (which, by-

the-by, was unnecessary) that I should eat and drink heartily.

'At length I was summoned to attend the company in the parlour; and her ladyship then expressing her concern for my misfortunes, and her anxious hope that I should speedily find an end to them, presented me with half a guinea. The rest of the party also said many handsome things, and the majority of them contributed to my relief. In addition to these favours, one of the gentlemen, at the particular request of Lady W——, took the trouble to write a letter in my behalf to the captain of a man-of-war, supposed to be then lying at Portsmouth, entreating him to give me an appointment under him. Her ladyship, after obliging me to take another glass of wine, and repeating her sorrow for my distress, advised me to lose no time in prosecuting my journey, ordered a servant to conduct me to the door at which I had first entered her premises, and I took a respectful leave of this truly benevolent party.

'Returning to the Eight Bells, I imparted my adventures to my friend, who was, of course, much pleased at my success; for I had realized between four and five pounds. I found this begging scheme so productive, that I was in no hurry to pursue the Portsmouth speculation; and, as we were both satisfied with our present quarters, it was agreed that we should continue a few days longer in Kingston, in which time I proposed to follow up my success by making a regular circuit among the inhabitants; and I, in fact, determined to levy similar contributions in every town which lay in our route.

'It is to be observed that this idea of raising money was perfectly original in me, for at that time I

had never heard of such a practice, but have since discovered that it is a very common expedient, and is called, by those persons who live by such impositions, "*the Letter Racket.*"

'The following day I again sallied forth, and met with equal success, visiting not only the houses of private persons, but even the respectable shopkeepers, &c.; and I may here state, once for all, that in the course of this, as well as my subsequent speculations of the same nature, I met with various receptions, according to the charitable or churlish dispositions of the people to whom I applied. Many pitied my case, and cheerfully relieved me. Others expressed equal commiseration but declined giving any, either because "they never encouraged beggars," or "they had poor enough of their own to maintain." Some invited me into their parlours, treated me with excessive politeness, and obliged me to take refreshment at their own tables; and, where there were any young ladies in the family, I was an object of particular solicitude, and the recital of my misfortunes drew many a sigh from their tender bosoms. Others desired me, like the Mayor of Kingston, to go about my business, and hinted that I ought to be sent to the house of correction as a vagrant. Sometimes the servants who admitted me refused to present my memorial, declaring they had strict orders from their masters or mistresses never to trouble them on such an occasion. The donations I commonly received were from one shilling to five; sometimes, but rarely, I was presented with gold, particularly at the seats of the nobility and gentry; all which, lying within a short distance of the road I travelled, I made a point of call-

ing at; and for my information on this subject, I provided myself with a comprehensive "*Book of Roads,*" in which those objects are correctly laid down. Some truly charitable persons, but whose means were limited, relieved me with sixpence, and of course I was bound to accept such a trifle with as much appearance of thankfulness as I would a larger sum; and frequently, when I called at a farm-house by the roadside, I have been compelled to take some cold meat, or other eatables, which I afterwards bestowed upon the first more needy beggar I met on my way. It was my custom in general to travel on foot, making short stages, and putting up at a good inn in every town I entered, where I lived upon the best during my stay, and associated with London riders, and other respectable guests. When tired of walking, I availed myself of a passing stage-coach, or return post-chaise; and my only equipage was a spare shirt, handkerchief, &c. which, with my "*Book of Roads,*" I carried in a small bundle under my arm.'

On the evening of the second day, however, he was arrested and carried before the magistrates, charged as a rogue and vagabond. He referred the magistrates to one of his grandfather's friends in London; and the inquiries there satisfying them, he was discharged out of custody on the second day of confinement, and hastened back to town; his companion having proceeded to Portsmouth. After spending one dissipated evening in London, he set out next day for Portsmouth; and, notwithstanding the check he had received three days before, he stopped in Kingston, and levied contributions, in the usual way, on the charitable inhabitants, avoiding, of course, that part of the town where

he had been before. This practice he continued on the road, and, after the expenses of a fortnight's journey, he had fifteen pounds remaining on his arrival in Portsmouth. His friend D—— had procured a situation as merchant's clerk; and his own fervour for the navy, having cooled, he entered the service of an attorney, as writing clerk, in which capacity he lived for some time very comfortably; but through the envy of a fellow scribe he lost his situation, being decoyed into an act of harmless indiscretion.

He had endeavoured, while in the attorney's service, to procure clothes, &c. from tradesmen; but they were on their guard, and Vaux left Portsmouth, indebted only to his landlady and a coffee-house keeper. On his road to London he levied contributions on the charitable, and was so successful, that on his arrival in the metropolis he was in the possession of ten pounds, a sum which was quickly dissipated; after which he had recourse to the pawnbrokers.

Notwithstanding his late vicious courses, a fortunate event, such as happen but to few, now opened to him an honorable career, but which, in the end, he converted into one of disgrace and ruin. Dining one day at the Saracen's Head, on Snow Hill, he got into conversation with a Mr. Kennedy, a surgeon in the navy. This gentleman was so pleased with Vaux, that he wrote a letter in his favour to Captain Dacres, and proposed his entering the navy as midshipman. To this Vaux immediately and gladly consented. The surgeon gave him a letter to the commanding officer at Sheerness; and on Vaux's arrival there he was received with welcome. Delighted with the prospect now before him, he urged his grandfather to second his wishes, and in a short

time he was appointed midshipman in the *Astræa* frigate, his friends having furnished him with one hundred pounds towards the necessary expenses; for at this time his extravagance had seriously injured his grandfather's circumstances.

The pleasure arising from the novelty of his situation was soon over, and the inconstant mind of Vaux began to grow weary of a seafaring life; for he found all the bad passions of human nature in full operation, even in the limited circle of a midshipman's birth. The captain being in want of a clerk, Vaux offered his service, and in his new occupation found himself more happy. After a long cruise in the northern seas, they made for Great Britain, and on their arrival in the Thames, Vaux came to London, when he got infatuated with a dashing Cyprian, whom he met at one of the theatres. For this woman he quitted his ship the night she was about to sail, and came to London; by which mad act he forfeited his pay, and lost his clothes, books, &c. With this girl he lived for a few weeks; and on the very night on which he had exchanged his last guinea she was forcibly taken from their lodgings by her afflicted father, a respectable citizen. The unfortunate girl, it appeared, had been seduced, while at school, by a captain in the army, who had subsequently abandoned her. Ashamed to return to her friends, she had recourse to indiscriminate prostitution, until Vaux met with her. Her miserable father, having discovered her retreat, procured two Bow Street officers, and on this night rushed into the apartment, where she was sitting on a sofa, beside her paramour. As she had refused to give her real name, Vaux never discovered what became of her; for, so secretly was the whole affair managed, that even the officers who

assisted were ignorant of the citizen's name.

Vaux, now driven to the greatest distress, had recourse to the gambling-table, where, for a short time, he contrived, by associating with professed gamblers, to procure a precarious existence. But the summer approaching, and dupes becoming fewer, he obtained, by application to Messrs. Dalton and Edwards, King's Bench Walk, a situation, as clerk, at one pound a week, with Mr. Dalton, of Bury St. Edmund's, to which place he went directly, and where he found every thing agreeable and comfortable. 'Upon the whole,' says he, 'this was one of the most agreeable employments I ever engaged in; and, had I prudently retained it for a few years, there is no doubt I should have met with the most liberal encouragement from my employer. But my natural inconstancy still prevailed; and I had been but a few weeks at Bury, before I grew tired of the country, and thought of nothing but returning to London, with such spoil as I could obtain from the credulity of the tradesmen in the town. With this view I bespoke clothes, boots, linen, and other articles, at various shops, informing the parties that I should expect credit till the expiration of my quarter, to which, on account of the respectable gentleman I served, they readily consented. As soon as any of these goods were brought home, I immediately packed them up in small portable parcels, which I sent up to London by the coach, consigned to a pawnbroker, with whom I was on intimate terms; desiring him to receive and keep them safe until he saw me. I also coached off, in the same clandestine manner, such of my own apparel, &c. as I had in my trunk, in which, to prevent discovery, I deposited stones

or bricks, to preserve its gravity. By these means I had nothing to impede my sudden departure, when rendered necessary by the arrival of the expected quarter-day.

'I must here observe, to meet any surprise the reader might feel on the subject, that, as I had never at this time been connected with downright thieves, so I had never yet committed an actual theft, save the embezzlement of money at Liverpool; (which indeed the law has lately made a felonious taking;) though I therefore scrupled not at practising a fraud, I was not yet sufficiently depraved to commit a robbery. This will account for my not robbing the premises of Mr. Dalton, which, at a subsequent period of my life, would have been my primary object, as I had access to every part of the house, and have frequently viewed, with longing eyes, the servant cleaning a handsome service of plate in the pantry.

'I had now been about two months at Bury, and had no intention of absconding till the expiration of the third; when an accidental event induced me to hasten my departure. One afternoon Mr. Dalton had written several letters in the office, and, the footman being elsewhere engaged, he requested me to drop them in the Post-office, in my way home. I accordingly brought them out in my hand, and, happening inadvertently to cast my eye on the superscriptions, I perceived that one was addressed to Mr. Lyne, tailor, Cecil Street, Strand, London. Being curious to know what correspondence Mr. Dalton could have with a tailor, I opened this letter, and found the contents to the following effect:—
"Mr. Lyne,—By the waggon which goes from hence on Monday next, and arrives at the Blue Boar in Bishopsgate Street on Wednesday

night, I shall send you a portmantean, corded and sealed, but not locked, containing two coats, sixteen waistcoats, fourteen pair of breeches, and a suit of uniform of the City Light Horse.* Most of these articles are nearly as good as new; but, as they have now become unfashionable, I desire you will dispose of them to the best advantage, on my account, and send me down by the same conveyance two suits made in the present taste," &c.

'It immediately struck me, that, if I took measures accordingly, I might arrive in town time enough to intercept and obtain this trunk from the inn; for which purpose I put this letter in my pocket, and the others in the post-office. The next day, happening to go into Mr. Dalton's kitchen, I there saw the portmantean corded up, and directed; and, on questioning the servant in a careless manner about it, he informed me that he was going to carry it to the — Inn, the following evening, in readiness for the departure of the waggon. The same afternoon it happened (which was a most fortunate circumstance for me) that Mr. Dalton again begged of me to put some letters in the Post-office, which he had not done above twice or thrice since I came into his service. Looking at these letters, I saw, to my surprise, another addressed to Mr. Lyne as before, which, eagerly opening, I found was to mention something Mr. Dalton said he had forgot in his letter of the preceding day. I immediately destroyed this second letter, which, had it come to hand, might have frustrated my design.

I now prepared matters for eloping, and sent off the remainder of my effects by the coach, as before; but my good fortune produced

another windfall, of which I had no expectation. The day before my intended departure, I was walking in the Market-place with a young man, who was clerk to another attorney in the town; and, the conversation turning upon watches, my companion observed that, if I wished to purchase one, he would introduce me to a maker of his acquaintance, who would use me well on his account. I took him at his word, and begged he would immediately do so. We were then within a few doors of the shop, into which we entered; and I perceived over the window, in large characters, "*Lumley and Gudgeon, Watchmakers.*" I laughed inwardly at the singularity of the latter name, which I considered ominous of my success in the imposition I meant to put upon him. After a short preliminary conversation, my acquaintance, having business to do, took his leave, and Mr. Gudgeon himself proceeded to show me several watches. I informed him that I wished to have a good one, but my circumstances would not allow me to go to a high price. Mr. Gudgeon assured me it was better to have a good one at once, and recommended to me a very handsome gilt watch, capped and jewelled, and his own make, which he said he could warrant to perform well, and for which he asked me eight guineas. I replied that, as my weekly salary from Mr. Dalton was but one pound, I could not afford to give so much, and began to examine others of a cheaper kind, but still letting him see that I had a strong inclination for the one he had recommended. This induced him to repeat his praises of the latter, and to press me with greater energy to fix upon it. I at length (with a show of much reluctance)

* It appears from this that Mr. Dalton had formerly resided in London, and been a member of that respectable corps.

suffered myself to be persuaded; but I begged leave to observe, that as I was influenced in every thing by the advice of my good master, Mr. Dalton, I would not venture to make so extensive a purchase without his approbation: that, if he would therefore intrust me with the watch, I would consult Mr. Dalton, and give him (Mr. Gudgeon) a decisive answer the next morning: this he declared himself willing to do, on which I took both the watch and my leave together, and returned home.

'The next morning I attended the office as usual, but of course took no notice to Mr. Dalton of the affair in hand. During the space of time I allotted myself for dinner, I again called on Mr. Gudgeon, and told him that I would keep the watch, provided he should receive the payment by instalments, as I could not afford to pay the whole price at once. I therefore proposed to give him the ensuing Saturday one or two guineas, as I should find most convenient, and to pay him half a guinea a week afterwards, until the whole was liquidated. To this he readily agreed, and, having fitted a key to the watch, he begged leave to show me some chains and seals. Of the former he had none but gilt ones: I selected one of the neatest, and a handsome gold seal. I then desired to have a bill of parcels of the whole, observing that, whenever I paid a sum upon account, Mr. Gudgeon could make a memorandum of it at the bottom by way of receipt. Having obtained this, I departed, promising to be punctual in paying my first instalment on the day appointed. This took place on Tuesday, the portmanteau being now on its way to London; and the same evening I quitted my lodgings privately, leaving nothing behind but a trunk,

containing brickbats and stones, and walked by moonlight to a village four miles distant, through which the stage-coach was to pass the next morning at seven o'clock. I procured some supper at a decent public house, and retired to rest, desiring to be called in time for the coach. At the expected hour the stage made its appearance, in which I seated myself, and about eight the same evening arrived at the Blue Boar, just two hours after the waggon, which I perceived standing in the yard.'

The portmanteau he received with little difficulty, and soon disposed of its contents in various ways, and lived upon the produce for five or six weeks; at the termination of which he thought it right to look out for a situation. He found one in the office of Mr. Preston, solicitor; and Vaux, with the imprudence of dishonest persons, entered upon it, though next door to Dalton and Edwards, who had sent him down to Bury St. Edmund's. Vaux was seen by a clerk of Messrs. Dalton and Edwards, and, being called into the parlour of Mr. Preston one morning, he was surprised by seeing his late master, who snatched the watch out of his fob, and promised to restore it to the owner. Vaux was then taken into custody; but a friend of his grandfather having come forward, indemnified Mr. Dalton for his loss, he was suffered to go at large, on a promise that he would quit London, where he was likely to come to disgrace and infamy, and endeavour to procure employment in the country.

The country had no charms for Vaux, and therefore he did not quit London, but set about procuring a situation in some retail shop, for the sole purpose of embezzling the receipts. In consequence of an advertisement in a newspaper, he ap-

plied to Mr. Gifford, proprietor of an extensive habit and masquerade warehouse in Tavistock Street, who was in want of a shopman. The mercer was pleased with the affected innocence and simplicity of Vaux, who represented himself as just arrived from Portsmouth, where he had done business for a Mr. Drake, in Mary Street, who was ready to vouch for his character. Mr. Gifford promised to write to Vaux's fictitious employer, and, if the answer was favorable, he was to be received into the house. Vaux employed the mail-coach guard to bring him the letter from Portsmouth, saying his name was Drake; and, on receiving it, he fabricated an answer, and had it conveyed through the same channel to Mr. Gifford, who, on receipt, installed Vaux his shopman.

In Mr. Gifford's shop there was very little retail business done, and consequently Vaux could not defraud his employer by secreting the receipts. He, however, resolved to be dishonest, and occasionally carried out under his coat cards of lace, containing twenty pounds' worth, which he sold to a Jew salesman in the same street, for one guinea. He continued this course of pillage for two months, when he resolved to quit the house, carrying with him all the property he could lay his hand on. To prepare for this final stroke, he had a box made, and sent to lodgings which he procured in a distant part of the town, and from time to time he conveyed there the property of Messrs. Gifford and Co. Previous to his departure he had collected, from customers, all the money he could, and had copied out accounts to collect after he should quit the employ. On the Saturday preceding his departure he was sent home with a dress to a lady; but, in place of

taking it as directed, he went and pledged it for one pound ten shillings, with a pawnbroker in Drury Lane. Next day he quitted Mr. Gifford, whom he had robbed to a considerable amount, and went to his lodging, where he calculated on having sixty pounds in money and value.

Vaux now entered upon a scene of dissipation; frequented the theatres, flash-houses, &c. and sought pleasure wherever money was to procure it. But the enjoyments of the vicious are always short and uncertain. Vaux, in the course of a fortnight, was apprehended, while buying some silk handkerchiefs at a pawnbroker's, and committed to Newgate for obtaining goods under false pretences, having, after leaving Mr. Gifford, procured some cloth from a shop where he was in the habit of going for his master. His other villainies were also discovered, and his lodgings searched; but he braved his accusers, and, at the quarter-sessions, was acquitted, from some informality in the indictment.

After his discharge Vaux met one of his fellow-prisoners, named Bromley, with whom, for the first time, he went out thieving; and in the course of a short time practised successively all the arts of fraud known to the thieves of London. At length Bromley was detected picking a gentleman's pocket, and Vaux not being, at the time, far from him, they were taken into custody, carried before the lord-mayor, and committed to Newgate. Of this charge Vaux was, in point of fact, innocent, as he had expressly forbidden his companion to pick pockets on that day, and was, at the time, several yards from him; but the constable who arrested them swore they were in company, and represented them as noted thieves.

Vaux now sent for his father, and, having assured him of his inno-

cence, promised, in case of acquittal, to return to the paths of virtue, and abandon his late companions. The father, under pretence of believing his son's statement, wished to see him convicted, thinking seven years' transportation the only means of curing him of his vile propensities. The trial came on at the Old Bailey, September the 23d, 1800, when, to Vaux's utter astonishment, they were both found Guilty. His father now promised to petition in his behalf, but never did so; and in about a month a dreadful distemper, called the gaol fever, broke out in Newgate, and Vaux and Bromley were afflicted with it; but both recovered, and, on the fifteenth of the following May, the latter was removed to the hulks, and the former to a transport, bound for Port Jackson, where he was to stop for seven years.

On his arrival he addressed a letter to Commissary Palmer, who recommended him to Governor King, with whom he had an interview, and by whom he was appointed clerk to Mr. Baker, storekeeper at Hawkesbury, twenty-six miles from Parramatta.

Vaux continued for three years with Mr. Baker, and gave the greatest satisfaction to his master, in consequence of which he was promoted to a place in the secretary's office, at Sydney. For some time he conducted himself in his new situation with great propriety; but his passion for pleasure again ruined him. He entered into a conspiracy with other clerks in the office, by which means they carried on a system of fraud for a long time; but, at length being detected, Vaux was dismissed, and, for the first time, sent to hard labour along with a gaol-gang who worked on the roads.

For two months Vaux continued in this degraded station, and was then

drafted to Castle Hill, a plantation twenty-four miles from Sydney. The labour here was very hard, but Vaux sought relief by going to Sydney, against positive orders, on Sundays. Being detected, he was punished with fifty lashes; but such was his passion for pleasure, that he repeated his visits to Sydney, notwithstanding this chastisement.

In about ten months he was appointed clerk to the superintendent. his predecessor in office having become a free man, and he being the only one at Castle Hill qualified. He continued here, very comfortably, until 1806, when he was appointed clerk to the magistrates at Parramatta, for which his knowledge of law proceedings fully qualified him; and he convinced his superiors of his abilities by introducing some kind of *legal technicality* into their public documents, &c.

At Parramatta he lived in a superior style, and was augmenting his pecuniary resources at a rapid rate, when Governor King, being about to return to England, proposed to give Vaux a passage home, and to remit the remainder of his sentence; in return for which he was to arrange the governor's papers, &c. on the voyage. To this proposal Vaux agreed; and, on the 10th of February, 1807, he quitted the land of exile. The ship being leaky, and provisions nearly exhausted, they put into Rio de Janeiro, where a Portuguese family became much attached to Vaux, whom they solicited to remain with them; but his evil genius prevailed, and he embarked for Europe.

During the remainder of the voyage Governor King acted very arbitrarily towards Vaux, according to his own account; and obliged him to enter the service as a sailor, by which act he was prohibited from quitting the ship on her arrival at

Spithead. This statement, if true, reflects little credit on the governor; for Vaux's term of transportation had expired, and the governor had employed him as a clerk on the voyage, in which capacity he had rendered his patron no small service.

When the ship arrived at Portsmouth Vaux found himself detained on board; but his ingenuity soon obviated this difficulty, and, through the interference of a stranger, he effected his escape. On his arrival in London he called to see his mother and sisters; for his father was now dead. Thinking it not prudent to stop in the metropolis, he went down to his grandfather, whom he found much reduced in circumstances, and lonely, his grandmother being dead. In the country his friends were ignorant of his misfortunes; but he felt unhappy from the circumstance of every thing around reminding him of his former felicity and his present degradation. He therefore quitted Essex-shire on the 1st of January, 1808, and proceeded to London. At Henly-on-Thames, he stopped on the coach while the other passengers went in to breakfast; and in their absence he purloined a parcel from one of the seats, which he found on his arrival in London to have concealed, among several articles of hardware, forty-seven pounds, nine shillings. Thus his early propensities to thieving once more hurried him into the vortex of crime, from which he was never after extricated. The produce of this theft enabled him to appear in a genteel dress, and live comfortably until he procured a situation as clerk to an attorney, which he afterwards abandoned for that of a reader in the printing-office of Mr. Barnard, on Snow Hill, at two guineas a week. He now resolved to lead a strictly virtuous life; but this good

resolution was soon forgotten when he again met with some of his dissolute companions, and he at length became a professional thief. But his appearance was still so much above that of his associates that he felt himself degraded in their society, and resolved to plunder by himself, keeping Bromley, however, as an accomplice.

Having withdrawn myself from my late companions, I now became very circumspect in my proceedings; and, as Bromley had neither the appearance nor the manners of a gentleman, I only made use of him occasionally in the course of my practice, keeping him in the back ground to receive and carry any articles which I purloined, and never suffering him to converse with, or approach me, except in private. I generally spent the mornings, that is, from about one o'clock to five, P.M. (which are the fashionable hours for shopping,) in visiting the shops of jewellers, watchmakers, pawn-brokers, &c. Having conceived hopes that this species of robbery would turn to a good account, and depending upon my own address and appearance, I determined to make a circuit of the town, and not to omit a single shop in either of those branches; and this scheme I actually executed so fully, that I believe I did not leave ten untried in all London, for I made a point of commencing every day in a certain street, and went regularly through it on both sides the way. My practice was to enter a shop and request to look at gold seals, chains, brooches, rings, or any other small articles of value; and, while examining them, and looking the shopkeeper in the face, I contrived by slight of hand to conceal two or three (sometimes more) in the sleeve of my coat, which was purposely made wide. On some occasions I purchased a trifling ar-

ticle, to save appearances ; at other times I took a eard of the shop, promising to call again ; and, as I generally saw the remaining goods returned to the window, or place from whence they were taken, before I left the shop, there was hardly a probability of my being suspected, or of the property being missed. In the course of my career I was never once detected in the fact, though, on two or three occasions, so much suspicion arose, that I was obliged to exert all my effrontery, and to use very high language, in order, as the cant phrase is, to *bounce* the tradesman *out of it* ; and my fashionable appearance, and affected anger at his insinuations, had always the effect of convincing him that he was mistaken, and inducing him to apologize for the affront put upon me. I have even sometimes carried away the spoil notwithstanding what had passed ; and I have often gone a second and third time to the same shop, with as good success as at the first. To prevent accidents, however, I made it a rule never to enter a second shop with any stolen property about me ; for, as soon as I quitted the first, I privately conveyed my booty to Bromley, who was attending my motions in the street, and herein I found him eminently useful. By this course of depredation I acquired on the average about ten pounds a week, though I sometimes neglected shopping for several days together. This was not, indeed, the only pursuit I followed, but was my principal morning's occupation ; though, if a favourable opportunity offered of getting a guinea by any other means, I never let it slip. In the evenings I generally attended one of the theatres, where I mixed with the best company in the boxes, and, at the same time that I enjoyed the amusements

of the place, I frequently conveyed pocket-books, snuff-boxes, and other portable articles, from the pockets of their proprietors into my own. Here I found the inconvenience of wanting a suitable companion, who might have received the articles I made prize of, in the same manner as Bromley did in the streets ; but though I knew many of the light-fingered gentry, whose appearance fitted them for my company, yet, their faces being well known to the police-officers, who attended the theatres, they would not have been suffered to enter the house : and herein I possessed an advantage which many of these gentry envied me ; for being just arrived in England, and a new face upon the town, I carried on my depredations under the very noses of the officers, without suspicion. Having, therefore, at first, no associate, I was obliged to quit the theatre, and conceal my first booty in some private spot, before I could make (with prudence) a second attempt. Upon the whole, I was very successful in this pursuit also, at least as to the *number* of articles I filched ; and, had their *value* been reasonably proportionate to what I expected, I need not long have followed so hazardous an employment. I have very frequently obtained nine or ten pocket-books, besides other articles, in an evening ; and, these being taken from gentlemen evidently of fortune and fashion, I had reason to expect I should some time meet with a handsome sum in bank-notes : but fortune did not favour me therein, for, during near twelve months, almost nightly attendance at one or other of the public places, I never found more than twenty pounds in a book, and that only on one occasion. I several times got five, ten, or eleven pounds, but commonly one, two, or three pounds ; and most generally

four books out of five contained nothing but letters, memorandums, and other papers useless to me. At the same time I knew frequent instances of the common street pickpockets getting a booty of fifty, one hundred, and sometimes three or four hundred pounds. However, I never failed to pay the expenses of the night; and, if I gained nothing, I enjoyed at least a kind of amusement, which was to me the highest gratification. It sometimes happened that the articles I got (particularly pocket-books) were advertised by the losers, within a few days, as "Lost," and a reward offered for their restoration: where this reward was worth notice, I frequently restored the property by means of a third person whom I could confide in, and whom I previously tutored for the purpose.

'In the mean time, the manner in which I spent my life, abstracted from the disgraceful means by which I supported myself, was (as I have formerly hinted) perfectly regular and inoffensive. Though I lived by depredation, yet I did not like the abandoned class of common thieves, waste my money and leisure time in profligate debauchery, but applied myself to the perusal of instructive and amusing books, my stock of which I daily increased. I occupied genteel apartments in a creditable house, the landlord of which understood me to hold a situation under government; and every part of my conduct at home tended to confirm his opinion of my respectability. I was scrupulously exact in paying my rent, as well as the different tradesmen in the neighbourhood with whom I had occasion to deal; nor did I ever suffer any person of loose character to visit me, but studiously concealed from those of my acquaintance my place of residence. I was sometimes, indeed,

so imprudent as to resort, for company's sake, to some of those public houses frequented by thieves and other dissolute characters, the landlord of which is himself commonly an experienced thief, or returned transport. When I had a mind to relax a little, or grew tired of domestication, I disguised my appearance as much as I could, and repaired to a house of this description, sometimes taking my *Dulcinea* with me, whom I shall shortly introduce to the reader, and whose person and dress I was not a little proud of exhibiting in public. This fondness for flash-houses, as they are termed, is the rock on which most persons who live by depredation unhappily split, and will be found in the sequel to have brought me to my present deplorable condition; for the police-officers, or traps, are in the daily habit of visiting these houses, where they drink with the thieves, &c. in the most familiar manner; and, I believe, often obtain secret information by various means from some parties respecting the names, characters, pursuits, &c. of others. By this imprudent conduct I also became personally known to many of the officers, which was productive of great danger to me in the exercise of my vocation; whereas, had I avoided such houses, I might have remained unknown and unsuspected by them for a series of years.'

The *Dulcinea* alluded to above was an unhappy girl of the town, whom he took into keeping, and afterwards married. This poor creature behaved to him in the most exemplary manner, and proved by her conduct that she was worthy of a better fate.

Going one day to a public meeting at the Mermaid Tavern, Hackney, he picked a gentleman's pocket of a silver snuff-box, which he hand-

ed to the landlady. The box was missed by the owner; and on Vaux claiming it, he was taken into custody; but such is the glorious uncertainty of the law, that he was acquitted on his trial, contrary to his own expectation.

'The next adventure,' says Vaux, 'I shall have occasion to relate, more fully confirms the justice of the remark, that the connexions formed by persons during temporary confinement in a gaol commonly lead to further acts of wickedness, and frequently entail on the parties a more severe punishment than that which they have just escaped. This was exactly my unhappy case, and I now come to the most fatal era of my eventful life.

'In the same ward with myself were confined two brothers, very genteel young men, who had been recently cast for death for privately stealing some valuable rings, &c. from the shop of a jeweller in Leadenhall Street. As a conformity of character, or similarity of pursuits, is the strongest source of friendship, so these persons and myself had become very intimately acquainted. In the course of our frequent conversations on the subject with which we were all three alike most conversant, the brothers informed me that they had, like myself, made a successful tour of the jewellers' shops in London: and on our comparing notes as to the particular persons we had robbed, or attempted to rob, they pointed out about half a dozen shops, which, it appeared, I had omitted to visit, arising either from their making no display of their goods, or from their being situated in private streets, where I had no idea of finding any such trades. Though at that time neither they nor myself entertained much hope of my acquittal, it was agreed that, in the event of my being

so fortunate as to recover my freedom, I should pay my respects to the several tradesmen I had so overlooked; and I promised, in case I was successful, to make them a pecuniary acknowledgment in return for their information. At the moment of my joyful departure from Newgate, they accordingly furnished me with a list of the shops in question, and gave me full instructions and useful hints for my guidance therein. They particularly pointed out a Mr. Bilger, a goldsmith and jeweller of the first eminence in Piccadilly. This gentleman, they assured me, I should find, in the technical phrase, a *good flat*. They advised me to bespeak a diamond ring, or similar article, and to request a sight of some loose diamonds, for the purpose of selecting such stones as I might wish to have set, informing me that he was generally provided with a large quantity, which he would not fail to show me, and that I might with ease purloin a good number of them. A day or two after my release I made the prescribed experiments, and was fortunate enough to succeed pretty well at nearly every shop; but I reserved Mr. Bilger for my final essay, as he was the principal object of consideration, and from whom I expected to obtain the most valuable booty. On the day se'nnight after my trial at the Old Bailey, I prepared in due form to pay him a visit. About five o'clock in the evening I entered his shop, dressed in the most elegant style, having a valuable gold watch and appendages, a gold eye-glass, &c. I had posted my old friend and aid-de-camp, Bromley, at the door, in order to be in readiness to act as circumstances might require, and particularly to watch the motions of Mr. Bilger and his assistants on my quitting the premises. On my en-

trance Mrs. Bilger issued from a back parlour behind the shop, and, politely inquiring my business, I told her I wished to see Mr. Bilger; she immediately rang a bell, which brought down her husband from the upper apartments. He saluted me with a low bow, and handed me a seat. I was glad to find no other person in the shop, Mrs. Bilger having again retired. I now assumed the air of a Bond Street loungeur, and informed Mr. Bilger that I had been recommended by a gentleman of my acquaintance to deal with him, having occasion for a very elegant diamond ring, and requested to see his assortment. Mr. Bilger expressed his concern that he happened not to have a single article of that description by him, but, if I could without inconvenience call again, he would undertake in one hour to procure me a selection from his working jeweller, to whom he would immediately dispatch a messenger. I affected to feel somewhat disappointed, but, looking at my watch, after a moment's reflection, I said, "Well, Mr. Bilger, I have an appointment at the Cannon Coffee-house, which requires my attendance, and if you will without fail have the articles ready, I may probably look in a little after six." This he promised faithfully to do, declaring how much he felt obliged by my condescension; and I scuntered out of the shop, Mr. Bilger attending me in the most obsequious manner to the outer door. After walking a short distance, Bromley tapped me on the shoulder, and inquired what conduct I meant next to pursue; for he had viewed my proceedings through a glass-door in the shop, and saw that I had not executed my grand design. I related to Bromley the result of my conversation with Mr. Bilger, and added that I meant to retire to the

nearest public house, where we could enjoy a pipe and a glass of negus until the expiration of the hour, to which I had limited myself. We accordingly regaled ourselves at a very snug house, nearly opposite Bilger's, until about half past six, when I again repaired to the scene of action, leaving Bromley, as at first, posted at the door. Mr. Bilger received me with increased respect, and, producing a small card-box, expressed his sorrow that his workman had only been enabled to send three rings for my inspection; but that, if they were not to my taste, he should feel honored and obliged in taking my directions for having one made, and flattered himself he should execute the order to my satisfaction. I proceeded to examine the rings he produced, one of which was marked sixteen guineas, another nine guineas, and the third six guineas. They were all extremely beautiful; but I affected to consider them as too paltry, telling Mr. Bilger that I wanted one to present to a lady, and that I wished to have a ring of greater value than the whole three put together, as a few guineas would not be an object in the price. Mr. Bilger's son, who was also his partner, now joined us, and was desired by his father to sketch a draught in pencil of some fancy rings, agreeable to the directions I should give him. The three rings I had viewed were now removed to the end of the counter next the window, and I informed the young man that I wished to have something of a cluster, a large brilliant in the centre, surrounded with smaller ones; but repeated my desire that no expense might be spared to render the article strictly elegant, and worthy a lady's acceptance. The son having sketched a design of several rings on a card, I examined them with attention, and appeared

in doubt which to prefer, but desired to see some loose diamonds, in order to form a better idea of the size, &c. of each ring described in the drawing. Mr. Bilger, however, declared he had not any by him. It is probable he spoke truth: or he might have lost such numbers by showing them, as to deter him from exhibiting them in future. Without having made up my mind on the subject, I now requested to see some of his most fashionable brooches or shirt-pins. Mr. Bilger produced a show-glass, containing a variety of articles in pearl, but he had nothing of the kind in diamonds. I took up two or three of the brooches, and immediately *sunk* a very handsome one, marked three guineas, in my coat sleeve. I next purloined a beautiful clasp for a lady's waist, consisting of stones set in gold, which had the brilliancy and appearance of real diamonds, but marked only four guineas. I should probably have gone still deeper, but at this moment a lady, coming in, desired to look at some ear-rings, and the younger Mr. Bilger immediately quitted his father to attend upon her at the other end of the shop. It struck me that now was my time for a decisive stroke. The card containing the diamond rings, procured from the maker, lying very near the show-glass I was viewing, and many small articles irregularly placed round about them, the candles not throwing much light upon that particular spot, and Mr. Bilger's attention being divided between myself and the lady, to whom he frequently addressed himself, I suddenly took the three rings from the card, and committed them to my sleeve to join the brooch and lady's clasp; but had them so situated that I could in a moment have released and replaced them on the counter, had an inquiry been made

for them. I then looked at my watch, and, observing that I was going to the theatre, told Mr. Bilger that I would not trouble him any further, as the articles before me were too tawdry and common to please me, but that I would put the card of draughts in my pocket-book; and, if I did not meet with a ring of the kind I wanted before Monday or Tuesday, I would certainly call again and give him final directions. I was then drawing on my gloves, being anxious to quit the shop while I was well; but Mr. Bilger, who seemed delighted with the prospect of my custom, begged so earnestly that I would allow him to show me his brilliant assortment of gold watches that I could not refuse to gratify him, though I certainly incurred a great risk by my compliance. I, therefore, answered, "Really, Mr. Bilger, I am loth to give you that unnecessary trouble, as I have, you may perceive, a very good watch already, in point of performance, though it cost me a mere trifle—only twenty guineas; but it answers my purpose as well as a more valuable one. However, as I may probably, before long, want an elegant watch for a lady, I don't care if I just run my eye over them." Mr. Bilger replied that the greater part of his stock were fancy watches, adapted for ladies; and he defied all London united to exhibit a finer collection. He then took from his window a show-glass, containing about thirty most beautiful watches, some ornamented with pearls or diamonds, others elegantly enamelled, or chased in the most delicate style. They were of various prices, from thirty to one hundred guineas; and the old gentleman, rubbing his hands with an air of rapture, exclaimed, "There they are, sir; a most fashionable assortment of goods; allow me to recommend them;

they're all a-going, sir—all a-going." I smiled inwardly at the latter part of this speech, and thought to myself, "I wish they were going, with all my heart, along with the diamond rings." I answered they were certainly very handsome, but I would defer a minute inspection of them till my next visit, when I should have more time to spare. These watches were ranged in exact order, in five parallel lines; and between each watch was placed a gold seal or other trinket appertaining to a lady's watch. It was no easy matter, therefore, to take away a single article without its being instantly missed, unless the economy of the whole had been previously deranged. I contrived, however, to displace a few of the trinkets, on pretence of admiring them, and ventured to secrete one very rich gold seal, marked six guineas. I then declared I could stay no longer, as I had appointed to meet a party at the theatre; but that I would certainly call again in a few days, and lay out some money in return for the trouble I had given. Mr. Bilger expressed his thanks in the most respectful terms, and waited upon me to the door, where he took leave of me with a very low *congé, à la mode de France*, of which country he was a native. I now put the best foot foremost, and, having gained a remote street, turned my head, and perceived Bromley at my heels, who seized my hand, congratulating me on my success, and complimenting me on the address I had shown in this exploit; for he had witnessed all that passed, and knew that I had succeeded in my object, by the manner in which I quitted the shop. He informed me that Mr. Bilger had returned to his counter, and, without attending to the arrangement of the articles thereon, had joined his son, who

was still waiting upon the lady, and that he, Bromley, had finally left them both engaged with her.'

Such was his rapacity that he renewed his visit to Mr. Bilger's shop; but the reception he met satisfied him that he was suspected. He, however, left an order for a splendid ring; and, while the jeweller's son, as Vanx thought, was taking down his directions, he was only writing a description of his person, and a handbill in a few days was widely circulated among the pawnbrokers, peace-officers, &c. A day or two after Vanx called at Turner's, a pawnbroker, in Brydges Street, Covent Garden, to redeem some article he had pledged, when he saw such manœuvres in the shop as induced him to make a precipitate retreat, and go into concealment.

At length necessity, as he says himself, forced him out, and, the first night, he stole, from a shop in Ludgate Street, property to the amount of four or five pounds, with which he was so much pleased that he returned for his wife, and took her out to walk. Contrary to her earnest remonstrance, they went to a flash house, near Clare Market, where the landlord betrayed him into the hands of justice, and he was hurried off to the watch-house. Next day he underwent an examination at Bow Street, and was remanded. During the interval between his first and second appearance he had completely metamorphosed his person by cutting his hair and whiskers, and putting on a mean suit of clothes. But all would not do; he was recognised through his disguise, and fully committed. His trial came on at the Old Bailey, February the 15th, 1809, and, the facts being sworn to, he was found Guilty—Death. His sentence was afterwards committed

to transportation for life, preparatory to which he was conveyed on board the Retribution hulk at Woolwich.

'I had now,' says Vaux, 'a new scene of misery to contemplate; and, of all the shocking scenes I had ever beheld, this was the most distressing. There were confined in this floating dungeon nearly six hundred men, most of them double-ironed, and the reader may conceive the horrible effects arising from the continual rattling of chains, the filth and vermin naturally produced by such a crowd of miserable inhabitants, the oaths and execrations constantly heard among them; and, above all, from the shocking necessity of associating and communicating more or less with so depraved a set of beings. On arriving on board, we were all immediately stripped, and washed in large tubs of water; then, after putting on each a suit of coarse slop clothing, we were ironed, and sent below, our own clothes being taken from us, and detained till we could sell or otherwise dispose of them, as no person is exempted from the obligation to wear the ship-dress. On descending the hatch-way, no conception can be formed of the scene which presented itself. I shall not attempt to describe it; but nothing short of a descent to the infernal regions can be at all worthy of a comparison with it. I soon met with many of my old Botany Bay acquaintances, who were all eager to offer me their friendship and services,—that is, with a view to rob me of what little I had; for in this place there is no other motive or subject for ingenuity. All former friendships or connexions are dissolved, and a man here will rob his best benefactor, or even messmate, of an article worth one halfpenny. Every morning, at seven o'clock,

all the convicts capable of work, or, in fact, all who are capable of getting into the boats, are taken ashore to the Warren, in which the Royal Arsenal and other public buildings are situated, and are there employed at various kinds of labour, some of them very fatiguing; and, while so employed, each gang of sixteen or twenty men is watched and directed by a fellow called a guard. These guards are most commonly of the lowest class of human beings; wretches devoid of all feeling; ignorant in the extreme, brutal by nature, and rendered tyrannical and cruel by the consciousness of the power they possess; no others, but such as I have described, would hold the situation, their wages being not more than a day-labourer would earn in London. They invariably carry a large and ponderous stick, with which, without the smallest provocation, they will fell an unfortunate convict to the ground, and frequently repeat their blows long after the poor sufferer is insensible. At noon the working party return on board to dinner, and at one again go on shore, where they labour till near sun-set. On returning on board in the evening, all hands are mustered by a roll, and the whole being turned down below, the hatches are put over them, and secured for the night. As to the food, the stipulated ration is very scanty, but of even part of that they are defrauded. Their provisions, being supplied by contractors, and not by government, are of the worst kind, such as would not be considered eatable or wholesome elsewhere; and both the weight and measure are always deficient. The allowance of bread is said to be about twenty ounces per day. Three days in the week they have about four ounces of cheese for dinner, and the other four days a pound of

beef. The breakfast is invariably boiled barley, of the coarsest kind imaginable; and of this the pigs of the hulk come in for a third part, because it is so nauseous that nothing but downright hunger will enable a man to eat it. For supper, they have, on many days, burgoo, of as good a quality as the barley, and which is similarly disposed of; and on meat days, the water in which the beef was boiled is thickened with barley, and forms a mess called "smiggins," of a more detestable nature than either of the two former! The reader may conceive that I do not exaggerate when I state that among the convicts the common price of these several eatables is,—for a day's allowance of beef, one halfpenny;—ditto, of cheese, one halfpenny;—ditto, of bread, three-halfpence; but the cheese is most commonly so bad, that they throw it away. It is manufactured, I believe, of skimmed milk, for this particular contract. The beef generally consists of old bulls, or cows who have died of age or famine; the least trace of fat is considered a phenomenon; and it is far inferior upon the whole to good horse-flesh. I once saw the prisoners throw the whole day's supply overboard the moment it was hoisted out of the boat, and for this offence they were severely flogged. The friends of these unhappy persons are not allowed to come on board, but must remain alongside during their visit; the prisoners are, it is true, suffered to go into their boat, but a guard is placed within hearing of their conversation; and if a friend or parent has come one hundred miles, they are not allowed above ten minutes' interview: so that, instead of consolation, the visit only excites regret at the parties being so suddenly torn asunder. All letters, too,

written by prisoners, must be delivered unscaled to the chief mate for his inspection, before they are sent ashore; and such as he thinks obnoxious are of course suppressed. In like manner, all letters received from the Post-office are opened and scrutinized. If I were to attempt a full description of the miseries endured in these ships, I could fill a volume; but I shall sum up all by stating that besides robbery from each other, which is as common as cursing and swearing, I witnessed among the prisoners themselves, during the twelvemonth I remained with them, one deliberate murder, for which the perpetrator was executed at Maidstone, and one suicide; and that unnatural crimes are openly committed.'

From the misery of the hulks he was removed on the 15th of June 1810, for the second time, to Botany Bay. His wife, who had all along manifested the utmost attention, was prevented, by a succession of unfortunate circumstances, from seeing him previous to his departure, nor does it appear he knew what became of her afterwards. On the 16th of the following December the transport arrived at Sydney Cove, where Vanx found the report of his exploits in London had preceded him. He now endeavored to make interest with the governor, in the hope of being employed as a clerk; but, this being his second visit, he was listened to with distrust, and sent up the country to a settler, who used him with great barbarity. To escape from this tyranny Vanx feigned himself sick, and thus procured his removal to the hospital, from which he was discharged in a month, and appointed overseer to a town gang. He now resolved to lead a correct life, and establish, if possible, a charac-

ter for himself, seeing, as he says, the necessity of good conduct, from the consequences that invariably attend on an improper one. If we believe himself, he adhered firmly to his vows of rectitude, but his notorious character operated against him, and he fell a victim to prejudice and the depravity of a youth, who was a veteran in iniquity. This young villain's name was Edwards. He was servant to Mr. Bent, the judge-advocate, from whom he purloined bills and money. Vaux, suspecting his dishonesty, warned him of his danger; but the artful thief accounted for his being so flush in money to the presents he was in the habit of receiving from his master's visitors.

One evening he came running into Vaux's lodgings, and requested of him to keep some articles and parcels which he put into his hand. Vaux at first refused, but was ultimately prevailed on to keep them for a few minutes. Edwards had scarcely departed when he thought he did wrong, and acquainted his landlord of the transaction. That person desired him to go immediately and deliver the property up to the judge-advocate in a public manner, as the only way left him to escape being implicated with Edwards. With this advice Vaux resolved to comply, but stopped first to smoke a pipe, and, before he had finished it, two officers entered and apprehended him. His conduct was open, and his landlord deposed in his favour; but Edwards accused him, in revenge for giving up the property, of being an accomplice, and he was finally banished to the Coal River, where he continued doing all kind of work for two years, after which he was permitted to return to Sydney, where he was once more placed in the town-gang.

Again he renewed his vows of rectitude, but was unable to obtain any station less degrading than the one in which he was placed. The picture before him was disheartening in the extreme—an exile for life—and compelled to labour at the basest and lowest employment of mankind. A British sailor took compassion on him, and offered, in 1814, to conceal him in his vessel, until she should sail. Vaux embraced the generous proposal; but, after lying close and undiscovered for four days, some one on board gave information, and the unfortunate wretch was dragged ashore, punished with fifty lashes, and sentenced to transportation to the Coal River for one year.

'In a few days,' says he, in his Memoirs, 'I was accordingly embarked with eleven other prisoners, and a second time landed at Newcastle, from whence I had been absent nearly twelve months. On my arrival, it happened that the storekeeper of that settlement was in want of a clerk, and he applying to the commandant for me, I was appointed to that situation, in which I still continue; and having scrupulously adhered to my former vows of rectitude, and used every exertion to render myself serviceable to my employer, and to merit his good opinion, as well as that of the commandant, I have had the satisfaction to succeed in these objects; and I am not without hope that, when I am permitted to quit my present service and return to Sydney, my good conduct will be rewarded with a more desirable situation. I have now been upwards of seven years a prisoner, and, knowing the hopeless sentence under which I labour, shall, I trust, studiously avoid in future every act which may subject me to the censure of my superiors, or entail

upon me a repetition of those sufferings I have already too severely experienced. I have thus described (perhaps too minutely for the reader's patience) the various vicissitudes of my past life. Whether the future will be so far diversified as to afford matter worthy of being committed to paper, either to amuse a vacant hour, or to serve as

a beacon which may warn others to avoid the rocks on which I have unhappily split, is only known to the great Disposer of events.'

The 'Memoirs written by himself,' from which we have extracted the most interesting passages, here terminate. They were written in 1816, and published in London in 1819.

JAMES BULLOCK,

EXECUTED FOR A FELONIOUS EMBEZZLEMENT.

JAMES BULLOCK was capitally indicted for feloniously secreting and embezzling the effects of his creditors, he being a bankrupt, with intent to defraud the said creditors, and to convert the same to his own use, against the statute.

Mr. Gurney stated the case to the jury; and after detailing the facts with great accuracy, and charging the prisoner with the embezzlement of property to the amount of one thousand two hundred pounds, and upwards, he concluded by saying that the offence imputed to the prisoner was the result of the most criminal artifice and deep deliberation, and that the creditors would have compromised their duty to the public, and the justice due to themselves, had they not prosecuted the present indictment. The jury, he added, might pity the man's infirmities, but, should he make out the charge preferred in evidence, they were bound to find him guilty.

The first witness called was John Hubbard, clerk and cellarman to Messrs. John and George Cowell, who proved the petitioning creditors' debt, amounting to one thousand four hundred and seventy-two pounds, for runs and brandies sold to him.

William Bryant, the prisoner's travelling clerk, proved the act of

bankruptcy, and James Tracey and James Mabbs proved the prisoner's absconding from his counting-house, in Scot's Yard, Bush Lane, and from his country-house at Dulwich, to avoid the pecuniary difficulties into which he said he had fallen. The last witness also proved that the goods were carted away from the country-house, under the prisoner's direction.

Evidence was then given of the prisoner's surrender on the first and second meeting, and that before the third he had absconded.

Anthony, the officer, was then dispatched to Leith, where he apprehended the prisoner, passing under the name of Brown, and claiming in that name seventeen packages, which had been shipped in London on board the Leith packet, containing effects, which the prisoner was bound to have surrendered under his commission.

Mr. Griffith Jones proved the prisoner's statement before the commissioners, that he had paid him a thousand pounds and upwards, a debt due to him, to be false, the prisoner never having been so indebted to him.

Mr. Thomas Wilde deposed that the prisoner deposited with him certain securities, runs, wines, &c. upon which he lent him eight hundred pounds, giving him a check

upon the house of Prescott and Co. for the amount. This money the prisoner placed in the hands of Messrs. Herries and Co. Bankers, in St. James's Street, in the name of 'J. Brown, of No. 11, Chapel Street, Park Lane,' and in four days after he withdrew the whole amount, and carried it with him to Scotland. This money was found in the packages, and constituted part of the effects.

A variety of other evidence was adduced to corroborate the various embezzlements, and to show the felonious intention of the prisoner to secrete his effects from his creditors.

The prisoner was then called upon for his defence, when he addressed the Court and jury at considerable length. He began by complaining of the hardships and partiality of the statute upon which he was tried;—a tradesman, he said, that secreted effects to the amount of twenty pounds after an ill-natured creditor had struck a docket against him, forfeited his life; but the nobleman and the gentleman, through whose dissipation and want of honesty tradesmen were often reduced to distress and misery, might embezzle and secrete the effects of their creditors with impunity, live in the rules of a prison with their produce, and still remain free from the operations of the statute in question. With respect to his motives, and his reason for not appearing before the commissioners on the third meeting, and also for his absconding, those he should explain in few words:—He felt a full assurance that the commission had not been legally issued against him, and he considered every step subsequently taken upon that commission as informal and invalid:—he believed himself solvent in his circumstances,

and he had no intention of defrauding his creditors. As to the disclosure he made the first and second meeting before the commissioners, it was made under duress and restraint; and as he had been informed that at the third meeting it was likely he should be committed to prison, and the seal put upon the whole of his property, he determined on quitting London, as the only means left him of providing bread for his family, and supplying the necessaries of life to his aged parents. He added, that it was his intention to have returned from Scotland at the commencement of the term in November, and to have surrendered himself in discharge of his bail; and concluded with observing, that, as a tradesman, he looked to the jury for a humane interpretation of his motives; and, as Englishmen, he expected from them justice tempered with mercy.

The prisoner then gave evidence of a docket having been struck against him previous to the commission in question, and consequently that the second commission was a nullity. He also proved a sufficient petitioning creditor's debt to support that docket. Those on the part of the prosecution endeavoured to show that the first docket was a contrivance in the furtherance of the prisoner's design, that of secreting and embezzling his creditors' effects.

The judges on the bench (Heath and Le Blanc) concurred in opinion that the commission had been legally established, and that the prisoner had in no way impeached its validity.

Mr. Justice Heath then summed up the evidence; and having commented upon the whole of the prisoner's conduct, his changing his name, and subsequent flight to

Scotland, concluded by saying, that charity itself could not suggest a doubt in his favour.

The jury found the prisoner Guilty—Death. He was genteelly

dressed in black, and exhibited uncommon skill and address during the progress of his trial. The court was extremely crowded, and the trial lasted nearly the whole day.

MARGARET CRIMES, *ALIAS* BARRINGTON,

EXECUTED FOR TAKING A FALSE OATH.

AT the Old Bailey, on Saturday, the 14th of January, 1809, Margaret Barrington was capitally indicted for falsely taking an oath before Dr. Coote, Surrogate to the Judge of the Prerogative Court, Doctors' Commons, to obtain letters of administration, in order to receive twenty-four pounds, one shilling, and sixpence, prize-money due to one Thomas Rotten, late a private in the 87th regiment, and a supernumerary on board the *Eurus* frigate, at the time she made various captures in her voyage to the West Indies. The prisoner appeared to have been connected with two persons of the names of Vaughan and Knight, the former of whom was hanged, and the latter transported for life, for similar offences to that she was charged with. In her defence she persisted in the story of her marriage to Thomas Rotten; the only thing she was to blame in, she said, was presenting a fabricated certificate, which she confessed Knight made for her; but she was told she would not get

the prize-money without it, and at Dumfries they kept no register of marriages.

The judge summed up with great humanity; and the jury, after consulting together for some time, found a verdict of Guilty.

On a motion of her counsel, she was again put to the bar, and pleaded, in stay of execution, that she was quick with child; upon which a jury of matrons were impanelled, who retired with the prisoner and Mr. Box, assisted by a surgeon of eminence, who were also sworn. After being absent about fifteen minutes, they returned a verdict, that she was not quick with child; whereupon the recorder, in a most solemn and pathetic manner, exhorted the prisoner to make the best use in her power of the short time allotted to her in this life. The unfortunate woman was taken from the bar in convulsions, but next day appeared resigned to her fate. She was executed before Newgate, February 22, 1809.

COLONEL SPEED,

TRANSPORTED FOR BIGAMY.

JOHN SPEED was a lieutenant-colonel in the British army, having graduated through all the subordinate stations, from ensign to that honourable rank; and we have no doubt but his services deserved such an elevation, though we must lament that neither a proper sense of what he owed to his character as a man,

nor to the army of which he was a member, could prevent him from committing an offence against decorum and law, which subjected his person to merited punishment, and his name to obloquy and disgrace.

In the year 1785, when he was only an ensign in the marines, he became acquainted with a Miss Nel-

son, whose father was an alderman of London, and who had the honour, at one time, of filling the civic chair. After an interval of courtship, he was married to the young lady on the 14th of September, at the parish church of Furneux Pelham, in the county of Hertford. He continued for some years to live with his wife, by whom he had several children; but, in consequence of gross misconduct on his part, his amiable consort was reluctantly obliged to seek refuge with her father from his tyrannic and inconstant temper. In the year 1792 articles of separation were signed between them; and his wife endeavoured to support herself, while he was sent on foreign service.

In 1799 he returned to his native country, when he went to lodge at the house of a Mr. Thorn, a respectable market-gardener, near Putney, who was blessed with an amiable family. His second daughter attracted the colonel's notice; but, as nothing but honorable terms would be listened to, he represented himself as a single man, and proposed marriage. A lieutenant-colonel was an object not to be rejected, and accordingly the unsuspecting girl gave him her hand in wedlock.

For five months she continued a

happy wife, when orders arriving for the colonel to join his regiment in Germany interrupted their conjugal felicity. They parted with every expression of affection on her part; and, as she was in that state in which 'ladies wish to be who love their lords,' she conjured him not to omit assuaging the privations of absence by frequent letters, which he promised, with seeming sincerity, to send her. But he harboured very different intentions, and on his arrival in Germany sent her a letter, to inform her that she could neither look to him for support nor protection, as he had a former wife living. He adhered too faithfully to his hardened resolution, and never contributed to the maintenance of the woman he had deceived or the babe which she brought him.

Several years elapsed, during which nothing was heard of the colonel; when he, thinking that his villainy was either forgotten or forgiven, ventured home. Justice awaited him; he was apprehended, and indicted at the Lent Surrey assizes, in 1809, for marrying Anne Thorn, his former wife being still living.

The facts being proved, he was sentenced to transportation for seven years.

CAPTAIN JOHN SUTHERLAND,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS CABIN-BOY.

IN the discharge of our duty we have frequently enforced the necessity all men lie under of governing their passions; and have generally illustrated our remarks by exhibiting the ill consequences which result from a want of their proper control. But, if the reader is not yet convinced of its importance, we request his attention to the following case, which we think a very good, though a very melancholy,

comment upon our recommendation.

Captain John Sutherland was commander of the British armed transport, called 'The Friends.' On the 5th of November, 1808, his vessel was lying in the Tagus, about a mile from Lisbon, with no one on board but a negro mariner and the cabin-boy, named Richard Wilson, the captain himself and the remainder of the crew being on shore.

About ten o'clock in the evening the captain came on board, and, going down to his cabin, called the boy, who attended on him. He subsequently sent up for the negro, whom he appointed to keep watch till twelve o'clock, and then to call him up to take his place.

The negro had not been five minutes on deck when he heard the poor boy cry out to him in accents of great distress, as if imploring assistance; but, as it had been the brutal custom of the captain occasionally to beat the lad, the negro took no notice at this time. However, the boy continuing to cry out loudly, he ventured down; when he saw him stretched on the floor, his cruel master standing over him with a dagger in his hand, which he furiously waved backward and forward. The lad, on seeing the negro, said, 'Jack Thompson, look here, Captain Sutherland has stabbed me;' and immediately lifted up his shirt, and showed him a bleeding wound on the left side of his belly, near the groin, and his entrails hanging out.

Sutherland, on hearing what the boy said, made no reply; but, on the negro turning about to leave the cabin, he said to him, 'Jack, I know I've done wrong.' It appeared the wicked man was not entirely sober, and that he at first stabbed the boy on some slight provocation, and that he repeated the blow when even the poor lad had shown him the first wound he had inflicted.

Seeing the state to which he had reduced his unfortunate cabin-boy, he became alarmed for his own

safety, and made every effort to procure a surgeon. After some delay, two surgeons came on board, when the boy and the captain were removed on board the 'Audacious' transport—the one for safe custody, and the other to obtain the constant attention of a skilful surgeon.

The unfortunate man now expressed great contrition for the deed, and attributed it to intoxication. The boy languished for nine days, when he expired in great agony. A day or two before his death he signed the following declaration:—

'I, Richard Wilson, boy, aged about thirteen, belonging to the transport ship "The Friends," was, on the 5th of November, 1808, stabbed slightly in the belly with a dirk, by Captain John Sutherland, in his cabin. I lifted up my shirt, and showed him what he had done; but he followed me into a corner of the cabin, where I could not get away, and he stabbed me again.'

For this offence Sutherland was brought to trial at the Admiralty sessions, held at the Old Bailey, June the 22d, 1809, when the fact being proved, he was found Guilty, and sentenced to be executed at Execution Dock on the following Thursday, June 29, on which day it was carried into execution.

He left a wife and five children to deplore his death, and bewail his loss. May his fate operate as an useful lesson on seafaring men who are necessarily intrusted with despotic power! but let them recollect the abuse of that power will infallibly bring them to punishment.

EDWARD WILLIAM ROBERTS, — BROWN, & DOROTHY COLE, OTHERWISE MRS. BROWN,

PILLORED FOR A CONSPIRACY.

SWINDLING, since the date of our case of Alexander Day, the first notorious character of the last cen-

tury, in this species of villainy, has made more rapid advances than any other mode of plunder. The gang

to which these people belonged were particularly dangerous to tradesmen, from the extraordinary qualities of the individuals of which it was composed.

Edward William Roberts was regularly called to the Bar, where his abilities promised him success in that learned and arduous profession. He occupied a genteel house in the neighbourhood of Lincoln's Inn, the furniture of which, together with a library, was presented him by his intimate friend, Major Davison. Here we find Miss Dorothy Cole, the daughter of the landlady of the Magpie, on Hounslow Heath, passing as his wife, and attended by her footman, though he was married, and the father of several children.

The first dishonorable act which we find committed by Roberts was that of secretly selling the bounty of his friend, and clandestinely leaving his chambers, with a number of debts unpaid.

In a very short time, however, we find this loving couple much more elegantly situated and attended, in Dover Street, Piccadilly; where Roberts hired a furnished house at five guineas per week, and a chariot for Miss, while one of her brothers acted the part of a footman in a rich livery. Their success here was at first great; for a fine woman, as Dolly surely was, giving orders from a carriage, is an attraction which no tradesman of a fifty per cent. conscience can possibly withstand. In such cases, it is often, in fact, 'diamond cut diamond.' The shopkeeper, for unfair profits, will risk his goods; and the swindler, to get possession of them for nothing, sends out his decoy, and spreads his insidious snares. One of the trading unconscionables was thus duped out of muslin to the amount of two hundred and fifty pounds, and of this fraud Miss ac-

tually afterwards made a boast to one of her own sex.

It is a true saying that the repetition of stolen joys render us heedless of the consequence of detection. That it was so with Roberts and his mistress will be fully shown in the sequel of the present very curious case. From Dover Street it appeared they were *per force* removed to the King's Bench. In prison, the fascinating wiles of Miss stole upon the peace and purse of a rich old sensualist, (and many such characters frequent such a prison,) who went by the appellation of Captain Fisher, (we wish we had his real name,) who soon took her from *du-rance vile*, and snugly lodged her in Dyer's Buildings, Holborn; but Roberts was left alone, to lament his fate. The vicinity of St. George's Fields being ill suited to the action of such a mind as our barrister's, he procured a writ of Habeas Corpus, for his removal to the Fleet Prison, situated in the heart of the city of London. In the Fleet he made an acquaintance with Brown, who will soon be found a conspicuous figure in the nefarious scenes which we have to display. Brown reported himself to have been an eminent brandy-merchant, and to be possessed of the title to lands in the United States of America; and, upon some sort of paper negotiation, he procured his liberty, leaving Roberts still a prisoner, but not without first entering into a league with him for future operations.

Brown immediately repaired to Dyer's Buildings, took Miss from the protection of the old captain, hired a handsome house in Coram Street, Brunswick Square, wherein she entered as Mrs. Brown, in mourning for the death of his supposed father. A job carriage was procured, with a regular suite of servants, in which they went, as

man and wife, to different tradesmen, who eagerly furnished their new house with every kind of elegant furniture. It was some time before Roberts could get outside the walls of his prison, and not until the tradesmen had become importunate for the payment of their bills; one of whom had issued a writ, and lodged Brown with Withers, the sheriff's officer. Roberts at this critical time made his appearance in Coram Street, claimed the goods, servants, horses, and all as his property, and Miss for his wife, which she readily confirmed; for, of all her admirers, he certainly was the favorite. The remainder of the impatient tradesmen now became alarmed, and mistrust ran through all who had contributed to the establishment in Coram Street. A lawyer, next to the female decoy, is the most useful member of a gang of swindlers, because he knows how far to go, and when to stop—or, in other words, he knows how to keep their necks out of the halter, though all his ingenuity is seldom proof against the pillory.—Our counselor, therefore, in order to extricate the whole by a coup-de-main, drew a warrant of attorney, the ultimatum of law proceedings, in which Brown confessed judgment recovered by him for a large pretended debt, and thereupon issued execution upon the devoted goods, pretending, however, that it was at the suit of his brother.

Mr. Rackstraw, upholsterer, in Tottenham Court Road, and a Mr. Hancock, an ironmonger, in the same neighbourhood, were the principal victims in this deep-laid scheme of villainy.

The latter, from its consequences, added to other similar losses, in a short time became bankrupt. To these men, however, the public are indebted for bringing the swindlers

to justice. They went to Coram Street, insisted on seeing the writ under which their property had been seized, and, finding the pretended plaintiff to be the identical Edward William Roberts, saw the very extent of their danger. They posted off to the public office in Marlborough Street, and, upon their disclosing the scene of iniquity, obtained warrants against Roberts and his lady, and lodged a caveat against the removal of the goods; but, when the myrmidons of justice arrived, the party complained of had fled. It soon appeared that in their depredations they had descended to the meanest tricks—the petty chandler, the little huckster, the washer and mangling women, grocers, butchers, bakers, and all with whom they could procure credit for the most trifling score, surrounded their house. Their servants, unpaid, were left to shift for themselves; and the unhappy coachman, anxious to serve an old fellow-servant who had commenced coal-merchant, had become responsible for his master's cellar of coals, and was saddled with the payment.

Meantime the defeated lawyer, with his fair-one, had secretly fled to private furnished lodgings, at the house of Mr. Thomas Prior, a coal-merchant, No. 24, Salisbury Street, Strand, where she was brought to bed of a daughter, his acknowledged child; but, according to the report of the nurse, 'the very spit of the old captain.' Nor were the runners after them idle. They, from whom no villain on whom a good price is set can long be hid, soon found their way to Salisbury Street; and on their approach Roberts ran to the top of the house; but, alas! too late to find his safety in flight. Having seized him, they entered the chamber of accouchement; but, as 'tis said on one sad occasion,

'even butchers wept,' they, too, though also 'unused to the melting mood,' retired under the influence of modesty and pity, and left the new-made parent awhile to her sorrows.

At Marlborough Street appeared, as counsel for Roberts, Mr. Marryat; an advocate worthy of a better cause. The prisoner, also a pleader, spoke long and with ingenuity in his defence, while his brother counsellor also in vain exerted his eloquence. The hateful mittimus was signed, and Roberts safely lodged in Clerkenwell prison.

It will be here but justice to observe, that Miss Cole (for she certainly never legally put aside her maiden name) was a woman of considerable acquired accomplishments. She had already published a novel, by subscription; but its nervous language plainly showed it to have been the production of Roberts; and it was, in fact, a well-written rhapsody. In search of subscribers, her manners, and affected artless tale, imposed upon the benevolent hearts of Lady Haggerston and Lady Louisa Mannors. With such patronage, no wonder at the book being prefaced with a long list of fashionable contributors. The former of these noble ladies particularly interested herself in the welfare of Miss; called upon her in her own coach during the accouchement, left her purse, and promised to exert herself in procuring some employ for her husband, believing her to be the wife of Roberts. This generous act took place a few days only previous to his apprehension.

The supposed Mrs. Roberts was now perfectly recovered—the month was elapsed, and no inquiries had been made after her from Marlborough Street. Before this time, however, Prior, the landlord, had

certainly canse sufficient for alarm, touching his rent; and on this he spoke. The luxurious old captain, who had never neglected his occasional visits, with ample remuneration for each, on this occasion not only came forward and paid up all arrears, but sent money to the prisoner in Clerkenwell.

Notwithstanding the fate of Roberts, and the very precarious situation in which this infatuated woman stood, still she remained in fancied security, upon the bounty of the old dotard. Not so with those who still held a warrant against her; for so keen were they to their trust, that they had sifted the nurse out of the day of the birth of the child, nor did they suffer another of the next month to close without a visit to Salisbury Street, when, without any difficulty, they made their caption, and carried the mother, nurse, and babe, to that tribunal from whence Roberts had been already committed. Her crime having already been investigated, little could be adduced in her defence, and she was sent to her pretended husband. In prison, however, she did not remain longer than a week, as the kind captain procured her bail, and money to hire more comfortable lodgings. Such she found in Amphitheatre Row, Surrey side of Westminster Bridge, where she remained secluded five weeks; a life ill suited to her active mind. We next find her in a more central situation, but yet in humble apartments, a second furnished floor in Theobald's Road, Bedford Row; and there, strange to tell, Roberts once more joined her, having at length been liberated upon bail! In Theobald's Road they got a prospectus printed of another novel, to be called 'The Mysterious Mother;' and with this, neatly enveloped in gilt paper, and sealed with a seal bearing the initial

R. she long employed her time, on foot now, in going from one noble mansion to the other, soliciting subscriptions. So little do the major part of the great fatigue themselves in reading the detail of criminal inquiries at public offices, that few had read the many long accounts of her commitment; and, in order to rid themselves of her perpetual importunities, subscribed to 'the Mysterious Mother,' upon which Roberts and herself subsisted until they were brought to trial. The third unlucky conspirator, Brown, was again caged in the Fleet prison.

The trial of this gang stood upon the docket at Hicks's Hall; but, as the fish jumped out of the frying pan into the fire, they removed their case, by a writ of certiorari, into the Court of King's Bench—a far more dread tribunal, but doubtless with the desperate hope that Rackshaw and Hancock would not be at the great expense of following them. Here they were again disappointed; for the injured tradesmen followed them up, and the attorney-general led the prosecution against them. Mr. Marryat did all that man could do in a bad cause, but they were all found Guilty, and sentence postponed until the following term, as is usual in such cases. Though convicted, they were, until sentence was pronounced, still upon bail. In the mean time it was reported that death had put an end to the career of Miss Dorothy Cole; and, whether true or otherwise, she certainly did not afterwards appear upon the grand

theatre of wealth and villainy, London.

Roberts and Brown were brought into Westminster Hall, and sentenced to a year's imprisonment and pillory. The latter was put in force at Charing Cross, in July, 1810, when the enraged populace severely pelted them with rotten eggs, and all manner of filth which could be suddenly collected, until they bore little resemblance of human beings, and were taken out half suffocated.

Previously, however, to the execution of this merited punishment, Roberts, with Daniel Cole, brother to Dorothy Cole, and David Maitland, a servant to Roberts, had been tried at the Hertford assizes, and found guilty of defrauding an upholsterer of Cheshunt, by obtaining furniture from him under false pretences. On their trial Roberts made an able and eloquent defence; but their crime was too palpable, and accordingly they were found Guilty, and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, and to stand once on the pillory at Hertford. The latter was put in force; but the country people did not manifest their displeasure in so vindictive a manner as the populace at Charing Cross. Since their last appearance on the public *stage* we have heard nothing of these malefactors, and hope their punishment operated properly on their minds by disposing them to seek other means of subsistence than that fortuitously obtained by preying on the unwary.

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