

1508/723

A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE
T R I A L
OF
RENWICK WILLIAMS,
COMMONLY CALLED THE
M O N S T E R,

AT THE

OLD BAILEY,

On THURSDAY the 8th of JULY, 1790,

For assaulting and wounding

Miss PORTER, Miss FROST, Mrs. DAVIS,
Mrs. GODFREY, Mrs. FORSTER, ELI-
ZABETH BAUGHAN, and FRANCES
BAUGHAN:

TAKEN IN SHORT-HAND BY NATHAN. JENKINS.

L O N D O N:

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rity.

THE
T R I A L
OF
Renwick Williams,

FOR

Affaulting, wounding, and cutting the
Cloaths of Miss ANN PORTER.

On **T**HURSDAY the 8th of July, 1790, Renwick Williams was brought to the bar of the Old Bailey, charged with affaulting and wounding Miss Anna Porter, and cutting the cloaths of several ladies. Mr. Knowles counsel for the prisoner, and Messrs. Pigott and Shepherd for the prosecution.

The prosecution was opened by Mr. Pigott, who addressed the jury in a most feeling manner, in which

he expressed his detestation of such a crime, till lately, unheard of, and making several remarks as did honour to him.

‘The prisoner at the bar, said he, stands charged with a most horrid crime that ever prejudiced any man; the public are well apprised of various attacks which have been made on several respectable ladies; he insulted the fair sex with horrid and obscene language. In almost every crime we can trace a motive for committing it, but in the present case, what could induce the prisoner to such barbarous and cruel depredations; no motive to induce him, no revenge to be satisfied; he abused the most beautiful part of the fair sex.

I am informed the prisoner intends to endeavour to establish an *alibi*, as the only means to evade being convicted, but he hoped the jury would consider that it was either the best or worst of defences the prisoner could make against the charge; the *best*, if the prisoner’s absence at the time he is said to commit the crime be proved, but the *worst*, if the assertion be weakly defended, as then the prisoner’s guilt must appear more fully. The prisoner therefore by this defence, must be either honourably acquitted, or fully convicted.” He then proceeded to an examination of the evidence.

Miss Ann Porter deposed, that on January the 18th, 1790, as she was going in the evening, with her sister Sarah and another lady, to the gallery of the ball room,



room, St. James's Street, it being the queen's birth night, ~~that~~ her father was to meet her at twelve o'clock—~~that~~ on that night, her majesty having left the ball room before the usual time, she was, of course, obliged either to wait for her father, or else return home with her sister, unguarded; ~~that~~ at last, being determined on returning home, particularly as she lived so near; she and her sister accordingly went homewards: ~~that~~ on her way through St. James's Street, she perceived her sister in apparent agitation, and was desired by her to make as much haste as she could to her father's house. What her sister said after, through her fright, she did not comprehend, but complied with her request, and they made as much haste as possible; her sister was the first who had reached the house door; she rung the bell with great haste, at that instant Miss Ann Porter received a violent blow on the right hip; immediately upon this, she turned round, and saw the prisoner, who then stooped down; but notwithstanding he endeavoured to hide his face, she recollected the man, having seen him before several times, which times he had pursued her, and insulted her with most infamous and obscene language.

The Court was satisfied with Miss Porter's declaration, and did not require any farther explanation.

The violence of the blow stunned her, during which the prisoner stood, and ~~then~~ stared her in the face. Having recovered herself a little, she took the opportunity

tunity to examine his face; she then recollected him (his former attacks being made in the day time) and had not the least doubt of his person, as she was then close to him, and he staring at her. She supposed, by being wounded through her cloaths, that the instruments must be very sharp and dangerous. That on Sunday the 13th of June last, she, her mother, two of her sisters, and a gentleman, (Mr. Coleman) were taking a walk in St. James's park, she happened to see the prisoner, who passed her, turned round to examine him better, (the prisoner also turning round to look at her) she recollected his face, and was fully convinced that he was the man who had abused her; being much agitated, her friends, who were walking with her, begged to know the reason, (particularly Mr. Coleman) to whom she pointed him out. That she saw him again at her father's house that evening, but being very much frightened, could not recollect what passed; she knew him perfectly well when she saw him at Bow Street, and pointed him out from a great croud.

Miss ANN PORTER examined.

Q. When did you receive the injury stated in the indictment?

A. On the 18th of January last, the queen's birthday.

Q. Where did you pass the evening of that day?

A. In the ball-room at St. James's.

Q. What

Q. What time did you leave the ball-room?

A. Between eleven and twelve o'clock.

Q. What passed after that time?

A. I left the ball-room in company with my sister Sarah and Mrs. Meale.

Q. What happened in your passage from thence to your own house?

A. I was much alarmed on being followed by a man.

Q. Did you see the prisoner?

A. Yes, I did. My sister suddenly desired me to run as fast as possible.

Q. What happened afterwards?

A. My sister reached the door first; Mrs. Meale next; and last, myself.

Q. What happened when you reached the door.

A. I felt a violent blow on my hip.

Q. Do you not know from whom that blow proceeded.

A. I saw the prisoner stoop down.

Q. Have you any recollection of his person?

A. Yes; I have seen him before, three or four times, sometimes he has walked behind me, then before me, uttering the most gross and abusive language, in the day time.

Q. How long did the prisoner continue at the door after he had given the blow?

A. I can-

A. I cannot exactly say; after the blow I felt a strange sensation.

Q. Did you see the prisoner afterwards?

A. Yes; he stood and stared me in the face:

Q. Are you sure it was the prisoner at the bar?

A. Yes; I saw him perfectly.

Q. You are positive?

A. I have not the smallest doubt; suffering so much at different times on his account, I could not be deceived.

Q. You received a wound?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you see the prisoner.

A. On Sunday the 13th of June, in St. James's Park, when walking with my mother, two of my sisters, and Mr. Coleman:

Q. Did Coleman see the prisoner? A. Not till I pointed him out.

Q. How came you to observe him?

A. He met and passed us; I knew him in a moment; and being much agitated, Mr. Coleman asked the reason.

Q. By what means are you confident that the person you thus met, was the identical man who had previously insulted you?

A. After he had passed us, I turned round, for more complete observation; in that instant, he did the same as if to notice me.

Q. Did

Q Did you perfectly recollect him, when brought to your house, afterwards, by Mr. Coleman?

A. I was then in a state of insensibility.

Q Was he pointed out to you before you recognised him at the public office?

A. He was not pointed out.

Cross-Examined by Mr. KNOWLES.

Q Did not your sister give you the first notice of danger?

A. I did not at first understand my sister; but ran as fast as I could.

Q When you got to your father's house was the door open?

A. It was not opened for some time.

Q Was you waiting at the door when you received a violent blow from some person?

A. Yes.

Q What happened after you received the blow?

A. I was much alarmed.

Q How near was the person to you when you turned round?

A. Within two or three yards.

Q At this time was the street light?

A. Yes.

Q What was the prisoner's dress at that time?

A. He appeared to have on a great coat.

Q When did this happen?

A. A short time after leaving the palace, between eleven and twelve o'clock.

[Miss Porter's dress was produced; the gown had a very long rent in it; as had the shift, but not so long as the gown: evidently from the effect of a violent attack.]

Q. Are you positive this is the gown you had on?

A. Yes.

Q. And that rent proceeded from the blow?

A. Yes.

Q. Was you hurt?

A. Yes.

Q. Cut?

A. Yes.

Q. The street was light enough to see other objects farther distant from you than the person who committed the assault?

A. Yes.

Miss Sarah Porter was the next witness called in.

Miss Sarah was sister to the prosecutrix. She deposed, that she had seen the prisoner before the 18th of June last; that he had followed her, accosting her several times in horrid language: that she had seen him often, every time taking great notice of him, and therefore able to swear to his person; especially as the prisoner, in following her very often, put his head over her shoulders. That on that night she perceived him at the bottom of St. James's Street, standing with his back towards her; the prisoner turned round, and, upon seeing her, cried out, 'Oh! oh! are you there?' and gave her a dreadful blow on the back part of her head—

head—She was very much hurt and terrified, and, as she could, desired her sister to make as much haste home as possible, saying, ‘The wretch is behind us!’—That as soon as they got to the door, the prisoner came between them; and, while going up the steps of the street door, she turned about and saw him give her sister a most violent blow, with the force of which she heard her gown rend. As soon as the street door was opened, she ran in, and turning round, saw the prisoner before her. She was well assured of his person, having then seen him very plainly by the light that was in the hall. She was confident that the prisoner was the same whom she had seen before, and who assaulted her sister. That previous to his being apprehended, she was at work at the window in the parlour; and seeing him in the street, she immediately screamed out; two servants came up stairs, and, being told the cause of her fright, they endeavoured to take the prisoner, but could not. That the next time she saw him was at Bow Street, when he was apprehended. She then immediately recollected him, and even distinguished him among a crowd. That she had not the least doubt but that the prisoner at the bar was the vile assassin; if she had, she would not so solemnly swear to him.

Miss SARAH PORTER Examined.

Q. How often did you see the prisoner previous to the last attack?

A. I saw him four times.

Q. Did you take much notice of him?

A. Yes.

Q. You knew his person perfectly on the 18th of January?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you first take notice of him?

A. In St. James's street; we left the ball-room between eleven and twelve; and I saw him standing with his back towards us, he turned round and said, 'Oh! oh!' then gave me a violent blow on the back part of my head.

Q. What did you then do?

A. Requested my sister to run as fast as possible, for the *wretch* was behind us.

Q. Did you observe what passed at the door?

A. Yes; I saw the whole affair. I saw him strike at my sister, and heard the noise occasioned by the rent in her gown.

Q. Are you confident that this person was the same whom you so often met?

A. Yes; I have not any doubt.

Q. And was the light occasioned by the lamps on the queen's birth-day sufficient to enable you to distinguish the prisoner?

A. Yes.

Q. What passed after your sister had been wounded?

A. When we got into the passage, I observed the prisoner on the threshold of the door.

Q. How long before this was it that you saw the prisoner?

A. While at work in the window, about a week before, I saw him pass by; and, impressed with great apprehension, I screamed.

Q. When

Q. When at Bow Street, did any one point him out to you?

A. No.

Q. Have you no doubt as to his person?

A. Not the least, or I would not have sworn so positively.

Cross Examined by Mr. KNOWLES.

Q. On the alarm, was your door opened before the prisoner came up?

A. No.

Q. Did the blow appear to you to be as hard as could be given?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it more than one blow;

A. No.

Q. Was the instrument a sharp cutting one?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you heard any thing of another prosecution for cutting?

A. Yes.

Q. When at Bow Street, did you at once, without instruction, fix on the prisoner?

A. I did.

Miss Rebecca Porter, being the next witness called in, said she was not with her sisters at the ball-room on the queen's birth-day, but she knew the prisoner by being with her sister, Ann Porter, when she was insulted by him before—That he followed them and talked to them in a very indecent manner—She was positive

positive to the person of the prisoner, having distinguished him in a crowd at Bow Street; that she had seen him on Sunday evening, when he was in St. James's Street.

REBECCA PORTER Examined.

Q. Was you at the ball-room on the queen's birthday?

A. I was not.

Q. Have you ever seen the prisoner at the bar before?

A. Yes, several times. I was once with my sister Ann when he accosted her.

Q. Of what nature was his conversation?

A. Highly gross and improper.

Q. Did you easily recognize him when in custody at Bow Street?

A. Yes.

Q. Is he the same man who accosted your sister?

A. Yes; I have not the least doubt.

Miss Martha Porter, another sister, deposed that she knew the prisoner; and that he had several times insulted her, while she was walking with her other sisters; she was well convinced that the prisoner at the bar was the offender, and that she perfectly recollected his person, at Bow Street.

MARTHA PORTER Examined.

Q. Look at the prisoner; have you ever seen him before?

A. Yes,

A. Yes, several times. I was once with my sister Ann when he accosted her.

Q. Did he behave as a gentleman ought?

A. No; his expressions were dreadful; his manner horrid.

Q. Have you any doubt as to the person of the prisoner.

A. Not the least; am quite positive.

Q. Did you see him at Bow Street?

A. Yes; and am positive, very so, that he is the man who accosted my sister.

Mr. John Coleman, a fishmonger in Piccadilly, was next called in, he deposed that he was in company with Miss Ann Porter, in St. James's Street, on Sunday evening, the 13th of June, and that Miss Porter, being much agitated, did, on his requesting to know the cause, acquaint him, that the wretch had just passed her, at the same time she pointed to a man whom he knew to be the prisoner; he then followed him.—Upon leaving the Park, the prisoner went to a house at Charing-Cross, from that to the the Admiralty, then Admiralty Lane.—He then looked at a house, and by his behaviour, suspicious of being followed by the witness—he then returned, went up Spring Gardens, from thence through Cockspur Street, Pall Mall, St. James's Street, Piccadilly, till he came into Bolton Street, where he knocked at a door, I was behind and saw him enter the house, but staid a few minutes; that he still followed him back again through Piccadilly into St. James's Street, where he knocked at another door and stood on the steps along

from page 18 here

along with him; that then he ventured to ask him some questions, which he did not, or would not hear; that upon the door being opened, he asked the servant, loud enough for the prisoner to hear, if he knew the prisoner, the servant answered, 'No,' he then pursued him back again up St. James's Street to Bond Street, endeavouring as much as possible to quarrel with him, but the prisoner took no notice of him; he then crossed Oxford Street, where he knocked at another house, but there being several bills on it, he was very sure it was empty; he also mentioned this in hopes to quarrel with him, but the prisoner said he knew to the contrary, and said a Mr. Pierce lived in it, upon which he knocked again, not being admitted, the prisoner then left this place, and went into South Moulton Street, where he knocked and got admittance at the house of a Mr. Smith; that he (the witness) also knocked at the same door and requested Mr. Smith would let him see the prisoner--That upon being introduced to him, demanded to know the place of his abode. Upon being then asked by Mr. Smith, why he behaved thus, being rather doubtful whether he should give his reasons or no, he only said that the prisoner had insulted some ladies that were in his company, and he was therefore resolved to have satisfaction--The prisoner denied this accusation, declaring he never insulted any ladies, but the witness not being contented with this, pressed him more strongly, at last the prisoner gave his address, and the witness gave him his.

The prisoners address, was, Mr. Williams, No. 52, Jermyn Street. The witness then departed, leaving the prisoner in the house; ~~that he was sorry~~ he left him behind, and went back to look for him, ~~he after-~~wards met him in St. James's Street, where he again spoke to him, saying, "he did not believe that he was the person, and he might as well come then and let the ladies see him;" but he objected to this, saying it was too late, however, pressing him to go, he consented. When the prisoner went into Mr. Porter's house and entering the parlour with the witness, the ladies (Ann and Sarah) who were there, cried out "Good God that's the wretch," and fainted away, upon this the prisoner seemed astonished and said he hoped they did not suspected him for the *Monster*. Upon their positively answering in the affirmative he made no further notice; his stay here was an hour.

JOHN COLEMAN Examined.

Q. Do you remember being with Miss Porter on the 13th of June last, in the afternoon or evening?

A. Yes; walking in the Park at that time with Miss Ann Porter, a person passed, whom she pointed out as being the prisoner, exclaiming, 'The wretch has just passed us!' She appeared greatly agitated.

Q. Are you sure that the prisoner is the same person?

A. Yes.

Q. When you saw the person described as the wretch, what followed?

C

A. He

A. He walked very fast to a bookseller's at the corner of Spring Gardens, from thence to the Admiralty passage, back again, another way, to Spring Gardens, as if conscious of being followed. He next passed up Cockspur Street to Pall Mall; while I followed sufficiently near to be perceived. Passing into St. James's Street, I was joined by a gentleman of my acquaintance—from thence the prisoner went to Bolton Street, where he knocked at a door, he went into the house for a few minutes. When he came out, my friend enquired at the house if they knew him—while I followed him to Piccadilly, and from thence to St. James's Street again, where he knocked at a door and asked some questions of a servant.

Q. Did this servant know him?

A. No. From St. James's Street I followed him to Bond Street—endeavouring, all the way, to insult him, walking sometimes before, and sometimes behind him, staring him in the face.

Q. Did he say any thing in consequence?

A. No. I still continued my gestures of offence; nay, made a feint to square at him. He passed to Oxford Road and into Vere-street, where he knocked lustily at the door of an empty house: but no one appearing, I accosted him, to know what he could expect from knocking so violently where there was not a shadow of gaining admittance. He said he knew the parties belonging to the house, their name was Peirce, and knocked again, loud enough to rouse even in the garret, if any one had been within.

Cross-Examined.

Did he give his address at Mr. Smith's, with readiness when you assign'd a reason for asking it?

A. He did.

Q. Did he act and speak like an honest man.

A. He behaved somewhat like an innocent man.

Mc. Manus, the officer who took the prisoner into custody, said that he had searched his lodgings, which were not according to the address that had been given to Mr. Coleman, but at the George, a public house, in Bury Street, St James's; there were several beds in this house, he found in them a hat, a pair of boots, and a light coloured coat, which the prisoner said were his.

Being asked by Mr. Knowles if he saw there any instrument, or any thing bloody, he answered no.

Mr. TOMKIN, Surgeon, Examined

Q. Do you know Miss Ann Porter?

A. I attended her, in consequence of a wound she received

Q. What size was the wound?

A. The depth of the wound was three inches, and eight or nine inches long; and, if not for the stays, the instrument must have penetrated the abdomen.

The evidence for the prosecution closed, and the Court called on the prisoner for his defence.

The prisoner was now called upon by Judge Buller for whatever he might think proper to offer in his defence. Accordingly he address'd himself to the following purport.

When it is considered what universal alarm the crimes committed by the *Monster*, need we wonder that the instant he is about to make his defence, should be considered a false one! silence reigned throughout the court.

Such was his unhappy situation at present that he stood before them an object, worthy at least their attention and compassion; he trusted, however to the importunity of an English jury, not to suffer his fate to be too wantonly decided by popular prejudice. His hopes of proving, as well as his own confidence of his innocence. The female sex he said was always in his eyes, the most amiable and lovely, he said therefore he had no cause, nor did he commit those charges alledged against him. The prosecution was founded on a very great mistake, by witnesses which he had ready to produce, therefore was perfectly satisfied that he should be able to prove his innocence to the satisfaction of all,

Evidence, to prove the ALIBI.

The first witness examined on behalf of the defence was,

Mr. MICHELL.

Q. Where do you live?

A. Dover Street Piccadilly.

Q. Do

Q. Do you know the prisoner?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he live with you as a servant?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he work with you on the Queen's birth-day?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he absent any part of the day?

A. Yes; from one till two.

Q. Was he at work all the day?

A. Yes, constantly till nine at night; and finally
left at half past twelve.

Q. Of what kind of disposition was he?

A. Of the best: his character the best a man can
bear.

Q. How did he behave to the women servants?

A. Very kindly.

Q. What time do you generally leave off work?

A. Eight or nine.

Q. Were you from home on the queen's birth-day?

A. Yes; I went out about three, and returned at
six in the evening.

Q. Were you and the prisoner out together that
day?

A. No.

Q. Where did the prisoner dine that day?

A. Cannot say.

Q. Was the prisoner constant at work?

A. Yes; he was never out but once or tice, unless
sent out.

Q. Was he well recommended to you?

A. Not at all, I took him without a recommenda-
tion

Q. What

Q. What did your family consist of?

A. My wife, two sisters, one of them since married, a servant, and myself; besides there are three women who work, a man, and the prisoner.

Q. When did your sister inform you of the observation made?

A. Some time afterwards: about three weeks ago.

Q. What had you for supper that night?

A. Cannot recollect.

Q. After the 18th of January, when next did you see the prisoner?

A. Next morning, between seven and eight o'clock.

Q. How long afterwards did he continue to work with you?

A. Till the 4th of June, the king's birth day.

Q. Why in particular, recollect the occurrences in your family on the queen's birth day?

A. Prisoner applied to me to know if I could recollect these circumstances? never thought of it till such application.

Q. Were you at home last night?

A. I walked out to Mary-le-bone, Grosvenor and Soho-Squares, before tea.

Q. And were you from home afterwards?

A. No.

Q. Did you not pass Lord William Gordon's house in Piccadilly last night?

A. No; but now recollect going to Jermyn Street to settle with a carpenter—from thence I went to several other places, and then home.

Q. Then,

Q. Then you were not in the Green Park last night nor near Lord William Gordon's?

A. No.

Mr. Michell was examined by means of an interpreter, as he could not speak English.

MISS MICHELL Examined.

Q. With respect to yourself, what has been the prisoner's behaviour?

A. He deserves the best of characters.

Q. Who was present when the prisoner left your house on the night of January 18?

A. My brother, myself, and two women.

Q. Who let him out?

A. They call her Molly; I do not know her surname.

CATHERINE HARMOND Examined.

Q. Who let out the prisoner from your master's house on the night of the queen's birth-day?

A. My sister.

Q. What do you know of his disposition and temper?

A. He is not malicious, but good-natured and kind.

Q. Did the prisoner often work late?

A. Cannot say.

Q. Was french the usual language used in the family?

A. Yes.

Q. Then

Q. Then what you wished others not to hear, you spoke in English?

A. We conversed on our own affairs in English;

MOLLY HARMOND Examined.

Q. What time did you let out the prisoner on the queen's birth-day from your master's?

A. At half past twelve.

Q. How long had you lived there?

A. Six weeks.

Q. What was the prisoners character?

A. Good-natured and civil was his general character in regard to behaviour to women.

Q. Do you recollect his ever staying so late before?

A. He never staid so late before.

Q. Did your master work that day, or was he absent?

A. Know not when he came home, nor when he began to work.

Q. Did you never express your fears that the prisoner would not find his lodgings open on that night?

A. No, never expressed any anxiety about it.

Q. By what means did you notice the clock that night?

A. Mr. Williams, in going out, asked what o'clock it was, and told me to look.

Q. When did you inform your sister of the hour of the prisoner's departure?

A. About

A. About three weeks since, after he was apprehended.

FRANCES BEAUTE, a Workwoman.

Q. Do you know the prisoner?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did you work on the queen's birthday?

A. Till half-past eleven at night.

Q. Was the prisoner at work that day?

A. Yes, I left him there.

Q. As to the prisoner's behaviour, what can you say?

A. He always appeared very civil and good-natured.

Q. Did you see your master from three to six?

A. Yes, he was never out!

POURNE, another of the women.

Q. How long have you lived with Mr. Michell?

A. Three months.

Mr. JERVOISE.

Q. When did you call on Michell?

A. On the queen's birth day.

Q. At what hour did you call?

A. At seven.

Q. Did you see Michell?

A. No, he was out at seven, and I believe at eight. Don't recollect seeing him at all that evening.

Q. Do you know any thing of the prisoner?

A. By going frequently to the house—for I married Mr. Michell's sister—I observed in him nothing but good nature.

Mr. Jervoise was the last who appeared in support of the alibi; after which the counsel proceeded to call seventeen persons to bear honourable testimony to the prisoner's character; among whom were several young women, whose appearance, however, did not bespeak them of the highest class, but rather of the inferior kind.

Sarah Brady had known him six months, and found him inoffensive.

Miss Camorin had knowledge of him for eight years; worked with him five months, and found him thoroughly good-natured and civil.

Carey, a publican, gave him the character of an amiable young man; but could say little as to his general means of supporting himself.

Mr. Crompton, an attorney, said he had lived with him two months; that he was not surly, but attentive to business.

Mary Pearce, a respectable woman, had known him from a child.

Thoma

Thomas Williams, of St. James's Street, had known him six years, and was perfectly astonished at the accusation. He always thought he *liked the ladies too well!* He had often seen the prisoner make artificial flowers, as learnt him by his sister.

Sarah Seward said she had known him four years; that he was an honest young man; that his behaviour to her had been *manly* [*loud laugh*]; that he had saved her life!

William Baker believes him to be an honest young man; he slept at his house four months.

Mr. Smith produced nothing in addition to the character of his old acquaintance, whatever might have been his intention.

In this predicament was James Sterling.

Several other witnesses, who worked for Michell, three of whom were females, also positively supported the *alibi*, and declared that the prisoner was a very good-natured man, and extremely kind and affable to the female sex; that they had not known him but for a short time.

There were some circumstances stated by these witnesses in which they contradicted each other, especially as to the time Michell was at home in the afternoon, and the looking at the clock when the pri-

soner went home on the queen's birth-night; but they swore that he did not go away before half past twelve o'clock.

Seventeen witnesses were called to the prisoner's character, some of whom were very handsome women. They all gave him a most excellent character for good-nature, humanity, and kindness to the fair sex in particular.

Judge Buller's Charge to the Jury.

Mr. Justice Buller, in a ~~most~~ masterly and impartial manner, summed up the evidence for the prosecution and defence. He began with adverting to the defence set up by the prisoner, which he said was conducted on proper grounds: Popular prejudices often injured, without ever serving the cause of justice. Under these circumstances, the prisoner had done well to throw himself on the compassion of the jury: they were bound to determine dispassionately. It was their province to determine on facts; they must discriminate what bore the semblance of truth, and what of falsehood. Should they find the prisoner guilty on the present charge, he should still reserve his case for the opinion of the Twelve Judges of England; and this for several reasons. First, he was not satisfied of the forms and sufficiency of the indictment. It was a new case, it was the first of the kind which had ever been
tried

tried. The statute upon which this indictment was founded, is the 6th Geo. I. chap. 23, sect. 11, which enacts, "That if any person or persons shall, at any time or times, from and after the 24th of June, in the year of our Lord 1720, wilfully and maliciously assault any person or persons in the public streets or highways, with an intent to tear, spoil, cut, burn, or deface, or shall tear, spoil, cut, burn, or deface the garments or cloaths of such person or persons, that then all and every person or persons so offending, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be, and be adjudged to be guilty of *felony*, &c.

Allowing the fact, that Ann Porter was cut, the intent remained to be proved; and, next, whether the act was perpetrated by the prisoner? From the many opportunities which the Miss Porters had of seeing the prisoner; from the lightness of the street, when last assaulted, it is probable that these ladies could *not* be mistaken. The familiar manner—"O ho!" in which the assassin addressed Miss Porter, in St. James's Street, certainly indicated a previous intimacy. It was not the manner of a stranger; and yet nothing is more clear, than that Renwick Williams had no intimacy with Mr. Porter's family. To what cause then must we impute this strange manner of address—"O ho!"

The evidence of Mr. Coleman is clear and circumstantial; the prisoner was pointed out to him by Ann Porter; he instantly followed him from street to street, and

and tried grossly to offend him; but these offences the prisoner bore with patience. That he should go direct to the door of Mr. Porter, when informed by Coleman that they were near the spot, by no means serves to criminate; independently of what had happened, he might know the residence of this family. Observe him before the most affecting scene, which can be conceived! two young ladies fainting, and exclaiming, 'That is the wretch!' His reply—'Do the ladies conceive me to be the person advertised? Their behaviour is very odd.' Coleman said—'It really is so!' and though, after this, he remained a considerable time on the spot, it does not appear that he said any thing, or at least so little as not to be worth the recollection. Was this the conduct of an innocent man?

Giving his address to Coleman, at a place where he did not lodge, by no means militates against him. It was the residence of his mother, and where he was always to be heard of.

There were several to prove an *alibi*.—It was not till after the imprisonment of Williams, that he recollected what passed on the 18th of January; and his evidence is replete with contradictions.

Catharine Harwood swears to having communicated the hour when the prisoner left the house, to her sister that evening.

Where Jervoise and Michell disagree, the former's accounts, being fair, seem to justify his relation. The
accounts

accounts of the latter have not that candid appearance. It has been established, that the prisoner often supped at the house of his master; for which reason, it is the less to be expected, that one night should be more particularly recognized than another.

In answer, it may be observed, that the principal evidences—are foreigners; that, without an evil intention, they are more liable than others, to mistakes. Little variations in such a case, ought not to weigh decisively, were the grand outlines properly established.

There were seventeen persons who had appeared in behalf of the prisoner: some of them had long since lost sight of his acquaintance, and others had contracted it but recently. The weight of their opinions should operate properly on the minds of the jury.

There was a wound given with an instrument not calculated altogether for the purpose of affecting the body, such for instance, as *piercing* or *stabbing* by making a hole. Here was an actual cutting, and the wound was of considerable length; so was the rent in the cloaths. It remained, therefore, with the Jury to decide, whether, as both body and cloaths were cut, he who intended the end, did not at the same time intend also the means.

The Jury, without the least hesitation, found Renwick Williams guilty.

The Judge then respited judgment till the next December sessions, and ordered the recognizances on the other prosecutions to be respited till that time, in order that the opinion of the Judges might be obtained. The trial lasted upwards of eight hours. The Court was more crowded than ever was known.



F I N I S.